

# reprinted from RAT

July 27—a United Fruit Co. pier on the Hudson River

August 20—the Marine Midland Grace Trust Co. in the Wall St. area

September 19—the Federal Office Building in lower Manhattan

October 7—the Whitehall Selective Service center in lower Manhattan

November 11—the Standard Oil (of New Jersey) offices in the RCA Building in midtown Manhattan

the General Motors Building in midtown Manhattan

the Chase Manhattan Bank Building in the Wall St. area

November 12—the Criminal Courts Building in lower Manhattan

The bombs which have shaken New York City for five months ripped into the steel and concrete guts of Amerika. They exploded in the office buildings and corporate headquarter where the business of the Amerikan empire is carried out.

Each day those buildings suck in human energy and spit it out again in a regular nine-to-five rhythm. Then they stand idle and aloof, empty of humanity, while the rest of Manhattan swells to the point of explosion. During the day, the decisions made and carried out in these anonymous executive suites and administrative offices affect the lives of millions of people. It is important then to examine the particulars of their functioning.

Whitehall, the Federal Building and the Criminal Courthouse are understandable enough as bombing targets. Their operations are more or less public. Whitehall takes the men who are needed in Amerika's wars, the courthouse flushes away the men and women who are dysfunctional. The Federal Office Building is the embodiment of Amerikan government, spreading its bureaucratic pall over the nation. But it is those other places—GM, Chase Manhattan, Etc.—that require more ample descriptions.

Those private corporate entities house the men who make the critical decisions about the economic life of the empire. They live in fancy estates like the Rockefeller's Pocantico in Tarrytown, N.Y.; they meet in the plush lounges of clubs like the Links and Knickerbocker, and they make their plans in gatherings of groups like the Council on Foreign Relations. Their news is printed in the Wall Street Journal and Fortune magazine and they use a language spiked with monopoly game phrases which is more obscure than the language of any youth culture.

The mass of Americans are powerless and raised to be powerless. They are not meant to understand the workings of Chase Manhattan or General Motors, and ideally they are brought up not to care. The bombings focused attention on some of those corporate giants we have come to treat as part of the scenery. We buy their brand-name products every day, consume their ads everywhere, and even walk by their buildings occasionally.

## UNITED FRUIT

United Fruit is perhaps the best known name in Amerikan imperialism, famous for its role in perpetuating feudalism in Central America. For decades the company has monopolized most of the arable land in Central America in its pursuit of profits from Chiquita bananas. The company also owns 900 miles of railways in that part of the world and is moving into the business of mass communications with its Tropical Radio Telegraph Co. The company's tracts of land are so vast, that Central American peasants often live their entire lives without leaving United Fruit property. The company benevolently provides some schools and hospitals and even contracts out their workers (like slave labor) during off seasons. In 1954 when the liberal regime of Jacobo Arbenz in Guatemala pressed for land reform that would take some of the

company's land, the CIA graciously aided United Fruit by ousting Arbenz through a coup.

United Fruit has an absolute stranglehold on the banana market (90% of the bananas sold in North America are Chiquita brand), but the company isn't just bananas. It is a major producer of edible oils (like margarine) in Central America; it just recently bought out an eighty-year-old Mexican company which produces and markets a full line of process foods (canned goods, milk, etc.) in Mexico; it has interests in a plastic products company in Central America and in a pulp mill in Pine Hill, Alabama; and it's moving into the tourist industry by buying up Swiss Chalet, a company which operates hotels and restaurants in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

And lo and behold!! according to their 1967 Annual Report: "thirteen of the company's eighteen American flag vessels continue under charter to the U.S. Navy carrying supplies in connection with the military efforts of the U.S. in Southeast Asia." You just can't seem to get away from the war, even if you're in the banana business.

## MARINE MIDLAND GRACE TRUST

Amerika's nineteenth largest bank with assets of \$2.5 billion is in turn owned by the holding company, Marine Midland Banks. The bank is the financial outcropping of the far-flung empire of J. Peter Grace, Jr. Also included in the empire is W.R. Grace and Co. whose \$1.7 billion worth of sales in 1968 earned it place 45 in Fortune's rankings of industrial corporations.

The Grace dynasty, which is an essential part of Latin American imperial history, was launched in 1854 by William Russell Grace, grandfather of the

sweeping land reform.

The Grace empire is perhaps best known for the companies it has now gotten rid of: Grace Shipping Lines, Panagra Airlines (sold to Braniff) and Miller Brewing Co. (sold to Pepsico). But the company is hardly going out of business, just growing in other directions.

But to inject a personal note into the impersonality of corporate life, we should look at J. Peter Grace himself. His 281,834 shares of W.R. Grace stock alone is currently worth \$8.9 million. So he is rich. He is also a fervent Catholic. (Grandfather Grace was New York City's first Catholic mayor. One of J. Peter's best friends is Father Patrick Peyton who he praises for personally persuading seven million Latin Americans to say the rosary: "If those people didn't have the rosary, they'd have nothing.") He is also a fervent anti-Communist. (When asked by the *Catholic Reporter* if he equated Russia generally with murderers and criminals, he replied, "Yes, yes. Very definitely. I don't see any difference." He is also chief fund-raiser for the American Institute for Free Labor Development, which financed by U.S. Big Business and some CIA dollars, organizes anti-Communist labor unions in Latin America on the principle of cooperation with management.)

This combination of traits made J. Peter a likely associate of another rich, anti-Communist Catholic, John F. Kennedy. In fact, Grace's booklet, "It's Not Too Late in Latin America" presents a detailed program which was largely incorporated into the Alliance for Progress. Grace advocates a U.S. propaganda campaign utilizing movies and one-frequency radios and lays out a program for incentives to U.S. business. And indeed the Alliance for Progress worked quite

# THE N.Y. BOMBINGS: ANOTHER VIEW



present J. Peter. Granddad arrived in Peru as an Irish immigrant and started a ship supply company (which was aided by a timely marriage into a New York shipbuilding family). A less often mentioned part of the dynastic origins is W.R.'s entrance into the business of birdshit. The collection of guano from the Pacific islands off Peru proved highly profitable and gave the new company a sound basis in shipping, finance and fertilizer.

In 1879, Granddad got the contract to sell munitions and ships to Peru in her war with Chile. Peru lost, but Grace turned defeat into victory (for himself). The war left Peru with \$250 million in foreign debts which Grandad graciously assumed, thereby securing a virtual mortgage on the nation and receiving tremendous concessions in return. Peru for her part, however, has begun to get back. In August of this year the Peruvian government seized \$25 million worth of W.R. Grace & Co. sugar lands as part of its

well for Grace. According to the AID publication "The Task of Development" (July 1968): "In fiscal year 1967, AID economic programs financed more than \$1.3 billion in export sales for American firms. Among other items, AID financed the export of \$109 million in fertilizer, \$150 million in chemicals... In addition, American shipping lines earned about \$90 million in AID dollars for carrying these products to their destination in the less developed countries."

The last four corporate sites of bombings—Standard Oil (of New Jersey), RCA, GM and Chase Manhattan—involve institutions which are so mammoth they defy easy description. United Fruit and Marine Midland could be described somewhat neatly as discernible corporate entities. The last four giants aren't so easily contained—their directors slip and slide from corporate positions to governmental positions and back again. In the cases of Chase Manhattan

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Drawings by Suzanne BoVier

## EPILOGUE

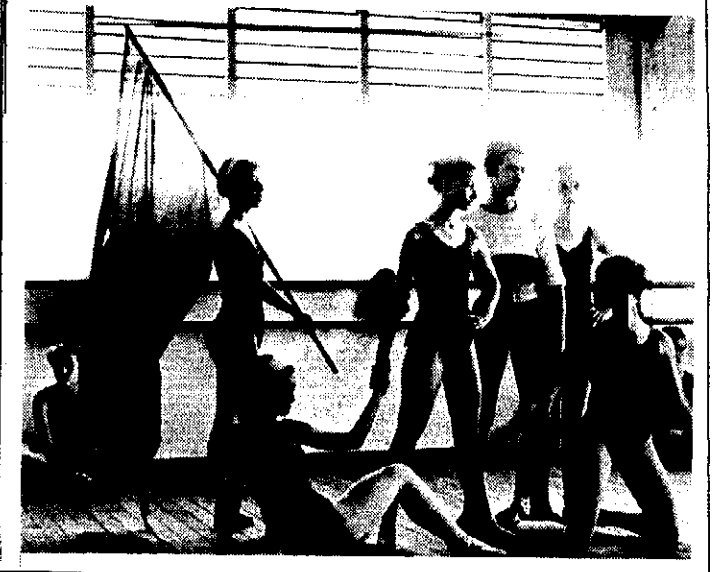
Look out folks, here comes the BOMBERS and they're gonna getcha if ya don't watch out ohyeah they're everywhere: that man you sat next to on the subway this morning, the elevator operator, the girl next door, your mother, YOUR MOTHER, motherfucker! she's been doing it for years, destroying Vietnamese villages with each fatal sweep of her income tax. your best friend buys his cigarettes and—WHAMO! babies in Cambodia die in incendiary horror so HOW CAN YOU TALK ABOUT BOMBERS? \$3,000,000,000 last year in bombs and shells alone HOW CAN YOU SCREAM "THEY ENDANGER THE PUBLIC

SAFETY"? 17 bombs per person in the Vietnamese panhandle area alone.

You are all bombers—everyone of you who stays in his place, who keeps on shellinout/sellinout/paying for the Amerikan nightmare, who doesn't care enough to stop the world bullshit. Did Marine Midland cry out in pain? Does Chase Manhattan mourn the seared and shriveled corpse of its only child? No, no—it wasn't you this time, it couldn't have been you Mr. ABM, big fat earlymorning B52 cocksucker it wasn't your style. These bombers castrated your property, not your children, and they did something you've never done... they gave fair warning.

—paul simon—

# CUBA: THE SEXUAL REVOLUTION, A BEGINNING



The status of women and sexual relations in Cuba was a curious but not so surprising mixture of past, present, and future; of Revolution and conservatism; of the situation in some highly industrialized countries and the situation in some very undeveloped ones. Giant steps had been and were being taken toward the liberation of women. But if that liberation is defined as freedom from old roles and definitions, with the full availability of alternative life patterns, then it would be more accurate to define the changes which had taken place thus far as the basis for a total revolution rather than the revolution itself.

The New Man and Woman would emerge from the interaction of several forces: changes in the societal structure, specific efforts to uproot old ideas, the particular nature of Cuba's culture and people, and whatever it is that can be truly called human nature. The Cubans themselves said that the New Woman was not to be forged in some eternal, frozen image. She would change with the passing of time, with new technology, the mobility of human imagination — a constantly "unfinished product".

from THE YOUNGEST REVOLUTION  
by Elizabeth Sutherland

