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Lumumba University — A Perfect Cover For Training Hard-Core Largest student contingent from Subversives India

A 'CURRENT' Special

WHEN it celebrated its tenth anniversary last year, PATRICE LUMUMBA UNIVERSITY in Moscow, also known as "Friendship University", boasted of being "a centre of training for first class experts for the liberated countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America". But as a number of developing nations have found to their cost, Lumumba graduates are often far more skilled in subversion, trouble-making and guerilla warfare than in "friendly" skills likely to benefit their homelands.

Under the convenient cover of "the Leninist principle of giving disinterested aid to the people of the liberated countries", Lumumba University has trained thousands of subversives who wrought havoc after they went back home.

But like the KGB, many of whose members are on its staff, Lumumba University has also had its share of fiascos. Here is a small sample of agents found with their fingers in the pie.

Anthony Okotcha of Nigeria revealed in 1961 that while studying at Lumumba University he had been trained to organise a plot to overthrow the Nigerian Government so that a pro-Soviet regime could take over.

After receiving his basic groundwork he had been passed on for final instructions to three Soviets in London—Leonid Rogov, a Second Secretary at the Embassy, Victor Yarotsky, a Cultural Attache, and Vasili Dozhdalev, also on the Embassy staff.

Ordered to spark riots

JEAN-BATISTE KABAMBA of the CONGO said in 1962 that three Russians had roped him in and ordered him to spark riots through the leftist Union of Nationalist Youth. In 1969, Ethiopia expelled MIKHAIL NOVIKOV, VLADIMIR SHARAYEV and VICTOR MATVEYEV, also for stirring up student uprisings.

In Kenya, the Soviets sent 160 students to Moscow and satellite universities behind the back of the authorities on the recommendation of the leftist Vice President, Oginga Odinga, since thrown out of office by the Kenyatta regime.

But even after exposure the Soviets did not learn to behave, and in 1969 Mikhail Domogatsikh and Victor Eliseyev were expelled for "undesirable activities" among students and teachers.

KGB's biggest setbacks

One of the KGB's biggest setbacks, even more disastrous because it involved the Soviet Union in a really big way and led to the expulsion of five high-ranking KGB officers who had been posing as diplomats, took place in Mexico in March this year.

The Soviet Embassy in Mexico, one of the largest in Latin America, has for many years been providing scholarships to Mexican students, as Soviet Embassies do elsewhere in the world.

From the moment they arrive in Moscow the students are under surveillance by KGB "spotters", who pick out suitable prospects for an "advanced course" that has nothing to do with the degrees they came to Moscow to acquire.

These "special students" are often given on-the-spot training in schools run by the KGB in Moscow itself, or at obscure "special academies" in the republics.

When the true nature of these institutions leaked out, the Russians decided to use the North Koreans as a front and KIM II SUNG of North Korea, a firebrand who makes no bones about his eagerness to bring the world under Communist domination, gladly offered to provide training in the lethal arts of underground warfare to hand-picked youngsters.

When the Mexican police stumbled on a student plot against the State, they found that several of the ring-leaders, while supposedly at Lumumba University, had in fact been attending courses in subversion and sabotage at the North Korean capital of Pyongyang!

To keep themselves completely in the clear, the Russians had first sent the youngsters to East Berlin, from where

they had been provided with false passports to North Korea.

After Mexico smashed the plot, Moscow's claim that it knew nothing about Mexican students going to Pyongyang sounded pretty weak, since the plotters had flown to North Korea from East Berlin via Moscow, in planes belonging to the Soviet state-owned Aeroflot line.

Despite the pleas of innocence, five Soviet diplomats were booted out by Mexico, including First Secretary Boris Kolomyakov, Boris Voskoboinikov, one of the key men in the project, and Alexander Bolshakov, a Second Secretary.

According to the Mexican police, the plotters were among fifty students who had gone to Lumumba University between 1968 and 1970. After the Russians passed them on to Pyongyang, they had been given training in political indoctrination, use of weapons and explosives, and the strategy and tactics of guerilla warfare, in crash courses lasting from six months to a year.

Before coming to grief, the would-be revolutionaries had quite a string of successes. To finance their revolution they had robbed \$84,000 from a bank, murdering a guard in the process, and had planned further "jobs" of this sort.

The youngsters also ran a full-fledged camp on military lines. Among the articles seized were automatic weapons, uniforms, short-wave radios, masses of propaganda material, and other tools of the subversive trade.

Police investigation showed that the scholarships for Lumumba University had been handed out through local Soviet Mexican "friendship" fronts.

Adelina Zendejas Gomez, head of the local Mexican Russian Institute, had wangled these scholarships for Lumumba University. But the award was only the final step in a carefully worked out sequence.

Like our ISCUS in Bombay, the Mexican Soviet Friendship Society ran a language training school and served as a cultural centre where Russian books and periodicals were available, where film shows were held, and where lectures on chess and other popular Soviet pastimes were regularly given.

From the large numbers of guileless youngsters who

and on Marxist dialectics.

As for stipends and holidays, they discovered these were "special perquisites" available only to those prepared to serve as Soviet stooges on "All-Africa Day" and similar propaganda stunts.

It is small wonder that with such ambitious intelligence aims, the man in charge of the University during its formative stage was Pavel Dmitriyevich Erzin, exposed by defector Col. Oleg Penkovsky as a full-fledged General in the KGB.

RECTOR ERZIN, incidentally, is an old "friend" of India. During his stay in this country he prepared a list of 50 "suitable" students who would profit from the Lumumba curriculum. But the more dangerous specimens chosen were not on the list and were probably smuggled out. This is far from unusual; when the new Ambassador from Cyprus arrived in Moscow in 1963, he was astonished to find 50 Cypriots at Lumumba University who had been smuggled in without anybody in Cyprus being aware.

Even more serious than Lumumba's educational drawbacks is the fact that students from abroad are generally regarded as pariahs by the Russians. Time and again there have been instances of discrimination, leading to serious violence.

Students from Africa have complained bitterly that the Russians habitually refer to them as "black monkeys" and a few years ago resentment came to a head after an African student was found dead in the snow a few days before he was due to marry a Russian girl.

The Soviet Government said he had fallen off a train while drunk and had died of exposure. The African students charged, however, that he had been savagely beaten to death.

Racial incidents of this kind are common throughout the East Bloc. In Bulgaria, hundreds of African students fought pitched battles with the police and insisted on returning home rather than stand further insults.

Contrary to the official line on equality, there is evidence that the Soviet government itself gives indirect encouragement to racialism. Some years ago IZVESTIA carried what purported to be a factual report about a Russian girl who had married an Arab student, returned with him to his homeland, and been made part of his harem.

The obvious idea of the story was to warn Russian girls against having anything to do with foreigners. The article set off an uproar. Arab students declared no such incident had ever happened and challenged Izvestia to name the student concerned.

Several Middle Eastern governments also expressed concern at the report and pressed the Soviets for a clarification. Belatedly realising the whole thing had back-fired miserably, Izvestia came out with the lame excuse that it was not a factual report but merely a feuilleton!

Relations between foreign students and the Russian authorities have also been far from pleasant. In one case a crowd of several hundred Africans stormed the American Embassy in Moscow, which of course perfectly suited the Russians so long as it was kept within bounds.

Unfortunately, the riot got out of hand and the students began to clamber over the Embassy walls. A strong contingent of the Soviet militia was on the scene, as usual, during the demonstration, and when the students deviated from the "plan", the militia stepped in.

Savagely bashed



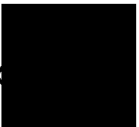

Another incident involved Chinese students in a hand to hand scuffle with the militia. The students were savagely bashed up and delightedly played up the racial aspects of the affair when they returned home.

If unpleasantness of this sort is common, why do the Russians persist in keeping the Lumumba University going? The obvious reason is that it provides a perfect cover for training hard-core subversives.

Even if ninety students have genuinely come for studies and go back disappointed, there is the ten per cent minority, carefully hand-picked who come to Lumumba University knowing full well how they will be used, and who do not bother about academic benefits, since they know they will get secure "jobs" when they return home either as top flight cadres of the local Communist Party or as part of the KGB's foreign apparatus.

India is already familiar with Soviet-inspired student troubles. Back in 1968 Third Secretary VENIAMIN JILIN, NOVOSTI's VLADIMIR, SIMONOV, RAMIZ IBRAHIMOV and ALEXANDER TEREKHIN, a KGB student specialist, came to public notice for fomenting student disorders.

With increasing rapport between India and the Soviet Union the KGB is by no means easing off. Quite the opposite. Mexico, Ceylon and a dozen African nations have found out the hard way how dangerous Soviet "friendship" can be. We need not—if we face the facts and recognise fronts like Lumumba University for the dangerous things they are.

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Here is the item on Lumumba University, Moscow, I mentioned to you last week. This is a first-rate piece and I think ought to get into the public record here. If you can swing it on the hill we would be grateful. If you do, of course, I would appreciate feedback. Tks.