

A Chronology Of Destabilization

Chronology of reported incidents between Panamanians and Zonians, Sept. 1976 through July, 1977.

1976

Week of 9-15 — Right-wing students riot in Panama City. Several U.S. citizens and Canal employees arrested for inciting riots. Panama files official protest to U.S., charging arrested persons were members of U.S. intelligence agencies.

9-22 — Former Panamanian Foreign Minister Aquilino Boyd warns U.S. "Don't try to destabilize us or you'll regret it."

10-20-30 — Wave of terrorism hits Canal Zone including several bombings. Most significant incident is bombing of auto of right-wing American policeman Drummond, head of AFL-CIO union in Canal Zone. Drummond had filed court suit against negotiations. Group calling itself "Yanki Go Home" takes credit for bombing Nov. 1.

11-2 — Panamanian semi-official daily *Matutino* charges that Zonians are performing "terrorist attacks and sabotage against the waterway in hope of creating the appropriate conditions for a replay of the 1964 confrontation....they want to make us look like the aggressor country in the eyes of the world. They want to portray an image of Panama which makes us look like terrorists." *Matutino* also charges bombing against Drummond's car is "work of some Machievellian spirit intent on creating another Pearl Harbor" and charges that "Yanki Go Home" group is a "CIA-Pentagon" creation.

—Panama government denies participation of any Panamanian citizens in Canal violence.

11-3 — American police in Canal Zone arrest six Panamanians celebrating Independence Day for allegedly entering Canal Zone.

11-5 — Leader of the Inter-american section of AFL-CIO in Washington says that "there is doubt as to who was responsible for the (Canal Zone-Drummond) bombings." Asked about the existence of "Yanki Go Home," he replies, "the whole thing is in doubt." Says Drummond is in U.S. for 8 days to meet with State Department and AFL-CIO officials.

11-13 — *Matutino* editorial charges that U.S. aggressions and violence in Canal Zone have increased since Nov. 1, and aim to "provoke deaths of North Americans" as a good pretext for deployment of military troops against Panama "to rescue its English-speaking Little Red Riding Hoods" who initiated violence. Says U.S. violence is "trap" for Panamanians; alerts Panamanian citizens to avoid falling in trap.

—Daily *Critica* charges recent U.S. "security measures" in Canal Zone (curfews, illegal searches of cars, denial of visas) designed to heat up Canal Zone and provoke confrontation.

11-21 — Julio Yau, Panamanian Foreign Ministry advisor, denounces Zonians who have unleashed terror drive in Panama. Says Zonian pawns deployed to make Panamanians "swallow the bait" used to

foment further destabilizations.

11-26 — *Critica* denounces circulation of document written in English denouncing "human rights" violations in Panama, which was to be presented in international forums. *Critica* says document is part of red scare in Panama fomented by U.S.

11-28 — Three Panamanians "who maintain close ties with Miami" injured when bomb they were to set in downtown Panama City explodes prematurely. Panamanian National Guard relates incident with U.S. campaign to wreck Panama's international image.

11-29 — Three Panamanian Canal Zone unions denounce "plot" of AFL-CIO unions in Zone to sabotage negotiations.

1977

Jan.-April — Sporadic Minor incidents involving harassment and repression of Panamanian citizens in Canal Zone by U.S. military and civil authorities.

5-1-3 — U.S. General Dennis McAuliffe threatens to invade Panama with 14,000 troops in Canal Zone if he sees "threats of the Panamanians taking over the Canal Zone."

5-4 — Cuban Press Service Prensa Latina accuses McAuliffe of creating private war without Pentagon's consent, notes statement contradicts official Pentagon position, declared July 1976 by head of U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. George Brown.

5-5 — *Matutino* charges that apparent contradiction between Carter, official Pentagon position and McAuliffe are "part of the same strategy to gain time and create confusion."

— *Critica* accuses U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance of being "the brains behind the conspiracy" and the "insubordination" of McAuliffe in the Canal Zone. Accuses "some sectors in U.S. of attempting to sabotage negotiations."

— Panamanian Student organization denounces McAuliffe statements as part of plot to "trap" Panamanians into responding with violence. Calls for Panamanian people to refrain from responding.

5-6 — Panamanian National Guard announces "Ay Que Miedo" military maneuvers in response to McAuliffe statements, consisting of "operaciones taticas de adiestramiento y simulacros de defensa del Canal de Panama contra enemigos potenciales o elementos no identificados." National Guard states maneuvers will not threaten or harass American citizens in Zone; intent is to prove Canal can be defended without intimidating civilian population.

6-1 — U.S. soldier Alberto Cuevas, member of Southern Command's 193rd Brigade, shoots Panamanian policeman in downtown Panama and takes refuge in Canal Zone. Zone authorities prevent Panamanian police from making arrest. Daily *Critica* charges Canal Zone gives refuge to delinquents who commit crimes in Panama.

Week of 6-15-22 — Berta Torrijos, sister of Omar Torrijos, detained by police in act of harrassment when entering Canal Zone.
7-12 — U.S. military personnel arrest and interrogate

Panamanian news reporter who had denounced U.S. discrimination in Zone. Reporter denounced military involved in harassing Panamanian residents of Canal Zone towns nearby.

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