

# BULLETIN

25¢

VOL. 1 NO. 3 JULY, 1967

## PHILIPPINE POLITICAL PRISONERS: A REPORT ON THEIR CURRENT STATUS

by William Pomeroy

(The writer spent 10 years of a "life" sentence in prison for his activity in the Huk movement in the Philippines. The only American to join the Huk-balahap, he is now living in England with his wife, Celia, a former Philippine political prisoner also.)

There are between 60 to 70 political prisoners confined in Philippine jails.

The group that has been imprisoned the longest are the 28 popular revolutionary leaders who were tried as a group in the 1950 "Politburo Case," so-called because several of those tried were allegedly members of the Political Bureau of the Philippine Communist Party. This was a trial created to fan fear and hysteria in the Philippine government's attempt, strongly backed by U.S. imperialist forces, to suppress the popular growing armed struggle conducted by the Huk movement (Hukbong Mapagpalaya ng Bayan--Army of National Liberation).

To prevent bail and silence active support of the Huks, the military intelligence office concocted a new charge--"rebellion complexed with murder, robbery, arson and kidnapping." Upon conviction, this charge enabled the court to assign maximum penalties of death and life imprisonment.

-- continued on page 5

### OPERATION BOOTSTRAP: START AT THE BOTTOM AND WORK YOUR WAY DOWN

The Agency for International Development will administer a new center designed to stimulate investment in Latin American nations. Carl D. Goderez, an official at the Washington agency, indicated great hopes for profit by US investors by working through the center: "If Operation Bootstrap in Puerto Rico is any guide, every dollar invested now could return between \$40 and \$50 once this gets going." (NYT, June 14).

## SPAIN: GREEN BERETS JOIN WITH FRANCO'S ARMY

Since French withdrawal from NATO creating a vacuum in the West's military complex, the United States has turned its attention to Spain. It has just finished "Pathfinder Express," a Spanish-U.S. military exercise of temporarily detached NATO elements.

The object of the maneuvers was to airlift and deploy United States Army and Spanish army airborne forces, backed up with massive delivery of heavy equipment. The main troop elements involved were the First Airborne Brigade of the U.S. Eighth Infantry Division, based in West Germany. The maneuvers could not be held in West Germany because it is "so congested that it was difficult to find space to exercise properly." (CSM, June 5).

Another such exercise is slated for September involving U.S. Special Forces and Spanish elements in guerrilla-warfare training, to take place in the Pyrenees. (NYT, May 21).

## MIDEAST CRISIS:

### THE RETURN OF LYNDON OF ARABIA

Democratic wheels in Washington, D. C. hailed the Middle East conflict, saying that Lyndon Johnson's chances at the polls in 1968 were brighter as a result, precisely because it diminished Vietnam as an issue. (WSJ, June 12).

\* \* \*

The West German Government, in what must be one of history's more macabre ironies, sold 20,000 gas masks to Israel. (CSM, June 3).

\* \* \*

"Israel's cabinet had decided to go to war with Egypt 36 hours before the fighting broke out, but this could not be reported because of the strict censorship in Israel." (NY Post, June 16).

\* \* \*

"Israeli forces only lost 80 percent of their forces in the battle against the strongly fortified hills of the Syrian countryside. This success was largely due to the napalm its low-flying planes dropped all over the countryside." (Ibid)

\* \* \*

Egyptian doctors, in treating casualty cases, reported that 75 percent of the cases were victims of napalm, "the same as that used by the United States in Vietnam." (NYT, June 18).

\* \* \*

As a reward for her work, Israel will be granted admission to the elite core of nuclear powers. The Times (June 8) reported that sources in Tel Aviv say it is likely that Israeli Government will make a formal decision to join the nuclear "club" as soon as a Middle Eastern peace agreement is worked out.

continued on page 4



"We've been rehearsing a school play and I have the part of Washington's roving ambassador in friendly countries."

Paris-Match

## BOLIVIA: UP IN ARMS

Victor Paz Estenssoro, exiled ex-president of Bolivia stated that the Bolivian guerrillas are gaining vast popular support "because the masses are discontent with the present military government, and they are angry with the United States for backing this corrupt, inefficient regime." He stated that the guerrillas are mostly unemployed tin miners, campesinos (farmers), teachers and a few professional people. (CSM, May 29).

In 1952, Estenssoro armed the miners against the army and they won political power when they took over the mines. At that time, 40,000 miners belonged to the Mining Workers Federation (out of a total population of nearly four million in Bolivia). Today, with the union membership cut to 23,000, the mines have been taken over by the government and operate for tremendous profits under virtual military occupation. The miners, largely of Indian descent, work "under treacherous conditions with little recompense and short life expectancy." (NYT, June 18).

The miners who work for the Bolivian Mining Corporation (Comibol) provide 60 percent of the country's export earnings. In the first two weeks of June, despite the military supervision, work-stoppages in Oruro, where half of the company's production goes on, created a situation of a severe labor crisis. During the same period, Comibol's headquarters in La Paz were dynamited. (NYT, June 18).

President Barrientos has called for talks with the unions, but they refuse to discuss anything except salaries--which are \$3 per day--the rehiring of workers fired in the last three years, and the guaranteeing of office for the present union leaders, who are due to be replaced through elections. (Ibid)

Following demonstrations by secondary-school students and the mine protests, the government declared a state of seige on June 7, suspending the Constitutional guarantees of basic human rights and declaring that a "climate of subversion" exists in the nation.

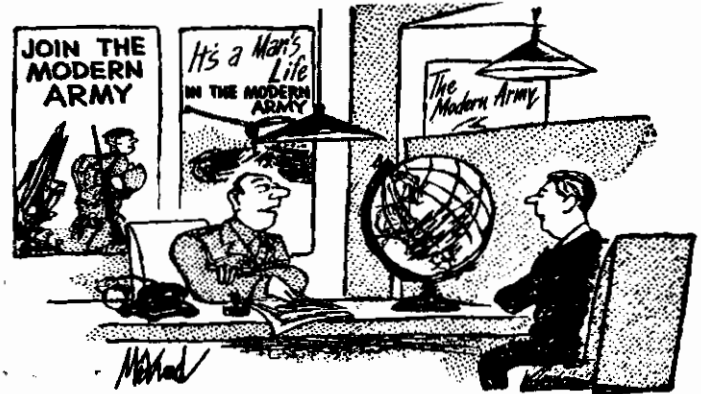
\* \* \*  
French Marxist and theorist on Latin American revolution, Jules Regis Debray, was arrested on April 20 with a British freelance writer and an Argentine journalist. The three were apprehended for aiding anti-Government guerrillas in Bolivia. They are being held incommunicado and will be tried by a military tribunal, despite pleas for justice from noted American, French and international scholars and political leaders, including President Charles De Gaulle. Debray is being charged with "guerrilla activity." President Barrientos announced that "The career of Regis Debray will end in Bolivia," and charged him with the murder of the 27 Government soldiers who have died in combat with the guerrillas. (NYT, June 16).

Debray is a leading Parisian intellectual and an authority on revolutionary strategy in Latin America. He is being used as a scapegoat by the Bolivian government because of his close friendship with Fidel Castro, in Barrientos' attempt to prove that the Bolivian guerrilla movement is being engineered and carried out by Cuban revolutionaries. /The Bolivian Army today is battling the guerrillas with 600 troops, trained under the U.S. military assistance agreement (NYT, June 19). The CIA and U.S.

Army Special Forces, based in Panama, are also closely involved. (NYT, June 7).

Debray's mother has been in Bolivia since May 6, but cannot obtain any information of his whereabouts or physical health from Government officials (NYT, June 16).

Pleas for Debray's safety should be directed to the Bolivian Embassy in Washington, D.C.



"The prospects for promotion are unlimited—sergeant, lieutenant, captain, head of State..."

The Times (London)

## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC:

### AFTER THE MARINES

"In Santo Domingo, which is proud of its handsome residential district, there is still the stench of poverty in great, spreading slums of jauntily painted wooden shacks..."

"The country abounds with well-armed policemen and soldiers who sometimes act like an occupation force. They put a close watch--and, frequently, a strong arm--on everything. There are almost daily accounts in the press about people who have been beaten by policemen or soldiers." (NYT, June 12).

"The armed forces, ever ready for action against Communists, consist of 27,000 men, including 9,000 in the well-armed National Police. There are 34 tanks, and the air force has a few odd jets and F-51 fighters. The United States supplies some modern equipment, including communications gear and regularly takes selected officers to the United States or Panama for training... Juan Bosch, writing in the magazine *Ahora* from Spain, said, 'In the Dominican Republic it is not Balaguer who governs, but the Americans, and they are utilizing the armed forces as an instrument of repression.'" (NYT, June 13).

"The President (Balaguer) meets once a week with officials of the U.S. Agency for International Development." (NYT, June 14).

According to the Reconciliation Act which ended the civil war of April 1965, the military men belonging to the Dominican Revolutionary Party of Juan Bosch were to be reintegrated into the armed forces without discrimination or reprisals. For a long time, these men were incarcerated in a concentration camp. Today they are effectively exiled overseas in diplomatic posts or outrightly refused readmission to the military corps. (NYT, June 9).

## A LETTER FROM HAITI

(to New Times--June 14, 1967)

... We write to your esteemed magazine on behalf of the United Democratic Front of Haiti to call the attention of people everywhere to the danger threatening thousands of Haitians as a result of the collusion between Dominican President Joaquin Balaguer and Haitian dictator Francois Duvalier in persecuting Haitian political refugees.

Their number in the Dominican Republic now totals 50,000. The Dominicans have always accorded them fraternal hospitality, knowing that to send them back would mean putting them into the hands of the Duvalier butchers.

The Balaguer regime, imposed on the Dominican people by the U. S. marines following the 1965 Santo Domingo invasion, has for many months conducted a regular manhunt against the emigres, turning the victims over to the Duvalier authorities.

The Dominican newspaper El Nacional de Ahora recently published the photos of three of the 40 refugees handed over to Duvalier's police and executed.

It will be recalled that a similar policy in 1937 by Dominican dictator Rafael Trujillo resulted in the death of nearly 15,000 Haitians.

Unless world public opinion acts to stop these crimes, Balaguer may well outdo Trujillo.

-- David Dutellier, Sec'y, Coordination Bureau of the United Democratic Front of Haiti

GRAHAM GREENE: On The Comedians, the film based on his book about Haiti

... I'd like to help isolate Duvalier. And I would hope it might have some influence on your State Department. Duvalier has brought the country (Haiti) to the verge of economic disaster, and the only thing that props him up is outside aid and the dwindling tourist trade. Any aid to Haiti only ends in keeping the tontons (the fascist security police--Ed.) happy. It never reaches the poor...

Back in 1935, if someone had done a film on German concentration camps, I suppose no one would have believed it. Even after the war, when a woman sat next to me on a plane from Brussels to London and I mentioned Auschwitz, she turned to me and said, 'Oh, that's just propaganda!'

If anything, the real Haiti is blacker than I have portrayed it, if that is possible. The execution scene--which all the school children were made to watch on Papa Doc's orders--actually happened. Papa Doc even had the execution filmed and he made every theater in Haiti show it for two weeks running. I saw it myself. The hearse on the way to a funeral actually was stolen by the tontons and the body was delivered to the basement of the presidential palace for Lord knows what ghastly rite." (NYT Magazine May 7.)

## INDONESIA: NEW U. S. "AID" MONEY

Washington is pleased at the ouster of President Sukarno, because it now can send more "aid" to Indonesia. In April, Washington allocated \$10 million worth of spare parts, machinery, and raw materials, and \$2.4 million of military spare parts, "for civil action, rather than combat." (CSM, May 23). The Indonesian ambassador to Washington, Suwito Kusumowidagdo, indicated an enthusiasm for private American capital investment in Indonesia. But government aid must stay small and discreet for the moment, to avoid opening President Suharto to new charges of "collaborating with colonialism." (Ibid.)

## INDIA: ON STRIKE AGAINST CALTEX

106 clerical workers are on strike at the Calcutta, India office of the Caltex Oil Company, and have been so for the last seven months. In the reception foyer is a sign reading "Nationalize all foreign oil companies." The sit-in began on October 21, when Caltex removed all records in the office as a step toward removing 88 of the 106 union employees. The Petroleum Workers Union to which they belong is an affiliate of the All India Trade Union Congress, which has also caused Esso and Burmah Shell trouble. N. D. Chatterjee, vice president of the Petroleum Workers and an employee at Caltex for 21 years, stated that the Calcutta staff has been replaced by a computer in Bombay--a crime in a country where labor is cheap and in oversupply. (NYT, May 28).

On other economic issues in India, the U. S. Agency for International Development, recently ousted from Yemen and under attack by the All India Peace Council for espionage, guaranteed 75% of an \$800,000 loan to Globe United Engineering & Foundry Co., owned by United Engineering & Foundry Co. of Pittsburgh and Globe Motors and Associates Ltd. of India, for its \$6 million plant for steel castings and rolls. The loan will come through the Pittsburgh National Bank. (WSJ, June 7).

## IVORY TOWER ESPIONAGE

"The 14-story tower on the Stanford University campus houses some startling goings-on. Messages go out to smugglers in Hong Kong and to other agents in trouble spots around the world. Documents arrive directly from the Kremlin and Peking. CIA agents browse in the cluttered halls and rooms... It's the Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace... Its annual income is fattened by donations from such sources as Standard Oil Co. of California, Gulf Oil Corporation, Monsanto Co., the Ford Foundation and Allen Bradley Co. of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. (Stanford's board of trustees provides 20% of the \$1.5 million annual budget.)... Notwithstanding the close identification of some staffers with aggressive anti-communism, the institution's leaders vigorously defend its objectivity... Associate director Witold S. Sworakowski says: 'Any U. S. Government Agency has first priority on our materials. We owe them that much for our tax-exempt status without which we just couldn't exist.'" (WSJ, June 2).

"All Greek Patriots Arise as One Against the Rapers of Our Freedom"

The following are excerpts from the manifesto issued on April 23 by Mikis Theodorakis, Member of Parliament in the United Democratic Left Party (EDA) and President of the Lambrakis Democratic Youth Movement. He is known in the United States as the composer of music for the films "Zorba the Greek" and "Elektra.

The King, conspiring officers and perjured judges cooperating with the imperialists dissolved Greek democracy. This treasonous act is a result of panic and will directly lead to the inevitable resolution of our internal political crisis. It will directly lead to the uprooting of the throne and its protectors and its vassals from our land...

Our country is a captive country. Arrests have reached tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands are persecuted, no one yet knows the exact number of victims. Among the imprisoned, who have been inhumanly tortured, are the outstanding leaders of the left, the E. K., and even the right. The rapers of our people's freedom are preparing new concentration camps and have set death courts.

Fascism has struck Europe again after thirty years; it struck at the cradle of civilization, at the heart of democracy, at the bright and proud acropolis of humanism.

We appeal to all the world's democrats and particularly to those of Europe to stand decisively at the side of the embattled Greek People...

Greek workers, peasants, public servants, professionals, technicians, intellectuals, patriotic officers, navy and air force men, the proud youth, men and women, young and old, all Greek patriots arise as one against the rapers of their freedom. They put aside their political differences uniting under a common standard that reads: FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY, GREECE. They join to do battle in one national, patriotic, anti-dictatorial front. For us there exists now but one common ideal, one common purpose...

In the land where democracy was born, tyrants die.

The Wall Street Journal (June 7) reports that the Sinai area captured by Israeli troops produces "enough oil to fill all the needs of Israel, which has been importing oil from Iran. Israeli officials say that they would pay the non-Egyptian companies that own the wells--but the payments obviously would be considerably less than the cost of importing oil from Iran."

\* \* \*

The Yemeni Royalists, in combat with the Egyptian-supported President Abdullah Al Salal, who ousted the CIA from his country a month ago, gleefully denounced Nasser as a "greater enemy of the Arab world than Israel," and estimated that they would now be able to retake their country with Egyptian forces weakened. (NY Post, June 12).

\* \* \*

The U.S. Government, wishing to encourage oil industry consolidation in the face of what it termed a "threat to the broad security interests of the U.S.," sent a formal notification of this oil emergency to 21 U.S. oil firms, stimulating them to do something. Subsequently, nine firms decided to set up a joint tanker and supply pool. The Wall Street Journal (June 12) outlines what will follow: "Typical operations under an emergency plan, might involve one company temporarily turning over to another company its marketing obligations in a particular country if the second company has access to supplies geographically more convenient. Ships of one oil producer might also sail at the orders of companies that normally are competitors. Where reserves are more than adequate in a particular consuming country, they could be allocated to countries with a greater short-term need. Because such cooperation normally would be highly suspect under Federal anti-trust laws, the subcommittee (of the Foreign Petroleum Supply Committee which stands as an advisory body to Government policy and an executor if any emergency actions are decided) working through the Interior Department will submit all of its proposals for Justice Department approval. The final plan needs the approval of the Justice Department or Assistant Interior Secretary J. Cordell Moore of Interior Secretary Stuart Udall and from the Office of Emergency Planning."

\* \* \*

India called Nasser a "force for progress," and criticized the U.S. for giving conditional aid to nations struggling for economic livelihood. Prime Minister Indira Gandhi said, "We are not getting aid without pressures, but I am sure that abundant aid would be forthcoming if we agreed to set up a capitalist system." (CSM, June 12).

\* \* \*

The Soviet Union criticized the U.S. for joining with Prime Minister Harold Wilson in England and deliberately triggering the conflict in the Middle East in their emergency meeting in Washington the week before the crisis. (CSM, June 6).

\* \* \*

Libya has asked the United States to withdraw her troops from Libyan territory and liquidate her military bases in that nation. (NYT, June 16).

\* \* \*

Ho Chi Minh sent a message to Syria and the United Arab Republic expressing Vietnam's "full solidarity" in their fight against Israeli aggression. (CSM, June 8).

## NATO UBER ALLES

NATO command is steadily passing into stronger and stronger German control. On July 1, 1966, West German general Adolf Graf von Kielmansegg took over the supreme NATO command in Central Europe (AFCENT). Under his authority lie the 7th U.S. Army and the 17th Air Fleet, both equipped with nuclear weapons, the British army of the Rhine and the British air force in West Germany, also equipped with nuclear weapons, the NATO territorial and air forces of Belgium, and the Netherlands and Canadian units stationed in Europe.

NADGE is something new in NATO. It is the "NATO Air Defense Ground Environment," which runs from northern Norway to southern Italy, spanning the Ionian Sea of Greece and the Aegean to Turkey. Besides these nations, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium and France cooperate. It has a new computer system for early warning against air attack on the territory of the Western alliance. "Characteristic of NADGE are the high degree of automation and the practical disregard of frontiers." (CSM, June 5).

\* \* \*

Among those being held and their sentences, are: Jose Lava, an attorney and bank examiner, general-secretary of the Communist Party (life); Federico Maclang, a peasant leader, organizational secretary of the Communist Party (death); Ramon Espiritu, a trade union leader, finance secretary of the Communist Party (death); Angel Baking, at the time a counselor in the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs, an engineer by profession (life); Simeon Rodriguez, at the time a theatrical producer and cinema producer (life); Federico Bautista, a former army officer identified as head of the Communist Party intelligence work (life); Honofre Mangila, a trade union leader (death); Cenon Bungay, identified as a Huk military commander (death); Magno Bueno, a peasant union leader (death), who died from neglected illness in 1966.

In 1956, the Philippine Supreme Court, in the case of another man convicted of "rebellion complexed" Amado Hernandez -- (see poem adjoined. Ed.), ruled that this charge did not exist in the Philippine penal code and that only "simple rebellion" could be charged against those involved in the Huk movement. "Simple rebellion," as defined by the Court at that time, carries a maximum penalty of 12 years imprisonment.

Although subsequent cases have been granted review since "rebellion complexed" was annulled in 1956, these cases still hang in limbo. Furthermore, the 28 have been severely restricted and denied normal privileges of prisoners, even suffering periods of up to five years in solitary confinement.

The 1956 Supreme Court ruling also deprived the army prosecutors of a legal terror weapon. But this was superseded by the Anti-Subversion Law of 1957, which the U. S. helped railroad through. This law permits the death sentence, life imprisonment and other heavy penalties for membership in the Communist Party (formally outlawed), the Huk movement or any movement similar which might replace them. The law has been used more intensively in recent years, as left-wing and progressive movements have been gradually reorganized. For example, Castro Alejandrino, formerly head of the Huk armed forces (HMB) was arrested in 1960, and has been under trial since then but has received no sentence, although detained without bail. Also Jesus Lava, the general-secretary of the Communist Party in 1964, has been under trial since then, detained in jail without sentence. Prolonged trials and detention without bail are actually techniques of maximizing confinement, since detained prisoners are credited with only half of time served.

Except for sporadic appeals to the Philippine government, there has been no organized campaign to free political prisoners, either in the Philippines or abroad. My wife and I, who originally had life sentences for "rebellion complexed" and spent ten years in prison for it, won our pardon primarily due to a campaign under way by friends in the United States. This points to the necessity, and the chance for success, for intense action in the future.

Petitions, letters, etc. for the release of the prisoners should be sent to: President Ferdinand Marcos, Malacanang Palace, Manila, Philippines.

Vow for Freedom's Sake

Amado Hernandez

(Amado Hernandez, the Poet Laureate of the Philippines, and a trade union leader, was a political prisoner for several years.)

I was imprisoned by the enemies of freedom--  
I fought for freedom from hunger, fear, and for  
the liberty to speak,  
to worship God and to reject false idols.  
Thanks, a thousand thanks.  
I know I am not alone...  
Tens, hundreds, thousands, millions--victims  
of a like fate--  
Will be the inheritors of a glorious tomorrow.

The thousands degraded in prisons,  
whose innocence, like mine, has made them  
guilty;  
the thousands tortured and persecuted  
with neither trial nor verdict in an honorable  
court.

The countless ones  
who have been victimized  
in fields and villages, in cities and in towns;  
in hovels and tenements gutted by fire  
how many living souls were buried without names,  
without a cross?  
We will not forget, they will not be forgotten,  
their voices reach the ears of tomorrow's  
avengers.

**SOUTH KOREA:** Another "Free World Ally"

The Christian Science Monitor (May 22) noted a discontent among the Korean people before the June 8 elections in South Korea.

"They no longer seem to regard the government as a military regime, but they do feel it favors the business interests. In the face of Korea's economic progress generally, they often are resentful of their own low standard of living and of corruptive practices within the Government."

\* \* \*

Yongjeung Kim, president of the Korean Affairs Institute in Washington, D. C., writing on May 12 to the New York Times claims, "a temporary upturn in South Korea is inevitable in view of the huge amount of U.S. aid, foreign loans, Japanese reparation payments and the booster shot given by Washington with its purchase of war goods and dollar payments for Korean troops to Vietnam... If South Korea is so prosperous, why is the Seoul regime so hungry for foreign capital?"

\* \* \*

On June 15, the Times reported the third day of rioting against the rigged elections. 30,000 students from 18 universities and colleges and 15 high schools participated in street demonstrations and campus rallies in Seoul, hurling rocks at club-wielding riot policemen in clashes lasting nearly eight hours. Ten universities in Seoul and three in Pusan were closed temporarily in an attempt to quell the protests.

\* \* \*

# OKINAWA: Our Westernmost Frontier?

Anti-U.S. demonstrations on Okinawa are protesting the further entrenchment of the island as a base for Vietnam war operations and strategic military maneuvers by the United States. Okinawa was captured by the U.S. in 1945 in one of the bloodiest battles of World War II. The peace treaty of 1952 left the legislature of the Ryukyu islands under U.S. jurisdiction for the "defense" of the Western Pacific. At present, the legislature consists of 18 members of the pro-U.S. Democratic party, and 14 for the left-wing opposition, "but some observers say that it is not impossible that this balance could be overturned in another election. (NYT, June 1).

Although the US has "recognized" Japan's residual sovereignty over the area, and repeated promises to return the islands eventually, it remains against the wishes of the Japanese there who wish to return to home rule. In addition, the U.S. refuses to allocate even necessary economic aid to the island. Lieutenant General Ferdinand T. Unger, commander of the U.S. military establishment there, is called the High Commissioner of the Ryukyu Islands. "In effect, he is Washington's viceroy and has complete veto power..." (Ibid).

One of the major issues is the nuclear arsenal which the Times (June 7) reports is stationed in Okinawa. Japan has a national policy of prohibiting such weapons on Japanese soil.

The Tri-Continental Information Center is holding a teach-in on Puerto Rico in Columbia University on July 13th. It will be co-sponsored by the North American Congress on Latin America, SNCC and the Students for a Democratic Society. Speakers will include H. Rap Brown from SNCC, Juan Angel Silen from the Puerto Rican Movimiento Pro-Independencia, Tom Hayden and Stanley Aronowitz. For more information, contact 1133 Broadway--Rm. 640, New York, N. Y. 10010 at 212/242-6512.

Published monthly by: Tri-Continental Information Center, 1133 Broadway--Room 640, New York, New York 10010. (212) 242-6512

editors: Michael Myerson, Joan Levenson

Subscriptions: By donations of \$3 minimum. All articles are the responsibility of the editors.

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