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INTERPRETER

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April 30, 1954.

COMMUNISM VIES WITH TRADE AT CARACAS

By Samuel Guy Inman
President, Worldover Press

CARACAS (WP). --- If the United States were to lose the whole of Asia to the Communists, it would scarcely affect our financial income. On the other hand, to lose Latin America would mean such a depression as could hardly be imagined.

U.S. investments in Latin America in 1952 totalled almost \$6,000,000,000 (about 39 per cent of the total in the world). Export and import trade between this country and Latin America in the same year reached the astonishing figure of \$7,000,000,000. Our profits from investments in southern republics that year amounted to \$600,000,000 --- more than 40 per cent of the total in all areas.

Two topics --- Communism and trade --- dominated the recent Inter-American Conference in the Venezuelan capital. Secretary of State Dulles, overwhelmingly interested in the first, might have thought of Caracas as a kind of way station between Berlin and Geneva. Returning from Berlin, with only eight days in Washington supposedly to prepare for his trip to Caracas, he spent most of his time, actually, with Congress on the issue of Communism.

At Caracas, Mr. Dulles gave his two weeks' stay to putting through a resolution calling on the Americas to unite against Communism. An hour after that action was taken, he mounted the special plane for Washington. But he was soon off to London and Paris to persuade the British and French to join in a move to stop Communists from intervening in Indo-China.

Interest in Living Standards

The delegates at Caracas (as well as the governments in London and Paris) were more interested in raising the standards of living of their people than in rushing the Communists. It was this difference in judgment over the way to develop democracy --- not anyone's devotion to Communism --- that limited progress at the Inter-American meeting.

A prominent international official who had just visited South America declared:

"There is a great resurgence of the common people of these republics, which cannot be stopped. They are determined to cease living on twenty cents a day. If the United States will not buy their products at a price that will give them improved living conditions, they will sell to those who will do so. This means that they will sell to the other great market, the Communist. That is the great unchangeable fact that all the resolutions in the world will not affect."

(more)

April 30, 1954.

Nothing of this sentiment reached the floor of the Conference. The dictator countries, which totalled more than one-third of the voting nations and, with the exception of Argentina, always voted with the U.S.A., scouted the idea of such an upsurge. The democratic countries were too diplomatic publicly to make such statements.

Nevertheless the most thoughtful delegates from both North and South asked themselves whether the best way to advance democracy was by putting major strength into aiding colonial France to defeat Communism in Asia, or to build a powerful program to assure democracy in the New World.

If War Came in Asia

Given another Korean War in the Far East, the first happening would be a loss of raw materials from Asia and a renewed pressure on Latin America to furnish them. These include such necessities as petroleum, sugar, tin, aluminum, rubber, asbestos, mica, nickel, quinine, tungsten, coffee, bananas, and others. Remember that the 20 southern republics furnish 97 per cent of the world's nitrate supply, 20 per cent of its lead, 19 per cent of its crude oil, 19 per cent of its copper, and 18.6 per cent of its tin.

Total U.S. imports of strategic materials received from Latin America, in percentages, are as follows:

Vanadium, quebracho	100
Quartz crystals	over 90
Castor bean oil, fuel oil,	
crude petroleum	over 80
Cordage sisal	over 70
Antimony, copper	over 60
Beryl, bismuth, lead,	
cadmium	over 50
Tungsten, zinc	over 40

This rich trade area is likely to continue its importance, if properly cultivated. The population of Latin America is growing more rapidly than any other section of the world, already having passed that of the United States plus Canada. Experts calculate that by 1980 Latin America will have 400,000,000 people.

The growth of great cities is astounding. Greater Buenos Aires counts 5,000,000 people. Sao Paulo and Mexico City have around three million each. Carácas, host of the Tenth Inter-American gathering, is one of a score of cities now around a million. Like many of the others, Carácas overwhelms the visitor with its daring new architecture.

All the republics have great irrigation, highway and industrial projects. Export-Import Bank loans are promptly repaid. Compared to the hopeless conditions in many parts of Asia, it would seem that the future strength of democracy is clearly not on the other side of the globe but with our neighbors next door.

U.S. Delegates Tied

Did the United States delegation not recognize such facts? Probably so. But what could it do in the face of the situation back home? With the dominance of the McCarthys and Brickers, with the upsurge of groups calling for the elimination of the Hull Trade Agreement and the withdrawal of the U.S. from the United Nations, with the Congressional hatchet cutting down Point Four and Cultural Activities, the browbeaten experts of the State Department had their hands tied. No wonder they were pleased to vote for an Economic Conference at Rio de Janeiro next November, where a new effort could be made to work out some of the pressing problems posed by the Latin Americans.

While the shadow of McCarthyism in the United States and the flirtation with Communism in Guatemala threw a pall over the Carácas gathering, there was considerable good accomplished.

(more)

April 30, 1954.

The feeling of special kinship among the Americas was often expressed; even the Argentina delegation stated several times that it had come to Carácas with the distinct purpose of promoting inter-American cooperation. Secretary Dulles behaved like a Christian gentleman and declared:

"The unity which generally prevails between us (American republics).... exists because of a harmony of the spiritWe believe that man has his origin and destiny in God. We believe that this fact requires human brotherhood. We believe that nations, like men, are subject to moral law."

Three treaties on cultural relations and political asylum were signed, along with some ninety resolutions to promote inter-American cooperation in education, public housing, public health, social security, women's activities, and Point Four programs.

None of the "knock down and drag out" scenes too often occurring in international gatherings with other sections of the world, were in evidence at Carácas.

The Economic Conference called for Rio de Janeiro offers a chance to take some of the advance steps missed at Carácas --- provided the United States has by that time lost some of its present fears and gained some of its former daring.

---- WF ----

SWEDEN TEACHING BOYS TO BE GOOD HUSBANDS

Schools, Too, Have Unique Safety Roads

By F. S. Manor

STOCKHOLM (WF). --- Once in Europe the emphasis was on educating girls to become good housewives. Now the wheel has turned full circle, and boys, too, must be equipped for the household tasks they will have to assume in order to be good husbands. At least in Sweden, where every schoolboy from 13 to 15 must attend cooking classes five hours a week. He has to eat what he cooks, and he gets early practice in methodical washing up.

This correspondent watched such a class in a modern elementary school in a Stockholm suburb. The boys sat around informally, following with interest the explanations of a lady instructor. Whenever she asked a question, all hands went up, every boy keen to show he knew the answer. Then the teacher announced the end of the lesson's theoretical section, and the atmosphere became electrified. The boys jumped from their seats, donned white waterproof aprons and white caps, and rushed to the stoves and kitchen tables. Here, expertly seizing kitchen utensils, they set out to prepare a complicated meal.

Whatever their lot as oppressed husbands, there is no doubt that the unsuspecting youngsters enjoy their training. They have gas and electric stoves on which to practice, and they cut meat and twirl egg-whisks with astonishing skill. The instructor, watching the lads with an appreciative gleam in her eye, told me she preferred her boys' classes to those with girls. The boys are quieter, make better cooks, and are much easier to handle!

This, of course, is only one instance of the enormous care the Swedes lavish on their youth. Other examples may be seen in some of the new suburban towns being built around Stockholm. These are new towns in every respect, carefully planned down to the last sink. But what strikes one most is the care given to schools, and the special design of school roads. A child leaving home and going to school will nowhere come into contact with traffic. Where a school road has to cross a highway, it does so at a different level. The same applies to roads leading to parks and playgrounds.

April 30, 1954.

NEW HOUSES, NEW LIVES, ARISE IN KOREA

Special to Worldover Press

PUSAN, KOREA (WP). --- During the years since the end of the war with Japan, a small group of American volunteers has been quietly working in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, building houses for the victims of the first atom bombs. The project has been an expression on the part of its founder, Floyd Schmoie, a Seattle Quaker, and the people who have helped him, of shame and regret that men should so treat their fellow-men. Now this little organization, under a new name, has sent a similar relief and reconstruction team into Korea.

The new organization is "Houses for Korea." The team of five Americans and five Koreans is working in a group of destroyed villages just south of Seoul. It is headed by Joseph Alter, a Seattle doctor. The motivation behind its work is the same as it was in Japan. It is not only rebuilding homes and lives, but rebuilding friendship.

The need for relief in Korea is terrific. Floyd Schmoie, with 35 years of experience in war relief work, said when he went back from Korea to the States for a few months last fall: "I worked with war victims in France, Germany and Poland during and after World War I, in Japan after World War II, and recently I have observed conditions in the Jordan-Israel area, in India and Pakistan, and in Indo-China; and I have never seen such suffering as I saw in Korea this past year."

The Houses for Korea unit joins with a number of other voluntary agencies, all under the general supervision of the United Nations Korean Rehabilitation Agency (UNKRA), to help the Korean people reconstruct the 600,000 homes destroyed during the war, resettle the five million people displaced by the fighting, house the 100,000 orphans created by war casualties, and rebuild the shattered economy of the country. Some of the agencies, such as Church World Service, American Friends Service Committee, the Methodist and Maryknoll missions, are doing direct food, clothing and medical relief. Other agencies, especially the governmental ones, are doing physical reconstruction. Houses for Korea does all these things within the small area it covers.

The team has settled in the Yongin region, which is on the main invasion route a few miles south of the capital. Here the larger villages were entirely wiped out and the people driven south. More and more they are returning and trying to rebuild their lives. Houses for Korea workers are doing sanitation and public health work, rebuilding houses, roads and bridges. They help farmers restore their fields and irrigation systems, secure seeds and fertilizers, and, perhaps, improve some of their agricultural methods. They are working with the people of the villages at their jobs --- not building villages for them.

--- WP ---

ILLINOIS CO-OP SHOWS MULTI-SERVICE GROWTH

By Richard A. Kendrick

WAUKEGAN (WP). --- Thriving in this northeastern Illinois city of 43,000 is a consumers' cooperative, "Cooperative Trading, Inc.," which reveals a successful trend in co-op expansion into several services simultaneously. In 1953 the cooperative netted \$73,215 on gross sales totalling \$2,673,000, an all-time high. Of these earnings, \$48,400 were refunded to co-op patrons, \$7,381 plowed back into reserves, \$6,307 paid in income taxes to Uncle Sam, and \$11,127 paid in dividends to stockholders.

Organized in 1911 as a dairy, the co-op operates a service station, a sausage kitchen, an egg department and dairy, and five food stores, one of which, a supermarket with parking lot, recently celebrated a grand opening. Owned and controlled by 7,421 members, the co-op advertises extensively in the News-Sun, local daily.

NEWSBRIEFS ON INTERNATIONAL LABOR

By Bob Repas

If you wonder why France has so much trouble in its colonial possessions, here are revealing figures from the Public Employees Union of Madagascar. They tell a story of wage discrimination against Madagascan workers engaged in the same jobs as the French. The figures cover monthly wages in French francs:

Type of Work	French	Madagascan
Junior Clerk	15,402	6,090
Junior Typist	14,897	4,793
Printer's Apprentice	16,200	3,960
Unskilled Worker	24,000	3,600

Since June of 1953, membership in West Germany's trade unions has shown both a relative and an absolute decline. Although the drop was small --- only 15,000 --- it occurred at the same time the country's total labor force was increasing by 200,000. Behind the loss is the fact that some segments of the membership are becoming restive over the lack of trade union militancy on the wage front. Though German economy is booming, only a small amount has trickled down to the workers. The union leadership discourages militancy, however, from fear that any substantial wage increases might rock the economic system and cause the inflation that cursed Germany at times in the past. Young workers are resentful because union members pay one hour's earnings every week as dues, an amount more than double that of an American trade unionist.

The Labor Party of South Africa has now joined Alan Paton's Liberal Party in opposition to white supremacy. Although the Labor Party holds few seats in Parliament, native leaders are encouraged to see that this organization, which initially supported the color bar as definitely as the Nationalist and United Parties, has made a complete reversal. Meanwhile debate over the issue is hot and heavy throughout the labor movement. Leading the fight for the color barrier is the white mineworkers' union, probably the most powerful in the country. In opposition to it are the national trade union centers. A recent report, showing that 98 per cent of all unskilled workers and 67 per cent of all semi-skilled workers are non-whites, will strengthen the hands of those trade unionists who believe standards of white workers can be protected only if the standards of all workers are maintained.

James Bury of the Canadian Congress of Labor has been sent to Kenya by the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions. Bury's job in the troubled colony will be to help the Kenya Federation of Registered Trade Unions (50,000 members) get on its feet and persuade the British Colonial Office to carry out more effectively its policies on the growth of free unions. This policy is not looked on with favor by the white settlers of Kenya.

The Catholic magazine Ecclesia, only Spanish periodical not subject to censorship by the Franco government, recently published a study that shows the "overwhelming majority" of Spanish workers are not good practicing Catholics. The article is remarkable because the priests conducting the inquiry were "spiritual advisers" to the government-controlled unions. The report said: "The workers prefer to see the priest aloof from politics. The workers believe that both the church and the priest are more inclined toward the moneyed than the humble classes and are even convinced that our religious mission protects the rich more than the poor."

Twice within a month, British Communist leaders were badly defeated in attempts to control their national unions. Abe Moffat was decisively beaten by Ernest Jones for presidency of the National Union of Mineworkers, one of Britain's most powerful labor organizations. And Robert Openshaw, right-wing member of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, defeated Claude Berridge. Since only 1 in 10 of the members voted in the latter contest, the result was all the more surprising. The low number of votes for Berridge indicates a marked weakness on the part of the Communists and their sympathizers.

April 30, 1954.

- FORWARD WITH THE WORLD'S PEOPLES -

- "As cold waters to a thirsty soul,
- So is good news from a far country."

BRUSSELS (WP). --- A new agreement concerning Italian miners in Belgium has been signed by the Belgian and Italian governments. For a long time there has been friction because Italian emigrants who undertook the hard work of mining appeared to be stuck indefinitely in that kind of labor, unable to take other jobs as they became "acclimated" to their new Belgian environment. The pact provides that an Italian who puts in five years at mining can seek different employment if he wishes.
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ANKARA (WP). --- Turkey has a woman judge who holds a higher judicial post, it believes, than any other woman in the world. Just appointed Judge of the High Court of Appeals in Ankara, at the age of 48, she is Mrs. Melahat Ruacan, who worked as a lawyer after graduating from Ankara Law School in 1929 at the head of her class. She later joined the Ministry of Justice and worked her way up through the Central Criminal Court at the Turkish capital.
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PARIS (WP). --- If present plans go through, the French Ivory Coast in Africa will soon have electric power generated from the stored up heat of the sea. A French firm worked out the techniques.
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MEXICO CITY (WP). --- Mexico's Ministry of Health is setting up 22 Rural Social Welfare centers in as many states, with special emphasis on training local workers for aid to the more remote Indian population.
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ATHENS (WP). --- "Pax Men," a team of farm experts from the Mennonite and Brethren in Christ denominations of the U.S., have found that many Greek wheat farmers plant too thickly for good results, and have showed how better crops could come from better fertilization and the use of tractors. They have demonstrated that savings on seed could pay for a tractor to be used by an entire farm community.
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NEW DELHI (WP). --- A shuttle train service will soon run from Amritsar in India to Lahore in Pakistan for the first time since partition. Through traffic between India and Pakistan was suspended soon after the sub-continent was divided.
* * *

MANILA (WP). --- "Operation Philippines," a scheme of the Lions International, has sent its first shipload of used farm and garden equipment to residents of the Farm Resettlement project in the Philippines. More than 500 Lions Clubs in California and Nevada, comprising about 30,000 members, collected \$1,500,000 worth of equipment and some \$24,000 in cash.
* * *

STOCKHOLM (WP). --- The first ratification of an agreement within the scope of recommendations by the Nordic Council meeting in Copenhagen last March has been signed by the five parties to the pact --- Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. The protocol concerns the adoption of amendments to a convention signed among the five lands in 1931, regarding the application of international regulations aimed at simplifying marriage, divorce, adoption and guardianship. It constitutes one more step towards closer Scandinavian unity.
* * *

BEIRUT, LEBANON (WP). --- The American University of Beirut is placing heavy emphasis on its new School of Agriculture, for which the Ford Foundation granted \$1,000,000. The University's trustees, noting that nine-tenths of all Arabs derive their living directly from the soil, believe the most effective way to raise the level of economy in the Arab Middle East is by teaching scientific agriculture. With a handsome new building in Beirut and a large experimental farm in the rich Bekaa Valley, the school is on its way toward becoming the best in the area. An important phase of the school's program is to study methods by which, through agriculture, the whole life of a village can be improved.
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April 30, 1954.

Interpreted by Devere Allen....

THIS IS YOUR WORLD

YOU'LL BE HEARING MORE about Victor Raul Haya de la Torre, who has just arrived in Mexico after five years cooped up as a political refugee in the Colombian Embassy at Lima. Justly called "the most listened-to voice in Latin America," Haya came out of a wealthy family to study law at Lima, and even then to establish popular universities for the poor. He began to attract a tremendous following by his democratic ideas, in a Peru which up to that time had never known democratic political life. He founded Apra, the Alianza Popular Revolucionaria Americana, and ran head on into powerful ruling cliques which had him banished for eight years, which he spent in wandering over the world, reflecting and planning for the liberation of his people.

HE RETURNED TO PERU in 1931 to plunge into an election, running for the presidency. Few impartial Peruvians will deny that Haya won the contest as far as votes were concerned, but he was counted out because the ruling caste controlled the polls. As a reward, he was tossed into prison, and when he was released two years later, there began for him a curious kind of exile-within-his-own-country. He was constantly pursued by the police, sometimes perfunctorily, sometimes in grim earnest.

THE APRA MOVEMENT was made up largely of city workers, but it had a special appeal for the most depressed class of all --- the Indians. For the first time, they had a champion. So beloved was Haya that news of him flew by grapevine to the most remote Indian villages. In one of these, one day, an American archaeologist asked a local Indian if he really liked General Odría, the present dictator, whose picture hung over the door of the Indian's hut. The Indian took his visitor inside, opened a wooden box containing his best clothes, and took out a newspaper. In it was a picture of Haya --- huge body, thin lips, big nose. "The police put up that picture over my door," said the Indian; "one of these days, I'll put this one up, myself."

IT IS FASHIONABLE for dictatorial governments to label Haya a Communist. But before his plane had landed in Mexico, Vicente Lombardo Toledano, leader of Latin American Communism, called him "an agent of American imperialism." When Haya ran for the presidency a second time, in 1945, Apra won a majority in the Lower House and was able to put through many democratic reforms. It was then that the Communists conspired to help the reactionaries stage a strike in parliament which gave the government a chance to remove the Apristas in the cabinet. The Communist leader, Luna, backed in the parliament the internal policies of Odría, and the persecution of the Apristas.

SOME MEMBERS OF APRA do not share Haya's distaste for violence in politics, and when a minority group were involved in a Navy revolt, in 1948, Apra was outlawed and Haya was given asylum by the Colombian Embassy. There followed a five-years' struggle to get him safely out. It was only when Colombia threatened to raise the issue of asylum --- always a touchy one for Latin Americans --- at the Caracas conference, that Peru yielded. In 1950 there had been a curious ruling by the World Court, which said Haya was no criminal, but also said one nation alone could not decide who was a political refugee --- as if a persecuting nation and a rescuing nation could easily agree over such a personality as Haya!

IN MEXICO CITY, Haya told a Worldover Press correspondent that he has no faith in stale ideas about foreign capital. Without it, he said, there could be no industry, no mechanized farming, not even a working class in any modern sense. He is against foreign imperialism that lurks "under the table" and secretly directs national policies. It ought, he believes, to sit around the table in cooperation with local capital and the workers themselves, in planning and development for the common good of all. He'll have more to say, be sure of that, and it will count among his influential following. (Worldover Press.)