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A-813

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Air Priority

HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department of State

DISTRIBUTION

file Communism

FROM : AmEmbassy MOSCOW

DATE: January 13, 1965

SUBJECT: Pravda Editorial on Revolutionary Struggle in Latin America

REF :

DEPT PLEASE PASS TO ARA POSTS AS DEEMED APPROPRIATE

For the first time in many a moon, Pravda (January 14) printed an editorial on the revolutionary movement in Latin America. The post-KHRUSHCHEV regime has been giving new attention to the general ideological framework of its foreign policies, and the current editorial is in the mold. Like a good deal of other post-Khrushchev material it puts particular stress on the importance of worker activity and discontent and generally views the world through more traditionally Marxist eyes. This fact, plus its general nature, limits its utility as a guide to Soviet tactics in Latin America, but the article does give some insight into the general approach.

Thus it supports the contention that the Soviets consider Latin America as a remote area - "purifying winds are penetrating the furthest corners of the world", says Pravda's introductory passage. After a paean to the force of example of the socialist countries and a brief tribute to Cuba's victory in the face of American imperialism, the editorial, like so many other pronouncements, launches into a dissertation on the importance of unity of the "progressive" forces. It claims that all the varied countries of Latin America are being brought together by their common goals of freedom from imperialism, especially U.S. imperialism, the solution of democratic tasks, and the achievement of political and economic independence.

The editorial then speaks of the growth of the working class and the strike movement, reports on which are an ever more favorite item in Soviet press reporting on Latin America, and which generally seems to have been given heightened importance since Khrushchev's fall. The editorial notes with approval that the Latin American workers' movement

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is more and more going beyond purely economic demands. It is said to realize that liquidation of the domination of foreign capital is an important condition of the improvement of the standard of life and to be acquiring an anti-imperialistic flavor.

The editorial then moves on, in classical Marxist-Leninist fashion, to speak of the "closest ally of the proletariat - the peasantry." The priorities in this field are indicated by the assertion that the battle cry is everywhere: "Turn the land over to those who work it."

The union of the working class and peasantry is characterized as the core of a broad anti-imperialist and anti-feudal front which includes the "middle strata and the national bourgeoisie." The effectiveness of this front is said to depend on its breadth and its cohesion. While no precedence is indicated between these often contradictory aims, the whole tone of the editorial, as of other comparable material, is to emphasize breadth.

Next comes a tribute to the importance of the Communist parties of the area in building up the strength of the national liberation movement and unity of the "progressive" forces. Besides their contribution to these priority goals, the communist parties are praised for their defense of "common national interests," which has rallied more and more of the popular masses around them. Note is taken of the difficult conditions in which the communist parties are working, and of the "thousands" of communists now in jails in Latin America. It might be noted that agitation for release of all political prisoners remains a favorite theme of reporting from all parts of the world, and is played as an important unifying factor for the "progressive" forces in many Latin American countries.

Reference to the "large obstacles" in the path of revolution (a subject Khrushchev has been said to have too often ignored) is followed by the assertion that the class consciousness of the masses is being increased by hard struggles "from mass strikes to partisan warfare." Reference is made to the "just struggle, with arms in their hands, of patriots in Venezuela, Guatemala, and a number of other countries." The communists of the area are said to stand for using "all forms of struggle, both peaceful and non-peaceful" under the guidance of the general line of the international movement and the situation in any given country.

While this endorsement of armed struggle is unusually forthright for current Soviet propaganda in general, comparable statements have appeared in articles such as this both before and after Khrushchev's downfall. Mention of Venezuela and Guatemala conforms to the general priorities in reporting on armed action in Latin America, though Colombia as well has occasionally been singled out in this connection in the recent past.

The only extensive references (and the only mention, except for the three instances cited above) to Cuba and to the U.S. come in the next two

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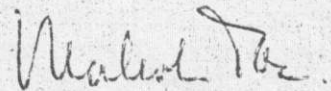
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paragraphs. This relative lack of prominence represents a shift from Khrushchev's day and reflects again the greater emphasis now attributed to the basic trends analyzed by MARX. The theme of the first paragraph is the anxiety/ ^{aroused} among the U.S. monopolists and their class allies by the trend of events in Latin America and the failure of their machinations against Cuba, which are portrayed largely in terms of an attempt to isolate that country. This is said not to have worked, but the vague reference to the fact Cuba has "millions of friends in all corners of the world" betrays a disappointment which will come through to many Soviet readers. The important, almost exclusive, emphasis on the "isolation" tactic and the failure to mention threats to Cuba's security is new, and is interesting as indicating a willingness to make readers more aware of a shift in challenges and therefore perhaps in priorities of Soviet tactics.

The theme of changing imperialist tactics is dealt with at greater length in a section referring to the partial covering of the mailed fist in a velvet glove and dealing in very harsh terms with the "Alliance for Progress." Indeed, the most vituperative language of the whole article is reserved for the Alliance. It is described as a device to "keep the peoples of the continent in subjugation, to create new opportunities to steal, oppress, and enslave," and the people of Latin America are said to reject it with indignation. One suspects that the violence of the language is occasioned by the failure of the peoples of Latin America to do as much "rejecting" as the Soviets would like. Indeed it suggests that the Soviets view the Alliance rather more seriously than would appear from most of their propaganda.

The final portion of the editorial, after a sneering reference to imperialist attempts to use the "communist danger" to justify their machinations, contains a pledge that the Soviet people "consider it their sacred duty to lend support to peoples defending their independence" and have been and will be "on the side of the Latin American patriots." It would be hard to devise a weaker concluding formula. It suggests again that the Soviets consider Latin America to be pretty far away. Like the rest of the editorial, it discourages any notion that appearance of the article heralds materially increased Soviet activity in Latin America or indicates heightened interest in the situation there.

For the Ambassador:



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