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THE OPERATIONAL PATTERN OF
INTERNATIONAL COMMUNISM
IN LATIN AMERICA
SUMMARY

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Full appreciation of the threat of international Communism in Latin America, as throughout the world, demands knowledge of the operational pattern of those organizations dedicated to the spread of the Soviet Communist doctrine. These have included the Comintern (the Third Communist International), active from 1919 to 1943, and its successor, the Cominform (the Communist Information Bureau) which was formed after World War II and is still active.

Under the Comintern, pro-Soviet Communist parties were organized and supported in foreign countries. A Latin American and Caribbean Bureau was one of five permanent regional branches which controlled subsidies, directed party activities, and selected individuals for Comintern training centers within the Soviet Union. By 1935, 16 of the 76 established Communist parties were in Latin America.

Today, the Cominform represents a modified Comintern, also controlled from Moscow and serving to transmit the Soviet Communist Party policy line to fraternal parties throughout the world, largely through its international journal, published in 19 different languages.

Under close and continuous Soviet Communist guidance, the program of the Brazilian Communist Party has been developed as a model for others in Latin America. The Brazilian program emphasizes the isolation of United States imperialism as the principal enemy of the people, and directs the Communists to seek nationalist business elements and other bourgeois groups as allies in an effort to liquidate US interests. Guided largely through the Cominform journal, other Latin American Communist parties--in Colombia, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Venezuela--are developing similar programs, all related to the ultimate objective of establishing pro-Soviet "peoples' democracies." Further Soviet guidance may be expected to emerge from the Twentieth Soviet Communist Party Congress, scheduled for February 1956.

Thirteen major international Communist front organizations represent other channels for guidance. These have national affiliates, linked to the national Communist parties, in almost every country of the free world.

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Designed to influence as many social elements as possible in favor of Soviet global aims, they are ostensibly dedicated to the promotion of peace, or to the advancement of the interests of labor, youth, women, lawyers, scientists, journalists, or other special groups. In the repetitious pattern of their organization and objectives, the guidance of Soviet Communism is evident. Through their national and regional affiliates, Latin Americans have played a prominent role in the organizations and at their congresses. Among the most active affiliates are those associated with the World Peace Council, the World Federation of Trade Unions, the World Federation of Democratic Youth, the International Students' Union, and the Womens' International Democratic Federation.

The techniques of indirect support and guidance through the Cominform and the international fronts are not entirely sufficient for the control of Latin American Communist parties. Certain problems require more direct contact and supervision. First, the devious and complex pattern of Soviet international policy, and its implications for national Communist parties, must be explained to trusted national leaders through personal and confidential briefings. Second, as the older Latin American leaders (many trained under the old Comintern) become inactive, the training and selection of new leaders must be maintained under Soviet control. Third, as new leaders emerge within the Soviet Communist Party itself, their control over top foreign leaders must be established through direct personal contact.

These considerations explain the travel of top Latin American leaders to the USSR, and in the support given by the Soviet Communist Party to training and indoctrination of foreign Communists. In October 1952, high leaders representing eleven Latin American Communist parties attended the 19th Congress of the Soviet Communist Party, at which major decisions on international Communist strategy were confirmed. Many other Latin American Communists have travelled to the USSR for extensive study, or to participate in tours and conferences arranged through international fronts.

Finally, Soviet Communist control over the local training and indoctrination activities of Latin American Communist parties is aided by the dissemination of Communist literature through the International Book Trust, an agency of the Propaganda Commission of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee. This organization distributes a wide variety of Spanish language books, pamphlets, and periodicals. Some of these are Communist classics such as; the works of Stalin and Lenin; others are training manuals, such as those used in Soviet Communist Party internal training; still others are interpretive periodicals, such as the New Times, which interprets world events, reprints favorable or useful articles from the world press, and which serves as a medium for inter-communication between parties. In the distribution of these publications, which are made available to local parties as gifts or at nominal cost, can be seen another aspect of an over-all organizational pattern dedicated to the development of national Communist parties which will be aware of, and continuously responsive to, Soviet Communist ideology and objectives.

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Approved For Release 2000/08/27 : CIA-RDP78-00915R000500020002-2

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Approved For Release 2000/08/27 : CIA-RDP78-00915R000500020002-2