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SOVIET DEFECTORS AID WAR OF WORDS

Suggest Specific Points of Vulnerability for Making Psychological Attacks

By HARRY SCHWARTZ

Intensive interrogation of recent defectors from the Soviet Union has revealed that psychological warfare can play a substantial role in the struggle against the rulers of the Soviet Union. Their testimony indicates that the people ruled by Moscow are far from being taken in completely by the propaganda to which they are incessantly subjected and that much resentment smolders underneath the surface appearance of unanimity.

There are indications that the vulnerability of Soviet people to psychological warfare techniques extends through virtually all groups of the population. Even those born and raised under the Communist regime have been subjected to family and other influences that have insulated them in part from the propaganda aimed at them by acquainting them with some notion of what life was really like before the Bolsheviks seized power and giving them some perspective on their lot under the Kremlin's rule.

Moreover, information about the true nature of conditions outside the Soviet Union is fairly widespread in that country, though often in only blurred and fragmentary form. This is the result

mainly of the experiences of Soviet troops in Eastern Europe during and after World War II, as well as, to a lesser extent, the result of United States and British broadcasts aimed at the Soviet Union.

These and other conclusions indicated by defectors from many different groups of Soviet society have convinced those concerned with problems of psychological warfare that if the Kremlin-imposed barriers to communication can be overcome, counter-propaganda can do much to weaken the stability of Stalin's rule.

It is believed that while efforts to exploit many sources of dissatisfaction will find ready response in the Soviet Union it must also be basically concerned with an over-all discrediting of Soviet ideology and with destroying the Communist-spread myth that the Stalin regime is the only protector of the national interests of Great Russians and other peoples in the Soviet Union.

Much "Ammunition" Available

To discredit the basic ideology of Stalinism, much "ammunition" is available both in the writings of Marx, Lenin and Stalin and in the history of the Soviet Union. The Kremlin's claim to "scientific prevision of history," it is pointed out, conflicts basically with the long history of Soviet flip-flops in many different areas. Thus the war communism of 1917-21 gave way to the liberalism of the New Economic Policy, 1921-28, and was then reversed with the economic development charted by the Five Year Plans.

Those concerned with the problem point out that while Soviet citizens learn that Marx believed that the economic environment basically determined all else in social development, the current Stalinist

position is that the Communist party directs the Soviet Union's growth, thus substituting a group will for the economic environment of Marx as the directing force.

To counter the Politburo's bid for Russian and other national support, psychological warfare must seek to make clear that the free world has no aggressive aims or animosity toward the peoples of the Soviet Union and is basically more sympathetic to their interests than the Soviet leaders.

Propaganda directed at the Soviet Union, the defectors indicate, must avoid certain dangerous associations with persons and ideas whom Soviet propaganda has successfully vilified. These include such topics as Czarist injustice, capitalist exploitation, efforts to dismember Russia, ideas of racial supremacy, Chiang Kai-shek, the Kerensky Provisional Government, Marxist anti-Stalinists and their ideology, the Russian Orthodox Church, Churchill and Tito. Some of these associations are dangerous not so much because of Soviet propaganda but because of independent trends of thought within the Soviet Union, such as resentment at the way the Kerensky regime surrendered to Bolshevism.

Points of Vulnerability

The specific Soviet psychological vulnerabilities cover a large number of points, it has been found, but the chief are these:

The failure of the Soviet Government to produce an abundant life after thirty-three years of rule and its need to rely on "pie in the sky" propaganda.

The demonstrable falsity of much Soviet propaganda. As one defector put it, communism will

arrive in the Soviet Union "on the day when the people fail to see the discrepancies between Soviet propaganda and their daily life."

Rewriting of Soviet history with regard to events many people remember.

The forced labor system, which virtually all Soviet citizens know about and hate.

The police state and its giant coercion machinery.

The collective farm system, which is almost universally hated.

Nationalism among minority groups.

The exploitation of women who must work alongside men while also trying to raise families.

Resentment at the party bureaucracy and frictions within that bureaucracy.

Discontent within influential Soviet groups, including the intelligentsia, high army officers, factory managers, and the like.

Persons who have listened to recent Voice of America broadcasts beamed at the Soviet Union have observed that these broadcasts are being planned on the basis of concepts and information not too far distant from those sketched above.

Pope Venerates 25 Martyrs

ROME, April 29 (Reuters)—Pope Pius today venerated twenty-five newly blessed priests martyred in Tonkin, Indo-China, nearly 100 years ago. Thousands of Roman Catholics, including 2,000 foreign pilgrims, packed St. Peter's Basilica for the ceremony. Those raised to the ranks of the blessed today were the first to be beatified of 1,315 martyrs killed in Tonkin between 1856 and 1862. Proceedings for their beatification started in 1917.