

APPEARANCE BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, Subcommittee on Inter-American Affairs

18 June 1958

The letter from the Acting Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, in requesting my appearance before this Subcommittee, stated that you desired to secure:

1. Information on the nature and extent of Communist infiltration of the countries of Latin America, including data on the number of Communist Party members in the various countries, as well as the activities and influence of the Communists in the area;
2. Information with regard to the anti-American demonstrations during the recent visit of the Vice President and as to whether these developments were anticipated and whether U. S. officials were informed of the likelihood of their occurrence.

I shall endeavor to avoid repeating information given to you by Mr. Rubottom, whose statement of June 3, 1958, I have read, or in the presentation made by Mr. Robert Murphy before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and therefore has been available to you.

The general pattern of Communist activities beginning with Lenin, largely directed from Moscow with substations in Peiping and the capitals of the satellite states, particularly Prague, - has been to destroy the countries of the free world.

Over the years it has used as its weapons in this effort;

- (1) organizations such as the Cominform and Comintern, (2) the Communist Parties, in countries outside of the Iron Curtain which have great strength in France, Italy, Indonesia, and other countries of the Middle East; Asia and Latin America, (3) hard-core Communist cells existing in most of the countries of the world, including those countries where Communism was formerly banned as a political party, (4) Communist infiltrated trade unions, (5) press and information media, and the like.

International Communism also works through a variety of front organizations in addition to the Party, such as the World Federation of Trade Unions; Youth and Women's organizations, Veterans' organizations, so-called "peace" fronts and the like.

During the days of Stalin it also undertook military and paramilitary types of actions as in Greece, Berlin, Korea, Northern Viet Nam, etc.

Following the advent of Khrushchev as the Kremlin dictator, the Communist Party has used more subtle methods; - the penetrating of domestic institutions, alliances with other leftist parties, building popular fronts, etc.

W At the 20th Party Congress in February 1956, Mikoyan openly boasted that the Czechoslovak pattern was the ~~favorite~~ ^{favorite} one.

Illustrative of these tactics in Latin America is a manifesto of the Communist Party of Venezuela of 1 January 1956:

"Venezuelans - It is possible to overthrow the present pro-American dictatorship! For this we must immediately establish a broad anti-dictatorship front which would include everyone, civil or military, who is not in agreement with the present terrorist and anti-national policy of the Perez Jimenez clique.

The Communist Party extends a fraternal hand to all other national patriotic forces and proposes that a movement be organized as soon as possible with a view to overthrowing the dictatorship --."

Last November at the 40th Anniversary of the Communist takeover in Russia, leaders of Communist Parties throughout the world met in Moscow. Over 60 Communist Parties were represented. A special meeting of Latin American Communist Party leaders was held at that time under the supervision of a Soviet Communist Party official who stressed the need for an action program and for stimulation of anti-American sentiment. *W* Implementation of this action program became quickly evident in the calling of a clandestine regional meeting of Communist Party leaders of Latin America in Cuernavaca, Mexico. At

this meeting emphasis was given to increased regional coordination of Communist Party activities, broadening of the "peace" movement in order to weaken the U.S. economy and strengthening of relations with the Soviet Bloc.

Between 28 April and 4 May, a group of Soviet journalists arrived in Argentina. This group included several individuals identified as members of the Soviet intelligence service. Present in Argentina at the same time was a Peruvian journalist with close Soviet connections, ~~whose~~, on whom we have had several reports ^{indicating} ~~reflecting~~ his leadership of the demonstrations against the Vice President in Peru.

MAJOR BLOC OBJECTIVES

The Soviet Bloc's major objective in Latin America is to weaken the traditional political, economic, and cultural influence of the United States and thus create an aura of potential vulnerability in the American "strategic rear." ~~It~~ Communism feeds on human misery and economic stagnation, and has a vital stake in ~~and is dependent on~~ their perpetuation. One of many notorious examples in Latin America is strident and strenuous Communist exploitation of the ~~false~~ theory that development of Brazilian or Argentine oil by foreign private capital would be a sacrifice of sovereignty. ^I In all probability these countries have large oil deposits, ~~and if this is so this one~~ ^{The} Communist campaign strongly contributes

to keeping two-thirds of South America in serious economic difficulty and in turn to strengthening the two largest Communist Parties in the area.

CO-ORDINATION OF BLOC AND LOCAL COMMUNIST ACTIVITY

Communist activities and operations in Latin America are definitely co-ordinated and directed by Moscow, using a whole variety of different means of communication for their co-ordination and direction. This fact is understood in varying degrees by Latin American leaders, but is frequently not known, or is misunderstood, by the majority of the people.

DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY

Present Soviet Bloc representation in Latin America includes 18 diplomatic or consular missions accredited to six different countries.

- a. Argentina has the largest Bloc representation, with diplomatic missions from the Soviet Union and five Eastern European states. Argentina is the only country in the Western Hemisphere that has diplomatic relations with Bulgaria.
- b. Brazil. Poland and Czechoslovakia are represented in Brazil -- Poland by a legation in Rio and a Consul General in Sao Paulo and Curitiba. Czechoslovakia has a legation in Rio and a branch office of the commercial section of the legation in Sao Paulo. There is also a Hungarian Trade Mission in Rio although diplomatic relations with Hungary do not exist.

- c. Uruguay. There is a Soviet Legation, a Czech Legation and a Rumanian Legation.
- d. Mexico. In Mexico there is a Soviet Embassy, a Czech Legation and a Polish Legation.
- e. Bolivia. There is a Czech Legation in La Paz.
- f. Colombia. Czech Consulate General in Bogota and the East Germans have a trade mission in Colombia.

Peru and Ecuador expelled Czech diplomatic missions in 1957 on the grounds of interference in their internal affairs.

CULTURAL AND PROPAGANDA ACTIVITY

Latin American travel to Soviet Bloc countries, ~~which~~ totaled 670 persons in 1955, ~~and~~ dropped slightly in 1956, increased sharply in 1957 when over 1,400 Latin Americans visited the Bloc. ~~The~~ The visitors included professional Communist Party workers who underwent clandestine training in the Bloc. Many of the travellers attended "cultural" events, such as the Moscow Youth Festival (1957), which attracted 940 Latin Americans. The Latin American countries sending the largest number of visitors to Bloc countries during 1957 were Brazil with some 450; Chile with over 200; Mexico with 170; Argentina with some 160; and Uruguay with almost 100 visitors.

The Bloc currently supports friendship and cultural societies and centers largely concentrated in Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, and Mexico,

having approximately 45 active parent bodies and branches, including seven established or reactivated during 1957. In addition, there are approximately 15 Communist oriented cultural organizations working primarily among Latin Americans of Eastern European origin.

Soviet Bloc radio broadcasts directed at Latin American audiences at present total about 100 hours of programs per week in Spanish, Portuguese, and Eastern European languages.

The estimated numerical strength of the Communist Parties in the various Latin American countries are as follows: