

MEN OF MOSCOW! RED INTRIGUE

by JOHN O'CONNOR

II—The Isthmus and The Isles

GUATEMALA

This country offers no great opportunity as yet for the cells of Moscow to increase and multiply. There are two parties springing either the "Workers Social Democratic Party" or "The Social Reform Party." Due to the similarity of the name with the Communist Party in other countries, experienced observers feel that the former might be the red cell.

From Moscow through Mexico City to Guatemala comes a stream of propaganda. This is disseminated throughout Central America. It is earning Guatemala City reputation equaling that of Mexico City in its red heyday, although it has yet to match the bustle and activity of Havana. President Juan Jose Arvalo has described the Soviet sympathizers as a "routine fraction" of the population. Guatemala is apparently looked upon as a rock from which to distribute material rather than as a seedbed for immediate culture.

NICARAGUA

The most prominent of the "banana republics" Nicaragua has not been neglected by the Soviets. While Marxian activities have fallen off somewhat since the death of Moscow's ambassador to Mexico, Constantino Qumansky, this should not be interpreted too favorably. A few months ago a minor Soviet employee in a neighboring country was discovered sending material into Nicaragua. When discovered he was transferred to Detroit.

There are a number of federated trade unions in this country including the all-important printers' group. Along with the others it belongs to the CTAL controlled from Mexico City by Lombardo Toledano. The entire federation boasts some 40,000 members or nearly one out of every 25 people in the country. The leadership may be there, but inasmuch as 70 per cent of the country is illiterate it is doubtful how much of a voice the rank and file have. The "Socialist Party," reputedly a Communist cell, has a disciplined membership of 1,300.

COSTA RICA

Costa Rica has long enjoyed the reputation of being one of the most enlightened and progressive countries in the Western Hemisphere. Recently the government members and the opposition united in a pact to eliminate Jose Albertazzi, pro-Communist member of the government. Republican Party.

How effective this recent move will be is hard to say. The Confederation de Trabajo does have a membership of 20,000. Rudolf Guzman, a delegate to the CTAL, is a member of the Communist Party, the latter a group claiming anywhere from 7,000 to 20,000 disciplined members. The VAN GUARDIA POPULAR, the leaders of this powerful party group are Manuel More Valverde and Amador Ferrero. The Communist Party has five deputies out of the 45 in the small parliament. They also publish an aggressive weekly paper, TRABAJO.

Will Costa Rica continue its tradition or will the infection spread?

HONDURAS

When interviewed several months ago Tiburcio Carias, who ruled the country from 1932 until the present, told of an intensification of Soviet propaganda aimed at his country. Long aware of the techniques of totalitarianism, he pointed out that the Soviet propaganda is not necessarily printed or written propaganda, he stated. "But of attitude. There are no organized centers of Communism but the work of the Communist agents is directed from outside the country. The government will try

to neutralize all the offensive action of this kind."

Meanwhile some of the labor unions have declared their allegiance to the CTAL, thus giving support to the dictator's suspicions.

EL SALVADOR

A constitutional government led by the man who overthrew the bloody regime of Martinez, the smallest country in the Western Hemisphere has recently felt the first tremors of an underground. Salvador Castaneda Castro, the president, recently reported: "... There is no Communist trouble, but we reserve the right to defend ourselves against anti-social propaganda which strikes at our traditional principles."

Some opposition to his rule has been voiced by the students of the country. Recently some of the unions joined the CTAL.

PANAMA

Artery of defense and trade, Panama renders services not goods. The importance of its position places great responsibility upon the people who render those services. This has made the country of "The Big Ditch" of special interest to world Communism.

Fourteen years ago an international spy ring was uncovered in this country. Communications had been tapped. The wife-of-the-wisp identified with the case was Harry Duryea—Soviet espionage chief in the United States in the early thirties.

Today the chief force in the area is the United Public Workers of America with a long record of support on Communist policies. It was called "Operation Panama" in the Communist press. It was addressed in Panama by one Leonard Goldsmith, the same name that appeared on Communist Party election petitions in Brooklyn in 1941 and 1943. Last October Robert Weinstein, the union's national director of organization, left for Panama accompanied by J. L. Strobel. Weinstein was an instructor at the Communist Jefferson School in New York. A Jacob Strobel is listed as the signer of a Communist election petition 10339 on June 7, 1942, for Israel Amter, once American representative at Communist International Headquarters in Moscow.

Coincidence with their arrival in Panama was the appearance in Panama City of ACLA, a new Communist magazine decorated with pictures of Stalin, Lenin and Molotov. A 76-page magazine in a country starving for paper!

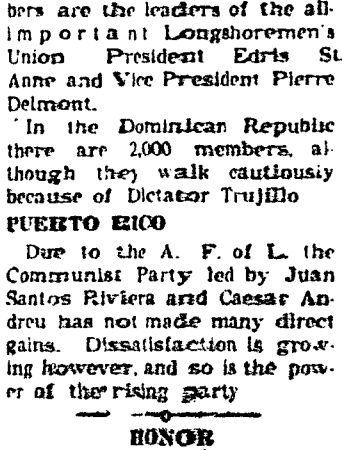
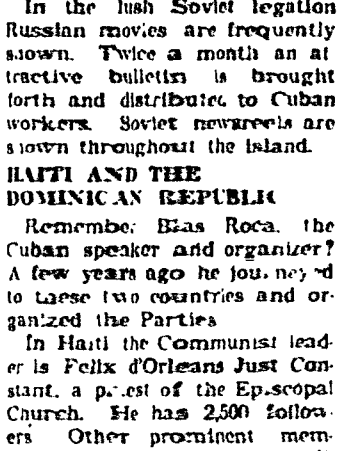
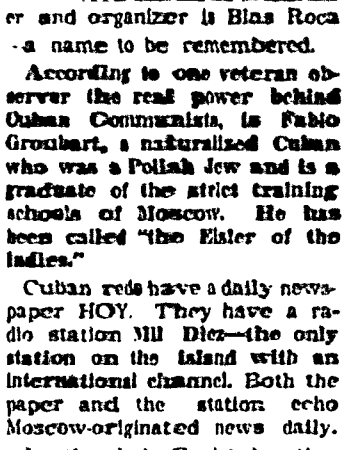
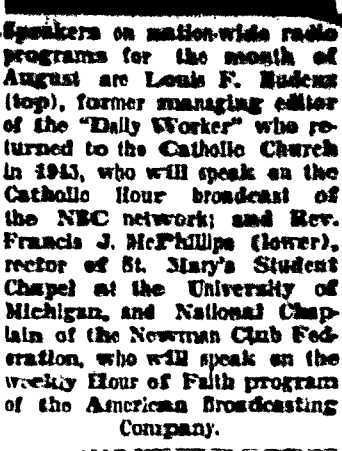
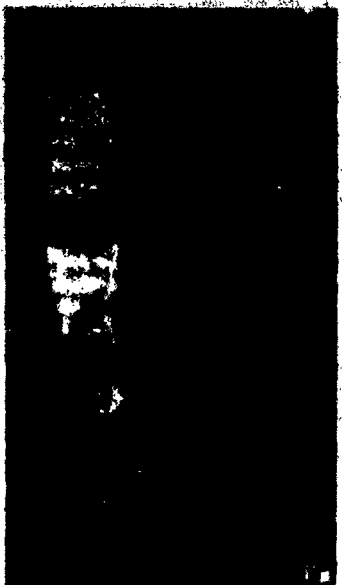
CUBA

"Pearl of the Antilles" and "sugar bowl of the west" Cuba is the center of intelligence for the Communist Party in the Western Hemisphere. The task is being performed by three interlocking groups: The Communist Party (known as Partido Socialista Popular), the well-heeled Soviet legation, and the organized labor on the island.

The Communist hold on the all-important labor group is due to their control of the Confederation of Cuban Workers. The party is small, with 33,000 to 50,000 members. It polls over 200,000 votes in an election. There are ten deputies of the party in the lower house and three members in the Senate.

The head of the party is Juan Marinello, vice president of the Senate. Another member is Lazaro Pena, re-elected as secretary general of the Confederation of Cuban Workers. Their governing board of 57 members is entirely staffed by Communists as of May 10, 1947. Less than two years ago Pena received nearly a million dollars from the government to build a "Labor Palace." Rumor had it that this was the "pay-off" for swinging the Communist Party behind the Grau San Martin group and insuring the election of the president. The chief speak-

ON RADIO



HOLLYWOOD IN FOCUS

By W. H. Mooring

London — There is no Legion of Decency in Great Britain and no Film Production Code.

The British Catholic attitude towards the screen generally, although not identical, seems more lenient than in America. Dependence upon the film producers' sense of good taste is more evident, although most of the British film producers are Catholics. A film classified as "H" (for "horrible") may be shown to adults only and no person under sixteen, whether or not accompanied by a parent or guardian, may be admitted to a theater where it is to be shown.

The British Board of Film Censors works to an "unwritten code" formulated in the early 1900's by the late T. R. O'Connor. Its film rating although not always in strict conformity with Catholic thought, nevertheless conforms to some extent with the Legion of Decency classifications. It is a considerable film by film.

Some local authorities have been known to grant permits for the public exhibition of unclassified pictures, but the necessity of securing such permission in every individual town and city throughout Great Britain, and the additional fact that national local decisions create resentment among competitive theater owners, discourages the exploitation of films which are unlikely to secure a censor's certificate.

Although the British Board of Film Censors is a non-statutory authority, its rulings are given official national recognition. Theater owners who admit children in violation of its certified ratings are liable to prosecution under heavy penalties.

There have been many protests of late, from parent groups in various parts of the U.S.A. in the San Fernando Valley, right on the doorstep of Hollywood, through the great Middle West, through Massachusetts and other widely scattered parts I have been asked what can be done to ensure that the future of the United States depends, are finally and firmly protected from films that have a bad moral influence upon them.

The film industry through the Johnson Office declares its serious concern and has even sponsored, as an attempt at cooperation with parents, the Children's Film Library plan.

Still the evil continues. American children in large numbers are admitted to unsuitable screen plays.

Why not organize a system throughout the U.S.A. along the lines found workable in Great Britain.

In the U.S.A. the film industry and parent-teachers groups could doubtless improve upon it.

Most of us think of television as a well as a way to see a ball game sitting at home. But it has a greater use than that.

One of the ways it can be used is in the classroom.

A place where they're going to use television for more than just sports, thrills, or laughs is Creighton University in Omaha.

The Rev. R. C. Williams, S.J., director of radio education at Creighton, is setting up his Second Annual Radio Institute. One of its features will be the use of television equipment for the question sessions.

The thing will work like this: The audience will be broken up into five different groups and sent to five separate classrooms. Each room will have a television set and a microphone. The groups will direct questions at the speaker in the television hall, a block away. He will answer the questions from that distance, yet everybody in the questioning

Movie Guide

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