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Schools of Violence

Where Reds and Rebels Learn Saboteur's Art

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THE man who goes by the name of Ernst Moller—a very different one from that given him at his christening—is a new product of world politics. A tank gunner in the Africa Korps, a Foreign Legionnaire, a mercenary in the Congo, now he occupies a comfortable bungalow in Indonesia. Though getting old for jungle fighting and unable to speak Indonesian, his French is quite good enough to make him a first-class instructor for Chinese partisans recruited in Hanoi and Saigon.

Ernst Moller has become a stateless man, but of a type much in demand these days. When the Congo operation came to an end he could have stayed on to instruct the Angolans who had crossed the border to be trained and armed to attack the Portuguese settlers in Angola. But he knew that most of his fellow teachers were Communists, and Ernst did not like them. The same reason led him to refuse a job in Cuba. He nearly went to Ghana, but decided on Indonesia because he likes the Chinese girls.

Everywhere governments are supplying arms, and military and political instruction, to factions bent on overthrowing other governments. The world has not known such an extensive movement of instructors and materiel since World War II.

The Egyptian army instructors who trained key National Liberation Front (FLN) fighters for the war in Algeria are now handling agents for infiltration

into Middle Eastern countries, notably Saudi Arabia. Some have been captured by the Moroccan forces in the border fighting with Algeria.

Perfecting New Demolition Methods

In a house near the Auberge des Pyramides, on the Cairo-Mena road, a team of experts, including Germans and two Algerians formerly in the FLN "underground" in Zurich, are perfecting new types of demolition charges and new methods of concealing them, for use by agents.

There are at least five schools of partisan warfare in the Congo along the frontier of Portuguese Angola, and it is difficult to quarrel with the Portuguese government's estimate that at least 6,000 men and women are under training.

The instructors in the schools near Mai Munene, Manteka, and Kombo are of various nationalities—Congolese, some Czechs, former German members of the French Foreign Legion, two Swiss, and at least four Russians—who, like the Czechs, are probably regular officers of their own armies.

The political instructors, all Communists, are from Portugal, Ghana, and Guinea. Arms and ammunition are Russian, Czech, and an assorted collection left over from the Congo battles. The Portuguese charge that Russian and Polish trawlers have landed arms in Angola by night.

Near Katende there is a school for saboteurs who cross the Congo frontier into Northern Rhodesia. It is reported that members of the Bakonde tribe are being given military training in Tanganyika for partisan warfare in the Portuguese state of Mozambique.

Cuba is probably training more partisans and saboteurs than any other country. They are destined for almost every Latin American nation, and for African states as well. The Cuban organization, Revolutionary Commandos for Latin America (CRAL) is under the command of Gen. Alberto Bayo, a veteran of the Spanish

Civil War, and has Chinese, Russian, Czech, Spanish, and Guinean instructors.

The trained partisans are allocated to the Vanguard of National Action (VAN), the Popular Latin American Movement (MPAL), and the Front of National Liberation (FALN). Their targets are the governments of Guatemala, Panama, Venezuela, Peru, and Paraguay.

Filtering Out From Africa

Under training at the moment are several thousand Africans, who arrived in Soviet ships. Coming from the Congo, Angola, Ghana, the Sudan, Guinea, Mali, Algeria, Senegal, and Kenya, they are under the direction of the Haitian Communist leader Rene Depreste. They are being trained for a dual role, work in Africa and infiltration into Haiti. Some of them are already with the Algerian forces in the Morocco border fighting.

Dotted round the Caribbean in the countries most opposed to the Castro regime—but no longer in secluded villas around Miami—are a number of training centers for anti-Castro partisans. The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), having burned its fingers badly in the abortive Bay of Pigs landing, would regard it as pure coincidence that most of their arms are American and some of their instructors U.S. citizens.

What is the value of the partisan in the political and ideological struggle between one state and another? The answer lies in a lesson that was learned by the Germans in the last war, by the French in Algeria, and is now being learned by the British in Borneo and the Portuguese in Angola.

It is that, operating in enclosed country, a small, highly trained force, armed with automatic weapons, light mortars, and light antitank guns, can hold down a force of regular troops 10 times its size. Fighting partisans is about the most wasteful occupation in which a state can engage.

—JOHN BAKER WHITE

