

The power behind Anastasio Somoza

That the Somoza dynasty in Nicaragua, as with many dictatorships in Central America, has been and is a "banana republic" is no joke. The history of the Somoza government is inseparable from that of the United Fruit Company, which has ruled Central America as a feudal kingdom for the last half-century.

The same political-financial networks that ran, and still run, United Fruit Co.—now United Brands—are the supranational political networks behind Anglo-American imperialism, the forces that control organized crime, that run the international drug traffic, and that put the Somoza clan into power in Nicaragua with the aid of U.S. marines in the mid-1920s.

An empire

United Fruit Company has exercised effective political control over most of Central America since the 1920s when it established a monopoly on production and export of bananas in Nicaragua, Panama, Costa Rica, and Guatemala. An empire unto itself, United Fruit owned the largest private navy in the world, controlled all communications and transportation to and from the Caribbean coast of Central America, and installed or felled governments at will. Its domination over Central America, particularly Guatemala, epitomizes what is now International Monetary Fund and U.S. State Department policy toward the Third World: the British colonial looting policy of enforced backwardness, oligarchical political control, and labor-intensive agricultural export economies.

The case of Guatemala

United Fruit held over a million acres of land in Guatemala, controlled the country's entire transportation infrastructure, and exercised sovereign political control over its territories. Until it was challenged by the 1952-54 Arbenz government, which attempted to develop Guatemala as a sovereign nation, United Fruit operated totally outside Guatemalan national law. In 1952, Arbenz introduced an agrarian reform bill to congress which would appropriate—with compensa-

tion—all land holdings above 223 acres. The bill was aimed at United Fruit, which had only 15 percent of its land under cultivation.

Arbenz was deposed two years later, in a June 1954 military coup orchestrated by United Fruit and its former company lawyer, U.S. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, a leading British agent-of-influence in the Eisenhower Administration. Over 30,000 people were massacred in the wave of repression that followed.

Who runs United Brands?

United Fruit was set up in the first decade of this century by the New Orleans mafia of Joe Macheca and his successor Charles Matrenga, with financing from "Our Crowd" Zionist banking houses in Boston and New York. Both Macheca and Matrenga were protégés of the Italian "godfather" of today's Mafia, anarcho-terrorist Giuseppe Mazzini. When Charles Matrenga died in 1943, the entire board of United Fruit attended his funeral.

United Brands, which took over United Fruit in 1970, is now run by Max Fisher, a protégé of Edmond de Rothschild, and an agent of Israeli foreign intelligence, Mossad, in the United States. A top Zionist lobby figure, Fisher is right at the center of the British-run "Dope, Inc." network that controls the world drug trade, organized crime, and much of international terrorism. Fisher's United Brands is believed to be a major source of the illegal cocaine smuggled into the United States, hiding the deadly drug in its regular banana shipments.

This is the political network that has kept the Somozas in power in Nicaragua since 1933, providing ample injections of financial and military aid. When the United States was forced to suspend military aid at the height of the civil war last fall, Max Fisher's Zionist allies picked up the slack. In flagrant support of Somoza's genocide against the population, Israeli ships and air transports delivered shipment after shipment of weapons to Somoza's National Guard.

—Mary Goldstein