thing other than another tyranny with the mutually warring factions struggling among themselves for power.

No matter how one looks at it, the American capitalist class has a perplexing situation in Cuba. Knowing that the South American nations are all on the verge of similar explosions to the Castro led revolution, they don't dare to undertake an open invasion on their own. With the added danger of involving Soviet Russia and/or Red China and the world in general, they would think even harder before taking the plunge. For the conditions of these times are not those of the Twenties, when the United States could interfere at will by force in Latin America, invoke the Monroe Doctrine and have no fear of intervention from European or Asiatic powers.

Meanwhile in Cuba, Castro is able to strengthen his dictatorship and, in the name of socialism, "promises" the workers that that they will be able to continue their present subject and impoverished status with no opportunity to make their desires known through elections. The present regime is determined to hold on to the rights and privileges that go with the management of a state-capitalist economy. Neither by support of their present rulers nor by helping to bring about a change of masters can the Cuban workers help their cause. But an evidence of growing discontent within their own ranks can do some good and a development of genuine socialist understanding would work wonders. This, however, they will have to get on their own for it is idle to expect a ruling class to educate the workers to their own interests.

LAOS

The conflict between the American-backed Laotian government and the Soviet-backed rebel forces under the leadership of Prince Souvanna Phouma is but a continuation of a struggle that has gone on since the early days of the Stalin regime in Soviet Russia. One of the major objectives of Soviet Russian imperialism has been the ousting from Asian markets and sources of raw materials of all of her rival imperialists. To that end, the Stalin regime encouraged, and supported the early Kuomintang Party of China under Sun Yat-sen and Chiang Kai-shek and ordered the at-that-time tiny Chinese Communist Party to merge with the Nationalists. The object was to drive the pro-Western Chinese rulers out of power and although on more than one occasion the Chinese Communists were turned upon and slaughtered by their Nationalist allies when they were no longer needed, this continued to be the policy of Russia. Furthermore, although the concept of a working class supporting nationalist capitalist revolution is not, in any way connected with Marxism, the communists of the world still continue to label it as such as do their enemies of Western capitalism. So the situation in Laos, today, is that of a merger of "communist" and nationalist forces which seeks the overthrow of a pro-American government that is completely dominated by American money.

But the fact that President John F. Kennedy loves to talk to his "fellow Americans" in terms of American freedom vs Soviet dictatorship, and presents the thesis that America will not "stand idly by" and see a "free" and a "neutral" regime destroyed, should not blind us to the real situation in Laos. The case is entirely different and since the end of the French Indo-China War in 1954 the facts have been something else. The evidence all points to the United States intervening in 1958 to bring about the downfall of a Laotian government that had been elected in May of that year. What irked the American capitalist class was the fact that the merged Laotian Communists (Neo Lao Haksat) and the pro-Soviet Neutralist Party, won 13 of the 21 seats contested in the National Assembly.

When Premier Souvanna Phouma resigned with the idea of trying to form a new cabinet without Communist representation, and failed to form a cabinet, a pro-American government took over which gave no representation to the Communists. By 1960, this new "democratic" regime was able to win a victory in elections which can only be compared to the "victories" won in the Communist nations. **The entire opposition was eliminated.**

In the meantime, the Communist forces, some of which managed to escape, began to win substantial military gains and as of now are in a stronger position to bargain than the American dominated loyalists.

The American capitalist class has poured a total of 300 million dollars into Laos, a large part of which has been used to purchase expensive automobiles and air-conditioners for the officials. As with Chiang Kai-shek in his later years, they are supporting a losing cause and they cannot get support even from their capitalist allies in France and England. The American working class would have to be indeed devoid of all senses to believe it has a reason to fight its masters' battle in Laos.

But this by no means indicates that the impoverished Laotians in the Rebel territory have any stake worth fighting for; or that the Soviet or the Chinese or any of the Russian satellite workers have a cause here to concern themselves with. Neither the successes nor the failures of Soviet foreign policy as against the foreign policy of the Western powers can change their subject status. Only by a realization of their slave status and a merger with genuine socialists throughout the world in a revolutionary socialist movement can their problems and the problems of all humanity be solved.

HARMO

BUSINESS LONG SHOTS

Advice is one of the cheapest things on the market today. It is not subject to inflation, has no price tag attached to it, and doesn't carry a sales tax. It costs nothing and is worth just about as much as it costs.

On the subject of going into business, the postman has just left a circular for our approval. A business promotion concern gets it out. It starts with a question — "What do you need to start a business successfully?"

We think we can answer this question with just one word — money. That is all that is necessary to get it away to a successful start. Even after it is started, to keep it going successfully, more money would do the trick. In capitalist society anything at all that would be considered successful entails the possession of money.

The writer of the circular has a much more involved method of arriving at the same conclusion. He suggests that the first step is to interview your broker and tell him how much you would like to invest. This sounds like the aesopian language we have been reading about.

If we had a broker, and he inquired as to how much we would "like" to invest, we would settle by informing him that we would like to have so much to invest that we wouldn't have to sink it in the business at all.

What he really means is how much have you got to invest? And he is confident that he can find you something commensurate with your financial status. Even in the working class, an occasional individual, with a steady job, and no great responsibilities, can save a few hundred, or even a few thousand dollars.

Such an individual is ripe for shearing. The promoters are anxious to contact him. They take good care not to inform him of the odds against him; of the fact that the great majority of those who invest their savings in any form of small business wind up the first year minus the business and the money saved. The sinking fund is sunk.

J. A. MacDONALD

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