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ORE Committee on International Communism

SIGNIFICANT INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST DEVELOPMENTS

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CONTENTS

SUMMARY:

SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS

EUROPE:

Consequences of the Tito-Stalin Dispute
Moderation in the British Communist Line

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST-AFRICA:

Nationalism and Internationalism Exhibited by Communists in Israel
Persian Gulf Area a Possible Communist Target
Increased Tempo of Communist Activities in India and Pakistan
Increased Activity Among Women in French North Africa

FAR EAST:

US Officials Views on Chinese CP Policy
Little Success for Recent Japanese CP Tactics
Unconfirmed Evidence of Ho Chi Minh Alignment with USSR

LATIN AMERICA:

Communists Active Among Women and Labor Groups

SUMMARY

Charges and counter charges surrounding the Tito dispute reached particularly acrimonious heights during August. Both Belgrade and Moscow, in a series of notes unprecedented in violence, claimed the monopoly for true Communism.

The disintegrating impact of Tito's dispute on the Communist movement is becoming increasingly apparent. Several more anti-Stalinist Communist groups have come into the open. Most of them are as yet poorly organized and command little mass following. At the same time, the "nationalist deviation", not directly Tito inspired, has disturbed the higher echelons of the Communist parties inside and outside the Soviet sphere.

"Titoism" may also become an issue in China. The more the CCP is compelled to rely upon the USSR for economic assistance, the sooner the CCP may begin to think along the nationalist lines which lead to Titoism. If the CCP persists in its absolute alliance with Moscow, large-scale resistance may develop in China.

A significant increase in Communist propaganda and organizational efforts among women's groups has been generally noted, particularly in Latin America, North Africa and the Far East. The Regional Conference of the International Federation of Democratic Women (IFDW), to be held in December in Peiping, is probably the first of a series of renewed attempts by the Communists in these areas to intensify their activities among women's groups.

The labor unity theme which was stressed at the Milan Congress of the WFTU is being more generally applied, primarily in Latin America.

It can be expected that the WFTU Conference in Peiping on November 15 will exploit the same theme.

SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS

EUROPE

Consequences of the Tito-Soviet Dispute

While the Tito-Stalin diplomatic exchanges so far have left Lenin's revolutionary theses untouched, Stalinism is under attack, not only by the Yugoslav government but also by those Communists who would interpret Lenin's position differently from the Moscow line and claim that preservation of national sovereignty has by no means been ruled out by Lenin.

Not since the Trotskyite purges has any inner Communist feud aroused throughout the world Communist movement so much uneasiness, perplexity and apprehension as has the Tito-Cominform dispute. More, it has encouraged anti-Stalinist Communists to become articulate in their opposition to the Soviet Communist monopoly whether for reasons of ideological interpretation of Leninism or because of nationalist "deviation". It is conceivable that the Tito-Cominform conflict, in addition to its general political and economic significance, may become the stepping stone for a new, though as yet unorganized, anti-Stalinist opposition. While it can hardly be expected that dissident groups will carry much political weight in the near future and may never be able to challenge seriously the Soviet Union's dominance over world Communism, their nuisance and propaganda value must be regarded as considerable and their usefulness for Western purposes should not be underestimated.

In Italy, it has been reported that a splinter Communist group, called the Italian Communist movement (MCI) has been formed secretly, and in Western Germany the formation of a nationalist Communist party has been announced by Karl-Heinz Scholz who sent a message of support to Tito. Neither movement is regarded as potentially important in itself but both are significant indications of the spread of national deviationism.

Concomitantly, nationalist "deviation" has disturbed the higher echelons of the Communist parties inside and outside the Soviet sphere. Outstanding was the sharp difference of opinion in the Italian Party Directorate which reportedly occurred during the May meeting of high ranking Communists in Prague when Luigi Longo accused Umberto Terracini, a Communist senator of being a "bourgeois camouflaging as a Communist". This dispute was soft-pedalled by the party chieftains. Nevertheless, it is indicative of the present tension existing throughout the international Communist movement, presumably exacerbated by the Tito heresy.

Although the Cominform dispute has contributed to a weakening in the strength of the Greek Communist guerrillas, the problem cannot by any means be regarded as having been solved. There are about 10,000 guerrillas beyond Greek borders, chiefly in Albania and Bulgaria, who might attempt to carry on intermittent partisan activities.

Moderation in British Communist Line

The British Communist Party's election program which was issued on August 18, showed comparative moderation and reflects no policies with which many left-wing Socialists would disagree. The moderation of the program and continuing efforts to expand party membership suggest that unlike Continental Communist parties, the UK is not following a "hard core" policy. Despite an intensive drive, registered membership, announced by the UKCP, has remained 40,300. Further announcements of the

Party's leaders on May Day festivities, propaganda meetings and publications all indicate that the UKCP wants quantity rather than quality at this particular time.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST-AFRICA

Nationalism and Internationalism Exhibited by Communists in Israel

In Israel, the cleavage between national and international Communism continues. Two former Arab leaders of the Israeli Communist Party (ICP), which represents the international faction and is composed of both Jews and Arabs, have left Party ranks. The Hebrew Communist Party, which split from the ICP to pursue nationalist policy has undergone a further metamorphosis. In August the party dissolved itself and some of its members joined the left-wing MAPAM.

Persian Gulf Area, a Possible Communist Target

Plans for Communist penetration of the Persian Gulf Area are reported from Basra, Iraq. It appears, however, that the report is grossly exaggerated. Nevertheless, the Persian Gulf Area, with its US and UK oil installations, is an obvious target for Communist penetration. Labor problems in the oil fields, moreover, provide tinder for Communist penetration.

Increased Tempo of Communist Activities in India and Pakistan

while Communists in India and Pakistan have been relatively quiet during August, this is due, however, to lack of opportunity, rather than to any change in policy with regard to local tactics. It is believed that an increase in the tempo of Soviet and Communist endeavor in the subcontinent has taken place within the past six months and will continue.

Increased Activity Among Women in French North Africa

In French North Africa, the continuation of small dock strikes in Algiers and Oran may become more serious and points to intensive activities of the Communists. At the same time, the Communists are trying to win over the Moslem women, considerable numbers of whom are desirous of freeing themselves from their inferior status. Such front organizations as the Algerian Association of Friends of the USSR, Algerian Combatants for Peace and Liberty and the Union of Women of Algeria have recruited considerable numbers of women, who, in turn, are an important source of funds for the local party. (This drive for women followers can also be observed in Latin America as indicated below.)

FAR EAST

US Officials' Views on Chinese CP Policy and Potential

US observers in China believe that, while China is certain to be ruled by a Communist-controlled regime for some years to come, there is some chance that the present policy of the CCP, of complete fidelity to the Moscow line, will prove to be the Party's undoing, or will lead to the development of Titoism in China. These observers feel that, the more economic pressure from the West compels the CCP to rely upon the USSR, the better the CCP will appreciate what Western aid might mean, and the sooner the CCP may begin to think along nationalist lines.

On the other hand, should the CCP persist in its intransigence toward the west, China's economic deterioration may give rise to the kind of large-scale indigenous resistance which could be effectively supported by the West.

Little Success for Recent Japanese CP Tactics

The Japanese Communist Party was unable to exploit the dismissal of government railway workers in July and the "mass dismissal" in August of the long Communist dominated government communications workers failed to create unrest. Likewise, despite the customary Communist concentration, the party failed to make a good showing in the important farmland committee elections. The activities of repatriates from Siberia has now been regulated and thereby the repetition of the party-inspired near riots of July prevented. Anti-American libelous propoganda of the party was countered with numerous arrests.

Unconfirmed Evidence of Ho Chi Minh Alignment with USSR

While there is little doubt that the Ho Chi Minh government of Vietnam is Communist oriented, actual proof of such position and of the government's close cooperation with Moscow has been lacking so far. However, unconfirmed reports now mention a letter of Ho's to "Comrade Stalin", allegedly broadcast by Radio Moscow on August 14 and a presumed Communist, Pham-Van-Dong, has been appointed as Vice President and President of the Supreme Council for National Defense. If true, this open admission of the Ho government would seem to indicate that in view of the Communist victories in China the regime feels strong enough to announce its alignment with Moscow or that Moscow is attempting to force Ho's hand by publicizing relations between the USSR and Vietnam.

LATIN AMERICA

Communists Active Among Women and Labor Groups

Even though there is still lack of unity on policy and organization

among the Communists of Latin America, a certain amount of parallelism in policy is evident in the ~~attempts~~ which are being made to gain more influence particularly among women and in the labor unions. Women have been mobilized mainly for the "peace" movement in such countries as Venezuela, Cuba, Argentina and Brazil. In other Latin American countries, outright political work by women for women is stressed. For example, simultaneous ^{with} the 6th National Party Congress in Bogota, Colombia, a Women's Congress will be held. In Chile, where women now have the right to vote, Communist agitation among them has been intensified. Costa Rican Communists are trying to form a new Communist Women's Group and Communist propaganda among women has been noticed in both Uruguay and Paraguay.

While in nearly all Latin American countries the Communists try to dominate labor unions, the most important of these efforts are those undertaken by ~~Lombardo~~ in Mexico. Should he succeed in legalizing his Union General de Obreros Campesinos de Mexico (UGOCM), his position in the C.T.A.L. will be regularized again, and this will promote Communist interests by strengthening his hand not alone in Mexico but in many other Latin American countries.