

### A Jesuit combination

The leading "think tank" force that has emerged behind the new junta is the Jesuit order, centered around local representatives of the order's University of Central America. The university's rector, Roman Mayorga, is one of the three civilian members in the new five-man government. And a core of "very bright" economists from the university is being cited as the brains behind the operation. UPI reported that Jesuits provided the "spiritual counseling" to the officers involved in the coup.

This Jesuit role, along with the support of the related Christian Democratic party, is the key to whatever credibility the new government will be able to garner in the eyes of the country. Observers note, however, that Jesuits pose one of the more dangerous features of the new government. The religious order is notorious for its historically held advocacy of a medieval world order in which the oligarchy dominates a poor and superstitious peasantry.

The rest of the Latin American continent is not at all supportive of the new El Salvador junta. Regional observers have already dubbed the whole affair the "El Salvador model"—Washington's new method of holding off the vast social and economic changes in the area that development will require.

## The U.S. 'reappraises' relations with Jamaica

Immediately upon the return of Jamaican prime minister Michael Manley from the Nonaligned summit in Havana in early September, a decision was made in Washington to "reappraise" U.S. relations with Jamaica. That "reappraisal" has already led to a decision that Washington, working with London, will work to remove Manley from power, and replace him with a government more easily controlled, according to reliable reports emerging from the recent London security conference.

Manley's "pro-Cuba" speech in Havana is the usual reason cited for the policy review, but the real reasons go beyond this. Since the Havana summit, Manley has made clear that he is committed to the creation of a new international monetary system as agreed upon by the nonaligned as their program.

For Manley this is crucial as the only way to relieve

### Latin nations reject gunboat diplomacy

Washington's gunboat diplomacy in the Caribbean has not met with cheers in Latin America, even from some of the continental "big powers" traditionally aligned with the United States. Fidel Castro's challenge to the developed nations to industrialize the Third World struck a strong chord throughout the continent. As *Peru's* president Francisco Morales Bermúdez—who has tolerated the IMF "conditionalities" for three years—candidly said, Castro was speaking for the views of the entire Third World on economic policy.

*Brazil's* foreign minister, Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro, told reporters in New York City Oct. 2 that Brazil is more concerned about "the international economic crisis" than about the possible security threat from Cuba. "Our borders are calm and we are capable of guaranteeing the security and well-being of our people," said Saraiva. "The only thing we are concerned about is the deterioration of the

international economic situation with its dangerous consequences for international trade, rising inflation and worsening energy crisis. These perils can have a negative effect on the Brazilian situation." Saraiva rejected as "interventionist policy" the idea of creating a standing Latin American military "peace-keeping" task force.

Even more striking is the opposition from *Venezuela*, regarded as a friend of Washington. Venezuelan Defense Minister General Rangel Burgoin adamantly rejected Venezuelan participation in any force to police the area, declaring that he found no strategic threat whatsoever in the few Soviet troops in Cuba. Venezuela has "no interest in participating in the conflicts of other states," he said.

The Herrera Campins government in Caracas refused to sign scientific agreements with the United States for fear of appearing to support Carter administration policy in the Caribbean. And a scheduled policy address by the Venezuelan energy and mines minister in Washington has reportedly been canceled in protest to Jimmy Carter's "roughrider" policy.

his country from the rule of the International Monetary Fund. Last year, the fund assumed daily control of the economic and financial operations of the country.

Jamaica sits on the Coordinating Bureau of the Nonaligned Movement, a body upgraded at the recent summit to hold greater executive powers. Thus Manley is in a position to exert international influence for a New International Economic Order. Manley's trip this week to Iraq and Libya has caused speculation that Castro's proposal for a \$300 billion development fund is high on the agenda, in addition to bilateral cooperation in oil, bauxite, and technical development. Manley has stated that the start of a serious dialogue between members of OPEC and the non-oil-producing countries of the Third World was one of the most important achievements of the Nonaligned summit.

Manley also has a close relationship with many African nations, and has maintained channels with Europe.

### **Breaking political conditionality**

As he moves in concert with the leadership of the nonaligned movement, the Jamaican prime minister is trying to shore up his domestic situation. Since the IMF took daily control of the country, Manley has been significantly weakened due to the extreme harshness of IMF conditionalities on the population. Now Manley is relaunching his party's program for the development of the country. This involves constitutional reform that would make Jamaica a republic and end its current relation to the British monarchy. The queen and her representative, the Governor General, still rank over the prime minister, according to Jamaica's current constitution.

Another factor in the Washington decision to remove Manley is the election of D. K. Duncan to the post of secretary general of the People's National Party last September, under Manley's urging. D.K., as he is known, is one of the party's most popular leaders and the acknowledged head of the nationalist, state-sector oriented faction. With him at the head of Manley's party, the chances of Manley pulling together a winning combination in Jamaica's 1981 elections is greatly strengthened. It is widely understood in Jamaica that

D.K.'s resignation from the post of secretary general of the party in 1977 was one of the conditionalities imposed on Jamaica by the IMF.

### **Washington's response**

Washington is now putting extreme pressure on the Manley government. On Oct. 15, Secretary of State Cyrus Vance called in Jamaican foreign minister Patterson for talks in Washington. Matters of "bilateral concern" as well as the present state of the world economic system" were the reported discussion topics.

Last week, Manley's leading opponent, Edward Seaga of the Jamaican Labour Party, also paid a "courtesy" call on assistant secretary of state for Inter-American Affairs, Viron Vaky, to promote his bid to replace Manley.

In September a consortium of banks announced they were cutting off negotiations on the refinancing of \$450 million of Jamaica's debt, as well as rejecting the extension of a new \$200 million loan. Investment in Jamaica, the bankers said, would wait on the resumption of some signs of growth in the economy, presently steeply declining.

In the past two years, living standards have dropped one-third, and this is the major source of instability for the Manley government. It is the primary reason that Manley's party lost the landslide mandate it received in the December 1976 elections which swept Manley into the government.

Now the Jamaican Labour Party (JLP) is promising to return to power and return Jamaica to its colonialist status. JLP columnists are already discussing in the Jamaican press how to bring down Manley before 1981, claiming that recent demonstrations they have called in Kingston show their real support in the country. With a recent injection of funding, the JLP has launched a tactic of continued mass protests against the economic situation and the Manley government.

The real danger, however, is the revival of terrorism, used in 1976 by the JLP to force Manley to impose a state of emergency. The international press has already signalled that it is prepared to begin a "human rights" campaign against Manley if he should move against rising violence in Jamaica.