

... and James Billington

One incident Cline describes in The CIA involves James Billington, a former CIA officer who now heads the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars of the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C. In 1956, Cline and Billington were taken along by then-CIA Director Allen Dulles on a world-wide trip to CIA stations. "This was a big break for me," writes Cline, "because Jim, being very junior, did most of the briefcase carrying...."

Billington seems to have enjoyed the trip anyway, since he wrote a groveling "poem" entitled "The Voyager" honoring Dulles. The poem concludes:

*Mr. D. worked all day
While the others would play
Yet he seldom let loose his thunder
He's a man that his troops
All felt as a group
Mighty glad and proud to be under.*

Billington's ties with the CIA did not end with his departure from the agency shortly after his trip with Dulles and

Cline as seen in this excerpt from an April 1958 letter from Dulles thanking Billington for a copy of a book he had just written.

I was interested to hear of your plans for a trip and would appreciate your letting me know when details are firmed up. I would like to have our boys have a talk with you before you go, if agreeable with you. In the meantime I will be looking forward to seeing you in June if you do get down to Washington then. Just drop a note or call the office and Miss Tisthammer will arrange a mutually convenient time for us to get together.

Billington, in fact, continued as one of the CIA's notorious "Princeton Consultants" while a professor at Princeton University. In June 1981, Billington also testified before the Senate Subcommittee on Security and Terrorism on "Historical Antecedents of Soviet Terrorism." In this hearing Billington presented his new definition for the word "terrorist": the terrorist is the "ultimately committed revolutionary...."

U.S. Biological Warfare Against Cuba

Cuban President Fidel Castro recently made serious charges about a new biological warfare program against Cuba. On July 26, 1981, the 28th anniversary of the attack on the Moncada Garrison, the beginning of the Cuban revolution, Castro stated that the government shares "the people's conviction and [harbors] the profound suspicion that the epidemics which have hit our country, especially the hemorrhagic dengue, may have been introduced into Cuba by the CIA." He pointed out that over the last seven weeks, 113 people had died of dengue fever, and nearly 300,000 were infected. In addition, Castro raised questions about other plagues that had hit Cuba during the last two years: African swine fever, sugar cane rust, and blue mold on tobacco. Castro queried about a U.S. government role in introducing these pests which debilitated two key Cuban export commodities, tobacco and sugar as

well as one of Cuba's vital staples, pork.

The State Department and the U.S. media were quick to ridicule and discount Castro's charges. The Washington Post, for one, claimed that the charge of dengue fever being introduced into Cuba by the CIA "makes no medical sense." While it is true that there are natural causes for a dengue fever epidemic, the possibility of CIA dirty work cannot be dismissed out of hand.

The U.S. has a long history of using biological weapons. A top-secret 1956 U.S. Army document, for example, urges that "military operational policies, plans and directives dealing with the offensive deployment of BW [biological weapons] against specific targets" as well as "the fact that specific living agents or their toxic derivatives, identified by specific name and/or description, had been standardized for offensive military employ-

ment" has to be kept "top secret." In his book, Chemical and Biological Warfare - America's Hidden Arsenal, Seymour Hersh also quotes a report stating that an inventory at Fort Detrick, Maryland included "mosquitoes infected with yellow fever, malaria and dengue [emphasis added]; fleas infected with plague; ticks with tularemia, relapsing fever, and Colorado fever; houseflies with Cholera, anthrax, and dysentery." In addition, Fort Detrick facilities, which have been used by both the CIA and the Army, included "laboratories for mass breeding of pathogenic microorganisms and greenhouses for investigating crop pathogens and various chemicals that harm or destroy plants."

In 1977 it was further revealed that the CIA, during the early 1960s maintained a clandestine "anti-crop warfare" research program "targeted at a number of countries." (Washington Post, 9/16/77) In spite of the 1969 order by President Richard Nixon to halt research on and planning and stockpiling of offensive biological and chemical weapons, the CIA and the Army have continued research on and use of such weapons.

Newsday reported on January 9, 1977 that "with at least the tacit backing of U.S. Central Intelligence Agency officials, operatives linked to anti-Castro terrorists introduced African swine fever virus into Cuba in 1971." The operation was successful. Six weeks later an outbreak of swine fever forced the slaughter of 500,000 pigs to prevent a nationwide epidemic. Newsday described how the biological warfare operation was carried out: One intelligence operative was given a sealed container with the swine fever virus in Fort Gulick in the Panama Canal zone. At Fort Gulick, according to Newsday, the CIA also "operates a paramilitary training center for career personnel and mercenaries." At the time, Fort Gulick was also used as "a staging area for covert operations in the Caribbean and Latin America."

From Fort Gulick, the container with the virus was transferred to members of a counter-revolutionary Cuban group, who took it by trawler to Navassa Island, a deserted U.S.-owned island between Haiti and Jamaica. After a stopover in Navassa, the container was taken to Cuba and given to operatives near the U.S. military base, Guantanamo.

The United Nations Food and Agricultural

Organization stated that the swine fever outbreak in Cuba was the "most alarming event" of 1971 in the Western Hemisphere, and Fidel Castro said in his 1971 speech celebrating the anniversary of the attack on the Moncada barracks: "The origin of the epidemic has not yet been ascertained. It could be accidental or it could have been the result of enemy activity. On various occasions the counter-revolutionary wormpit [Cuban terrorist groups in the U.S.] has talked of plagues and epidemics...."

A proposal for a CIA food study (reprinted in CounterSpy, vol.4 no.1) serves as one more indication that the CIA is targeting Cuban food production in its continuing war against Cuba. The study requested by the CIA was to "evaluate national nutrition and health problems and strengths... as they affect food availability and consumption requirements of key less developed countries..." One of the "key countries" listed in this proposed 1978 one-year study was Cuba. The study was supposed to answer questions including: "What are the nutrition and disease factors related to food availability and utilization?; what is the impact of the biological/ecological/cultural environment on nutrition, health and disease?"; and finally, "what is the impact of national food needs and demands which result in parallel incidence of debilitation and crippling diseases in the labor force?"

Biological warfare research by the Army and the CIA is not a thing of the past. For example, last year U.S. "government laboratories" were studying the rift valley fever virus for use "as a biological warfare agent." Like dengue fever, rift valley fever is transmitted by mosquitoes; it causes blindness, severe bleeding and liver damage, and can cause inflammation of the brain and death. Col. Gerald A. Eddy, the chief virologist at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute in Frederick, Maryland commented on the danger of rift valley fever. "We think the world is relatively unprepared for this potentially devastating virus." According to Col. Eddy, only the U.S. Army has certified vaccine, and it is only enough to immunize some 100,000 people. (Facts on File, 4/25/80)

That the CIA wants to "keep the option open" to use biological warfare was con-

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firmed in a "joke" by then-CIA Deputy Director Frank Carlucci. (He is now Deputy Secretary of Defense.) Carlucci stated in a speech given to the American Bar Association in June 1980 that he is opposed to any prohibition of biological warfare:

"We've gone through successive iterations of intelligence legislation; there are some concepts that have arisen that I personally consider a bit curious or difficult. One is that we can reduce every detail of the intelligence business to statute. The original intelligence charter... had an array of prohibitions... There was one that said CIA agents should be prohibited from overtly taking an action likely to lead to flood, pesti-

lence, plague or mass destruction of property. In the CIA there was a tongue-in-cheek comment that we ought to oppose this just to keep our options open."

In spite of the devastating effects of successive plagues, Cuba has proven in the past that the country is able to defeat attempts by counter-revolutionary Cubans and the CIA - including biological warfare - to defeat the revolution. Far from destroying it, attacks on Cuba have strengthened the determination of the Cuban people. Says Fidel Castro: "This country may be wiped off the face of the earth, but it will never be intimidated or forced to surrender."

AIFLD: Secret Plan for El Salvador

by John Kelly

In a searing self-indictment, the American Institute for Free Labor Development (AIFLD) puts the lie to its land reform program in El Salvador. A draft of AIFLD's 1981 working paper on land reform - leaked to CounterSpy - claims the reform is directed toward "a drastic overhaul of the land tenure system" controlled by the "economic powers of the country."¹ In short, land is supposed to be redistributed from the landed oligarchy which, according to draft author Bruce Cohen, controlled El Salvador until 1979 through "the application of extreme economic, political and military power."

The AIFLD report ignores that support of the junta directly contradicts the goal of drastically overhauling the land tenure system because the present junta is again controlled by the oligarchy and the military. This is where the lie comes in - a "reform" that underpins the junta keeps the land in the hands of the oligarchy. Cohen glosses over this contradiction by writing as if there have been no changes since October 1979 when "the government of

General Romero was replaced by a civilian/military junta."

Cohen would have us believe that El Salvador is still ruled by the 1979 civilian/military junta which, he added, "recognized the need for land reform so as to change an archaic political system [and] to right extreme social and economic injustice (sic)...." Some civilians in the 1979 junta may have viewed land reform as such. However, they resigned on January 3, 1980 because "the military [has] failed to keep its political and economic promises."² Moreover, moderate officers in the 1979 junta have either resigned or are now dominated by conservative officers who are undoubtedly among those who, Cohen says, consider "land reform" a means to "counteract the appeal of the left in the countryside."

In effect, AIFLD's land reform is counterinsurgency in the service of a junta brutally opposed to true land reform. The primacy of the counterinsurgency role is highlighted by Roy Prosterman who, Cohen says, has "devoted extensive time and effort" to the land reform. Prosterman, who talks like a politico-military strategist has written that a first goal of the land reform is to "broaden the base of the jun-

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