

LA Times 19 APRIL 1967

Britons Ask Probe of Alleged Plot by CIA

LONDON (AP)—Laborite members of Parliament Tuesday demanded an investigation into allegations that the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) had intervened in British Guiana—now Guyana—to overthrow the government of Prime Minister Cheddi Jagan, a leftist, in 1964.

Prime Minister Harold Wilson, sidestepping the demands, said that Guyana was now self-governing and the British government had no responsibility. He added that he was not responsible for events before October, 1964.

"I know of no activities of this kind in British administrative territories," he said.

Statement Asked

The issue was raised by Laborite Stan Newens, who asked if Wilson would make a statement on his policy toward efforts by the CIA and other U.S. intelligence organizations to infiltrate and influence organizations which function in British-administered territories for purposes of subversion of law and order.

London's Sunday Times said last weekend that its investigations showed that the downfall of Jagan in the colony of British Guiana was largely engineered by the CIA.

It claimed that for more than five years, the CIA paid out something over \$700,000 through the London-based international trade union secretariat, the Public Services International.

"The result was about 170 dead, untold hundreds wounded, roughly 10 million pounds (\$28 million) worth of damage to the economy and a legacy of racial bitterness," the paper said.

Jagan was swept to power in 1953 in the first elections in the British colony. He soon moved against foreign sugar companies and three months after the elections the British government moved in to quell the uproar. It suspended the constitution, dissolved the government and ruled directly through the governor until 1957.

Upheaval Hinted

Then Jagan again won the elections. The Sunday Times said the Americans thought the only way to remove the threat of Jagan to South America was through upheaval.

The paper said that through the front organization of the Public Services International the CIA financed a 79-day general strike which eventually brought Jagan down. It added that the money was funneled to Public Services International through the Gotham Foundation.

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Times Mirror Square
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