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Between The Lines

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by Edith Kermit Roosevelt

WASHINGTON--A think factory with links to Washington trained revolutionaries who helped precipitate the Dominican crisis. This was the "Marxist-Leninist" Center of Research in Economic and Social Development in Santo Domingo or CIDES, as it was known.

Until the overthrow of Dominican President Juan Bosch in 1963, CIDES functioned as a Caribbean version of the Institute of Pacific Relations, secretly implementing controversial State Department policy.

Details about CIDES were disclosed in testimony given the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee by General Elias Wesslin Y. Wesslin, former head of the Dominican anti-rebel forces. In a hearing Oct. 1, 1965, he named this organization as one of 40 centers for "Communist and Marxist-Leninist indoctrination" operating under Bosch. CIDES was financed in part by the State Department through its foreign aid branch, the Agency for International Development. Also contributing sums were the California-based Parvin Foundation and the Ford Foundation. The latter functions abroad and domestically as one of the State Department's most important so-called "private" arms.

Gen. Wesslin told Senators that he had operated a special unit that infiltrated CIDES and the other Red indoctrination centers. He said these centers indoctrinated their students with hatred of the "Yankees." The centers also taught propaganda, sabotage and military tactics. The Dominican leader gave reports on these centers to official members of the Dominican government. Copies of some of these reports were kept in Gen. Wesslin's office but he was prevented from taking them to this country by the abrupt manner that U. S. officials forcibly ejected him from Santo Domingo.

Teachers at CIDES included Bosch, Angela Molan and Sacha Volman. Wesslin said that the Communists practically controlled the Bosch government through Molan, who was 10 years secretary to Vicente Lombardo Tolodano, the Mexican Communist labor leader. Molan had offices in all the state enterprises, according to the Dominican general.

Volman, a Russian-born Rumanian refugee who is now a naturalized U. S. citizen, has had links with the Central Intelligence Agency. As advisor to Bosch, he was entrusted by the Washington Administration with the socialization of the Dominican Republic because he was a so-called "anti-Communist." However, after the 1963 coup which toppled Bosch, Volman was kicked out of Santo Domingo because of his Marxist ideas. When Gen. Wesslin was asked by Subcommittee Counsel Jay Sourwine whether he considered Volman was a Communist, he replied:

"In my country there is a saying that says tell me with whom you go, and I will tell you who you are."

Volman's links with the CIA received publicity last year when it was learned that CIA money was being channeled to the Institute for International Labor Research, a tax-exempt so-called "educational" organization in New York. Volman is secretary-treasurer of the Institute. Norman Thomas, veteran Socialist candidate for the Presidency, is chairman of its board of directors.

On Sept. 3, 1964, the New York Times disclosed that the Institute had received in

1963 a sum of \$395,000 from the J. M. Kaplan Fund, Inc. of New York, also a tax-exempt fund. At the same time, the Kaplan Fund's report to the Internal Revenue Service for 1963 revealed that the Fund received a mysterious sum of \$395,750 listed as a "contribution" under the heading "receipts not reported elsewhere." On Aug. 31, 1964, in hearings before a House Select Subcommittee on Small Business, officials from the Internal Revenue Service had testified that the Kaplan Fund's tax-exemption had not been revoked because the Foundation was used as a secret conduit for CIA funds.

Rep. Wright Patman (D-Tex.), Subcommittee Chairman, said that the CIA had informed his Subcommittee, that the relationship between the Kaplan Fund and the CIA covered the years 1959-1964. The inescapable conclusion is that this was one of those "in and out transactions" with CIA funds going to the Kaplan Fund and from there to the New York Institute with which Volman was connected.

Kaplan Fund money helped finance Volman in other State Department "gray operations." One of these was the predecessor to CIDES, the San Jose Institute of Political Education which opened its doors in Costa Rica in October of 1960. Volman was installed as a director of the Costa Rican Institute which trained leaders for revolutionary Latin American Parties. This Institute's staff, as well as its faculty which included Juan Bosch, moved to Santo Domingo after Washington helped arrange the assassination of Trujillo.

According to Uffio Ulate, former President of Costa Rica, the San Jose Institute, which he said was supported by our Embassy and the State Department, assisted those Parties which "have the characteristic features which make them identical in doctrine and homogeneous in political and social attitudes with Russian communism." Ulate went on to explain that these Parties "take great care not to appear Communists, and even, from time to time, make sporadic and tentative rhetorical anti-Communist demonstrations." He said that all democratic parties opposed to the Marxist regime in Cuba were excluded from this offshoot of Norman Thomas's New York Institute.

Significantly, Ulate declared that the principle of organizing Socialist parties from different countries is practiced on other continents. Sources in Washington's intelligence community have informed this writer that these international Socialist operations are coordinated by Cord Meyer, who has charge of the unvouchered funds for CIA's clandestine operations. Meyer was formerly president of the United World Federalists, a Socialist-oriented lobby group pushing world government. He is known to be part of the CIA wing that is implementing the State Department's policy of supporting Socialist or "third force" regimes as those most likely to "modernize" poorer or less developed countries.

The covert operations of international Socialists in and outside of the Washington Administration can only be understood when we realize that the goal of both Socialists and Communists is a Socialist world government of an inevitably Police state character. Their common enemy is the free enterprise system, therefore the United States. The only difference between them relates to tactics.