

Kissinger Forces Reporter's Ouster

Ernest Volkman, a reporter for *Long Island Newsday*, was effectively forced out of his job this week in retaliation for publication of an article exposing Henry Kissinger as the man who ordered and directed repeated assassination attempts against Jamaican Prime Minister Michael Manley during 1974-75. The article, "Murder As Usual," which appeared in the December issue of *Penthouse* magazine, was the first mass-media circulation of information originally published in this newspaper detailing the Kissinger-National Security Council plot to destabilize prodevelopment governments in the Caribbean.

Immediately following the article's appearance, an embattled Henry Kissinger — already the target of attacks from intelligence agency traditionalists — issued a routine denial through the CIA. Then, Kissinger ordered the law firm of Arnold and Porter to send a telegram, signed by former Secretary of State William P. Rodgers, to *Penthouse* publisher Bob Guccione, threatening the magazine with legal action. Kissinger loyalists within the Central Intelligence Agency have reportedly applied pressure to suspected "leakers," while reserving space for them on the list of CIA senior officials slated for CIA Director Stansfield Turner's in-progress "house-cleaning."

Pressure was also put on *Newsday* from Kissinger connected elements in its ownership, the Times-Mirror Co., to squeeze Volkman and the articles coauthor John Cummings, also at *Newsday*. Sources close to the newspaper report that Kissinger contacted his close friend, Dr. Franklin Murphy, Chairman of Times-Mirror Co. and former head of the now-defunct Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, to complain about the article. Following this, during the week after the offending article appeared, Otis Chandler, owner of Times-Mirror Co. and publisher of the *Los Angeles Times*, arrived in *Newsday's* Garden City office and ordered the ax sharpened.

Volkman — a 13-year veteran at *Newsday* who as a

national reporter with a wide bailiwick, broke such stories as the CIA's intervention in Angola and ERDA's attempted cover-up of the Rudakov revelations — was ushered into the office of *Newsday* Executive Editor Antony Insolia and told that he was being "reassigned" to the Long Island aerospace beat, effectively an adjunct to Grumman Aircraft Public Relations. Said a reporter at *Newsday*, "The transfer stuff was all pro forma . . . he was fired. If you want to call this a case of a newspaper bending to pressure, go ahead, because that's exactly what it is."

Insolia denied that the transfer was punitive, as was charged by the pressmen's union, but was quick to acknowledge that "we decided to place him under closer supervision because we have no confidence in his ability to represent the newspaper or to work on his own." He also claimed sole responsibility for the decision to transfer Volkman and denied any intervention by Times-Mirror or *Newsday's* publisher, former State Department Africa expert William Attwood. Volkman, however, reported that Insolia told him that the decision to transfer was not his. Insolia denied this.

Insolia confirmed that the *Penthouse* article played a role in the decision to transfer Volkman, but only because its publication violated *Newsday* freelancing rules. The pressmen's union contests this, and Volkman notes that *Newsday* Suffolk Editor Robert Green had already turned down a requested authorization for the investigation which led to the story, submitted by *Penthouse* co-author John Cummings.

Subsequently, a scheduled appearance by Volkman and Cummings on ABC's Good Morning America was cancelled at the last minute, and a taping done by WPIX has never been aired, according to *More* magazine.

Volkman denies having definite proof that Kissinger brought about his ouster, but commented, "It looks like a duck, it waddles like a duck, and it quacks like a duck. . ."

CORRECTION

In the issue of *Executive Intelligence Review* No. 48, we inadvertently omitted the name of Prof. Behram Kursunoglu, of the University of Miami's Center for Theoretical Studies, from the list of signatories of the final statement of the Conference on an Acceptable Nuclear Future.

Prof. Kursunoglu was not only a signatory, but a leading organizer of the nuclear conference and a draftee of the final statement, one of the most important expressions for development from the scientific community in recent years. We regret this error.