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ALLEN-SCOTT REPORT

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Comings and Goings of Red Agitators in Panama
May Be Forerunner of Communist Takeover Threat

WASHINGTON—Some two-score Communist snipers and agitators, in the forefront of the destructive rioting and slaying of four U. S. soldiers in Panama, have been quietly allowed to leave that country.

They include eight professional Red killers who were seized and jailed by Panama National Guardsmen during the costly violence.

The Communist guerrillas — Panamanians, Cubans, Mexicans and other Latins, some of them veterans of the recent Red terrorist operations in Venezuela — were flown to Mexico. From there, a number have gone to Cuba.

Directly involved in this secret exodus are two top Panamanian officials — Education Minister Solis Palma and Eloy Benedetti, legal advisor to the foreign minister.

A detailed intelligence report charges that the two leftist Panamanian officials not only cleared the way for the surreptitious departure of the trained Red guerrillas and snipers, but arranged for their coming to Panama and were in constant touch with them during the murderous demonstrations.

Benedetti particularly is credited with being in close contact with the imported Communist goons. He was especially active in getting those jailed released.

These sensational disclosures are being withheld from the U. S. public at the insistence of the State Department — on the ground that their publication might further complicate the tortuous and uncertain deliberations with the leftist-tinged regime of President Roberto Chiari.

Intelligence and military authorities vigorously dispute this view. They are urging President Johnson to make these facts known to prepare the American people for a possible Communist take-over in Panama.

It is contended there is grave danger of that.

Chiari's government is said to be so extensively infiltrated with Reds and fellow travelers that in order to stay in office, he will have to submit to the extremist demands of Palma and Benedetti.

It is asserted the two leftist leaders are claiming that only direct U. S. armed intervention can block Communist seizure of Panama.

THE RED SET-UP

Communist forces in Panama are operating both underground and in the open.

The underground is financed and supplied chiefly by Cuba via Mexico. The visible apparatus holds key places in government and the university and controls the leftist wing of the Socialist Party, with more than 10,000 members.

Avowed aim of all the left-wing elements is to create the utmost dissension with the U. S. over the canal and the Panama Zone issues.

The Departments of Education and Agriculture are heavily Communist infiltrated, as are the schools of law, journalism and

education of the University of Panama. The university is the headquarters of the Communist underground, and middle-aged "permanent students," actually paid Red agitators, hold key places on the campus.

Thelma King, a pro-Castroite leader in the Socialist Party and member of the Panamanian Congress, is a forefront figure of the above-ground apparatus. Significantly, she returned from a visit to Cuba just before the rioting and killings. She made the trip by way of Mexico — as virtually all the leftists do.

An Afro-Panamanian, Mrs. King's principal propaganda organ is radio station Tribuna.

NEW OTEPKA SHOWDOWN

Senate investigators of the scandal-smearing ouster of Otto Otepeka, State Department security official, are on a new collision course with Secretary Dean Rusk.

The Senate internal security subcommittee is threatening to summon Rusk for public grilling unless he complies with demands for a detailed accounting of the State Department's handling of security problems.

In a bluntly-worded memorandum unanimously approved by the committee, Sen. James Eastland, D-Miss., chairman, has asked Rusk for the following:

A copy of a secret list of 800 State Department employes reputed to have derogatory information in their security files.

A full report on whether the State Department uses government agencies, such as the Central Intelligence Agency, or private organizations for wiretapping and investigative work in Washington.

In seeking the list of State Department employes whose personnel files reputedly contain derogatory information, Sen. Eastland asked Secretary Rusk to report (1) when the list was prepared and by whom, (2) what, if anything, has been done about these employes, and (3) how many are still working for the department, how many have been dismissed, and the reasons.

Eastland left no doubt that failure by Rusk to provide this information would subject him to public interrogation by the committee.

So far, the State Department head has given no indication of responding to these demands. He has had a series of conferences with top department assistant, but has done nothing beyond that.

Outcome of this explosive backstage confrontation remains to be seen.

Sen. Eastland submitted his blunt request for the "list of 800" after committee investigators uncovered a secret inter-department memorandum disclosing its existence. Further confirmation was obtained from another government agency.

SECRET MEMO

Prepared by the Bureau of Security & Consular Affairs, the secret memorandum states in part:

"We have, on occasion, in the past year or more discussed with department officials our critical concern with the fact that, after completion of our initial investigative responsibilities, there remain on the department rolls about 800 individuals concerning whom the Office of Security has information which raises questions in major or minor degrees with respect to the criteria of executive order 10450, namely, questions as to possible past Communist activity or association, false statements, immoral conduct, homosexuality, and mental defects.

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