

# United Brands, the Society of Jesus, and the destruction of Central America

by Dennis Small, Latin America Editor

Max Fisher, and the United Brands Corporation of which he is Honorary Chairman of the Board, are directly responsible for the current devastation sweeping Central America, and for the blind alley American foreign policy finds itself in in the region.

*EIR* has compiled an extensive dossier documenting these charges, the leading elements of which follow.

## 1. Left and right terrorism

United Brands (UB) was principally involved in selecting and training the key leaders of Central America in the 1960s and 1970s, who afterwards went on to lead the insurrectionary movements in El Salvador, Nicaragua, Guatemala and other countries in the area in the latter part of the decade. This was done in close coordination with the schismatic Catholic order, the *Society of Jesus* (Jesuits) and with elements linked to the Soviet *KGB*, operating through the *Inter-American Center of the Institute for Human Relations* at the Jesuit *Loyola University* in New Orleans.

According to a Jesuit priest who was Assistant Director of the Institute, Father Janer, S.J., it was UB that "suggested who could come to the Center for training," where the targetted individuals were then subjected to "sensitivity sessions" and other forms of brainwashing before being sent back into Central America to lead leftist insurrections there.

"I would not be surprised if some of them are fighting in there right now," Father Janer confided to an interviewer recently. This UB role in creating "left" terrorism might come as something of a surprise to those familiar with UB's more public historical association with "rightist" forces in the area. This "right-wing" profile goes back to the turn of the century when, under the name *United Fruit Company* (UFCO), it used its economic predominance in the area to make and

break governments virtually at will. From that time until today, virtually nothing of significance happens in Central America without UB's okay.

Perhaps the best known example of UB's "rightist" profile was the *1954 Castillo Armas coup in Guatemala*, where the attempted expropriation of UFCO lands by the Arbenz government led to its overthrow by an UFCO-financed expeditionary force. The entire logistics and international publicity back-up for the Castillo Armas coup were run out of UFCO's Boston headquarters. UB today retains great influence in the Guatemalan government and military, and among right-wing terrorists that are known to be deployed by extremist elements in the military. For example, one reliable source told *EIR* that *Guatemalan Defense Minister Benedicto Lucas Garcia*, the brother of the country's president, has close economic and political ties with United Brands.

Another case is that of former *Nicaraguan dictator Anastasio Somoza*, who was backed by UFCO throughout his decades-long career. When Somoza helped sponsor the 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion of Castro's Cuba, it was launched from Nicaragua's *Swan Island*, land owned outright by UFCO. And even in the period since the 1979 Sandinista Revolution, arms and aid have been provided to Somoza sympathizers by, among others, Max Fisher's close ally, *Samuel Flatto-Sharon*. Flatto-Sharon is the controller of UFCO's Israeli counterpart, *Maritime Fruit Company*; a former Irgun terrorist; a member of the Israeli Knesset; and a fugitive from French authorities on charges of stock and diamond fraud.

It is not only these well-known "rightist" UB activities that go back to the post-war period. Support for "leftist" terrorism significantly pre-dates the Loyola University Institute operations described above, going

back at least as far as 1947, when UFCO provided the arms for *Jose "Pepe" Figueres'* successful putsch in Costa Rica, through the mediation of *Fernando Castro Cervantes*, a wealthy Costa Rican businessman with extensive ties to UFCO. Figueres is a leading figure of the *Socialist International*, who has twice been president of Costa Rica (1953-57 and 1970-74).

UFCO was also behind Figueres' late 1940s creation of the infamous *Caribbean Legion*—the multinational armies of the so-called "Democratic Left" of Latin America, which included every leading social democrat in the region, from *Romulo Betancourt* to *Fidel Castro*. The Caribbean Legion was sponsored at the time by "State Department socialists" like *Jay Lovestone*, *David Dubinsky*, *Serafino Romualdi*, and *Adolf Berle*—all bankrolled by *Nelson Rockefeller*.

UB has maintained Socialist Figueres as one of their chief assets in the region through the years. For example, during his second presidential term in the early 1970s, Figueres arranged the amicable government purchase of UFCO holdings in Costa Rica, a deal by which Figueres profited handsomely through his son-in-law, *Danilo Jimenez Nevia*, who became a UB stockholder according to reliable Central American diplomatic sources.

It should also be noted that indicted financier *Robert Vesco* was granted asylum and residence in Costa Rica during this period—by President Figueres personally, in exchange for Vesco putting money into Figueres' farm, "La Lucha." It was during this same period that Figueres also permitted the opening of a large, well-staffed Soviet embassy in San José, Costa Rica.

Although UB maintained this "leftist" side of its activities throughout the post-war period, it wasn't until Max Fisher was brought onto the UB board in 1975 that this Socialist side gained predominance in terms of Central American operations. In fact, the 1979 Sandinista Revolution in Nicaragua itself is a direct result of this Fisher-induced change of emphasis, working in close collaboration with the Jesuits and the KGB.

The main vehicle for this Nicaraguan operation was UB's old asset, Pepe Figueres. The entire "Southern Front" of the war, fought along the border with Costa Rica, was controlled from top to bottom by Figueres.

## 2. The Paddock Plan

In a 1976 nationwide televised program, Democratic Party political leader Lyndon H. LaRouche denounced what he termed "the genocidal Paddock Plan" to reduce the population of Mexico and other countries of Latin America by half. What Mr. LaRouche was referring to was the publicized theories of the notorious agronomist *William Paddock*, who proposed that the best way to eliminate 30 million Mexicans was: "seal the border and watch them scream . . . [this will work] by the usual

means: through famine, war, and pestilence." Paddock, whose policy of forced depopulation is shared by such powerful organizations as the *Club of Rome*, the *International Monetary Fund*, and the Carter administration-authored *Global 2000 Report*, is also a founder of *Zero Population Growth* and is on the board of *FAIR* (Federation of American Immigration Reform).

More importantly, William Paddock is a United Brands man. He made his reputation as an agronomist for his decade of work in the 1950s and 1960s in Central America, including serving as the President of the *Escuela Agrícola Panamericana* (Pan American Agricultural School), near Tegucigalpa, Honduras. This school, founded by United Brands, has for decades been their flagship "research" center in the area, and is funded to this day by the *United Brands Foundation* (the grant for 1980 was of \$35,000). Max Fisher is a Vice President of the Foundation.

The network that Paddock worked closely with during his lengthy tenure in Central America is most revealing:

- *Joseph John Jova*: U.S. Ambassador to Honduras 1965-69. Paddock worked in Honduras during this period, and is a friend of Jova's according to the latter's admission. Jova is also a Knight of Malta, and a former employee of United Fruit Company himself.

- *Robert White*: Political officer at the U.S. embassy in Honduras in the late 1960s. Worked with Paddock. Was U.S. Ambassador to El Salvador under Carter, giving notorious public support to the cause of the insurrectionists. Currently at the Carnegie Endowment for Peace.

- *Modesto Guerra*: Was program officer under Robert White at the U.S. embassy in Honduras, 1965-1969. Was responsible for helping to recruit people for the Inter-American Center at the Institute for Human Relations at Loyola University in New Orleans. Currently director of the Latin American Chamber of Commerce in New Orleans.

- *Deane Hinton*: U.S. AID mission director in Guatemala in the late 1950s, where he worked with Paddock. Hinton is currently U.S. Ambassador to El Salvador.

The strong overlap of the 1960s deployment of these United Brands Paddock networks with the current activities in Central America is not accidental. One of their first achievements was the triggering of the 1969 "soccer war" between Honduras and El Salvador, which is viewed by this network as the continent's "first population war"—i.e., a military confrontation whose alleged cause was the "overpopulation" of the two countries involved.

The current civil war in El Salvador is referred to by this group as the "second population war." In reality, it is a war which they have helped trigger through "left" and "right" terrorism, in a deliberate effort to depopu-

late the region. This fact was stated quite frankly by *Thomas Ferguson*, the director of the Latin American section of the Office of Population Affairs at the U.S. State Department, an office that was heavily involved in the drafting of the infamous Global 2000 report referred to above.

Referring to Central America, Ferguson earlier this year told a reporter:

"There is a single theme behind all our work: we must reduce population levels. The government of El Salvador failed to use our programs to lower their population. Now they get a civil war because of it. There will be dislocation and food shortages. They still have too many people there."

### 3. Carter policy and the Reagan administration

After Max Fisher became head of United Brands in 1975, the network he heads determined that it would be best to institutionalize their policy of destabilization and depopulation of Central America as *official* U.S. policy. The Carter administration was the perfect vehicle for the job.

The policy document which shaped the entirety of Carter's Latin American policy was the *1976 Linowitz Commission Report*, prepared under the direction of Xerox Chairman *Sol Linowitz*. Linowitz, among his numerous other attributes, was on the Board of Directors of United Brands at the time that Max Fisher replaced Eli Black; Linowitz, in fact, is viewed by insiders as being principally responsible for that change-over. Linowitz is also:

- a member of the genocidal international Club of Rome;
- on the board of *Marine Midland Bank*, where he encouraged its 1979 takeover by the world's premier drug-financing bank, the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank;
- Carter's Panama Canal Treaty negotiator.

What Linowitz brought to Carter's Latin America policy, through his Commission's report, was a) an obsessive focus on human rights violations as a means of destabilizing targeted governments; and b) a strong opposition to the industrial modernization of the continent.

Issued simultaneously with the Linowitz Commission Report was another study prepared for the incoming Carter administration by the *Institute for Policy Studies*, the Washington-based leftist think-tank which coordinates international terrorists like the Baader-Meinhof gang and the Red Brigades. Significantly, a detailed textual analysis of the IPS and Linowitz reports conducted by *EIR* back in 1979, found them to be almost identical in policy proposals and even in terminology. Not surprisingly, there were a number of com-

mon members on the two commissions, including *Robert Pastor*, who later became the NSC's Latin American specialist under Zbigniew Brzezinski.

Anxious to maintain the institutionalization of their policy in the post-Carter period, Linowitz, Fisher, and the entire United Brands network went to work to "sell" it to the Reagan administration.

On January 11, 1980, Linowitz attended a small meeting at the Carter White House at which he helped establish a private group called *Caribbean/Central American Action (CCAA)*, whose stated purpose was to centralize and oversee all U.S. nongovernmental relations in the area. The man named as Executive Director of CCAA was *Peter Johnson*, who had previously been a State Department official principally assigned to work with Linowitz on public relations around the Panama Canal negotiations. United Brands was one of the original corporate sponsors and funders of CCAA, and UB Chairman *Seymour Milstein* is on the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of CCAA today—and is an active leader of the group, according to all accounts.

The Linowitz/UB outlook thus characterized CCAA from the outset. It was "sold" to President Reagan and his advisers later that year as the best vehicle to implement Reagan's "free enterprise" focus in the Caribbean Basin. The CCAA thus became the creator of the "Jamaica Model" policy, as implemented by the *Rockefeller Business Committee on Jamaica*. In fact, the Director of Corporate Communications for the Western Hemisphere for Rockefeller's Chase Manhattan Bank is *Kevin Corrigan*, whose brother, *Robert Corrigan*, is UB's chief lobbyist in Washington.

CCAA's role in selling the "Jamaica Model" is also seen in the fact that CCAA Executive Director Johnson personally escorted *Jamaican Prime Minister Edward Seaga* during his recent tour of the U.S. It is highly relevant that Seaga is a leading proponent of the legalization of Jamaica's sizeable marijuana trade with the United States. In fact, the entire Linowitz/United Brands "Jamaica Model" is nothing but advocacy for drug plantations in the Caribbean Basin, under the thin disguise of free enterprise rhetoric.

CCAA was built on the shoulders of its predecessor organization, the *Committee for the Caribbean*, founded in mid-1978 by the Chairman of *Tesoro Petroleum*, *Robert V. West, Jr.*, and by then-Lt. Governor of California *Merv Dymally*, currently a U.S. Congressman. Dymally is perhaps best known for his role in participating in the negotiations which permitted the establishment of *Jonestown* in Guyana.

The Committee's policy concerns, which it passed on to CCAA, were achieving "economic progress through private enterprise and the free market system," and dealing with "the population explosion."

## Loyola Jesuit Center: 'Training people for death'

*The following interview with Fr. Walte Janer, S.J. was made available to EIR. Fr. Janer was Assistant Director of the Institute for Human Relations at Loyola University in New Orleans, and reported to Father Twomey, the Director of the Institute.*

**Q:** Tell me about your Center.

**A:** It was one of the few good things this country did for those people down there. We recruited people from the lower economic and social classes. We trained them in techniques so they could deal with the groups they were associated with. This demanded study and introspection. We gave them information classes about their milieu, their government, their history—to develop attitudinal and behavioral changes.

The proof is that it worked. Now I don't want to make a big thing of this, but I really believe that the Central American revolutions that are taking place now, at least we added a drop of water to that. And, goddamn, they deserve to take place. I think the Solidarity thing in Poland is going to have a repercussion in Latin America.

**Q:** The Jesuits have played a big role in this?

**A:** Of course. We have even been thrown out.

**Q:** The Institute was started by enlightened businessmen. Was United Brands involved and open to this social democratic orientation?

**A:** At that time they were. They helped by suggesting who could come to the Center for training.

**Q:** How were people instructed in attitude change?

**A:** We had a great thing going. We used to bring in sensitivity trainers from Panama. They were terrific. Then there was a psychiatrist from Guatemala that we would bring in. He is still alive; I get Christmas cards from him. We had training sessions in Panama and Guatemala and we got trainers from Washington also. There was an institute there, a psychological research institute. These good things could have been expanded. Father Twomey was a prophet.

Imagine, we would bring these little Indians from Panama and so on. These were Indian chiefs, their peo-

ple's leaders. We had a lot in Guatemala at Landívar University. Some of their professors came up to the Center. We also had a good little group from El Salvador. I would not be surprised if some of them are fighting in there right now. I don't know who is going to win, but I do know we were on the right track. It wasn't intended to create war, but it was a question of justice. It was really a simple thing.

*Dr. Frank Keller, a Professor of Economics at Tulane University, also taught Economics of Community Development at the Loyola Center. We reprint his recent remarks to a journalist on his experiences.*

**Q:** Tell me about the Center.

**A:** We went into this leadership training thing. They were six-week programs. We had to transfer part of our operation to Guatemala. I was talking to the man who ran our Center in Guatemala, and today is an opposition deputy. He said that of the 1,100 Guatemalans trained at the Center in New Orleans, 750 have been shot—because they were community leaders. They were popped off by the army. Our best operations were in Guatemala and Costa Rica. In 1964 I was talking to Father Twomey, and he said: "Are we making friends, or are we training people to be killed?" But we thought we were doing the right thing and went ahead with the operation.

What we did was to link group therapy, T-grouping, with academic information on social change, political action, and community economic development. The idea was how to get a group of people to recognize the needs of the community and organize to create a program and try to sell the program, you know, get the funding. We had what we called mini-grants. We would have a person before he left the Center devise a little development program for his community. He would go back to his country and apply to the U.S. Embassy for a grant and we would see to it that he got financed the first time around.

**Q:** Can you describe the T-grouping?

**A:** The National Training Laboratories in Washington, D.C. gave us assistance. They would have all our reports and I have all of theirs. We combined our evaluations. We also brought in Puerto Ricans to handle some sessions.

We had a good friend in Hale Boggs [then Congressman from Louisiana]. And we had Bobby Kennedy. He got interested in our work. He gave a speech at the State Department on youth and with Boggs made sure a contract was signed by the government with the Center.

Our people after training were sent back to recruit other people for the program. The new people would be debriefed by the old upon their return. It was quite an operation.