

New Tsars Intensify Expansion and Penetration in Latin America

MARKED intensification of expansion and penetration activities in Latin America over the past year by the Soviet social-imperialists weakened U.S. foundations in the Western hemisphere. This was part of the Soviet Union's "offensive" global strategy in contention with the United States for world hegemony.

An important development in this respect was that the new tsars formulated their strategy and tactics for expansion and penetration in Latin America and managed to knock together their followers for a meeting to co-ordinate and harmonize their actions. The new tsars stress the flexible use of various "peaceful and non-peaceful forms and means of struggle" to expand their spheres of influence and consolidate gains already made. They also underscore the need to establish and develop broad "political alliances" and "social alliances" including those with the military in Latin America. They and their followers want to "become a force capable of exercising decisive influence on politics in every Latin American country." They have begun acting upon the planned programme. In certain countries, they worked hard to worm their way into mass organizations, while in others they preached establishment of a "broad coalition cabinet" by civilians and the military and advocated the drawing up of "mid- and long-term administration plans" for them. All this betrayed the new tsars' expansionist ambitions in Latin America.

Infiltration Into Military Forces

Much emphasized in the new tsars' action programme is infiltration into Latin America's military forces. Chieftains of the Brezhnev clique openly underlined penetration by pro-Soviet elements into the Portuguese military forces as an example to follow in making big inroads into the military forces in Latin America. This is drawing watchful attention in different circles there. An editorial in a Brazilian paper pointed out that the new expansion tactics of the Soviet Union is to seize power through the military. In an article published July 28, the Honduran paper *La Prensa* noted that Soviet agents were prepared to infiltrate into the ranks of Latin American troops. It added that the new tsars were "working intensively" in Honduras, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic and other countries while Soviet-trained agents "were spearheads for carrying out subversion in the military."

In the meantime, the new tsars resort to whatever possible means, political, economic, military and cultural, to extend their activities in Latin America. They are "making use of all means of imperialist inroads," charged the Brazilian daily *O Estado de Sao Paulo*, which include "diplomacy, aid and trade, espionage and subversion, naval presence" and local fifth columns.

To begin with, capitalizing on current anti-imperialism, anti-colonialism and national independence tides in Latin America, the new tsars have disguised themselves as "natural allies" supporting the cause of Latin American countries and used every means to infiltrate deep into Latin American society without letting any chance go by. They used international meetings and bilateral activities to sell their "detente," "disarmament" and other sinister stuff for the purpose of preparing conditions for further penetration.

Economic "Aid" — Open Sesame

Because present conditions are not favourable for their political expansion there, the new tsars continue to use economic "aid" as a lever to open the door to the continent. They try to make people believe the struggle of the Latin American and other third world countries can "make real headway" only when they unite with the Soviet forces. By raising a big fanfare about giving loans and technical "aid," undertaking aid projects and expanding trade, they attempt to make the Latin American countries economically dependent on the Soviet Union rather than on the United States. "Aid" is also a means of infiltrating their personnel and exerting political influence on the recipients. Moreover, by taking advantage of Latin America's united struggle against imperialism and for economic independence and development to fish in troubled waters, the Soviet revisionists have introduced into Latin America the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, their own tool for pushing neo-colonialism.

The Soviet revisionists' tricks are being seen through by more and more people. An article in the 398th issue of the Argentine magazine *Siete Dias* last year pointed out that the Soviet Union's "economic aid" and trade in fact serve its contention with the other superpower. The Austrian weekly *Prasent* in a com-

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mentary on November 20 said: "The Soviet Union tries to deck itself out as a giver of aid for development, but what it does is by no means to assist the poor countries. It uses the aid to engage in subversion either in Asia, Africa or Latin America."

Espionage Activities

Meanwhile, agents of the Soviet State Security Committee (K.G.B.) have stepped up conspiratorial activities in Latin America. The Venezuelan paper *El Mundo* on November 6 and 10 revealed that Soviet military attaches in Latin American countries were "assigned a special job together with the section chiefs of the K.G.B." The paper noted that spies and agents, either from the Soviet Union or employed locally, had infiltrated some Latin American countries and tried to interfere in their political affairs. K.G.B. also used "tourism" to "attain the goal of increasing the traffic of its agents in the Caribbean zone." The Bogota paper *El Espacio* on August 27 nailed down the moves of a Soviet spy ring, pointing out it had a "staff" in Colombia and important branches in Venezuela and Panama.

The new tsars are not only using every means to tighten their control over the footholds they have gained in Latin America but also trying their utmost to find new beachheads in an attempt to expand their spheres of influence there. Stepping up expansion in the Caribbean, the Kremlin is following the tactics of advancing gradually towards the southern gate to the United

States. It often sends warships and planes to the region to back up its hegemony-seeking efforts there. The constant presence of Soviet guided missile cruisers, destroyers, helicopter carriers, guided missile nuclear submarines and Bear reconnaissance planes in the region exposes the new tsars' ambition to turn the "forbidden area" under U.S. control ten years ago into another Mediterranean where Soviet naval and air forces are free to come and go in an intense struggle for hegemony with U.S. imperialism.

The intensification of Soviet expansion and Soviet-U.S. contention for hegemony in Latin America gravely threatens the independence and security of the countries there and has aroused resolute condemnation and opposition from the public in these countries. Every day the people's struggle against imperialism and hegemony grows in strength. Now getting rid of U.S. control and exploitation, Latin American countries are awakening to the ferocious nature of social-imperialism which is more dangerous and rampant than the other superpower.

Last year's events showed that although the new tsars thought hard about how to reach out their hands everywhere, their gains in Latin America still were limited and they met setbacks in quite a number of places. Undoubtedly, the more the new tsars' ugly features are exposed, the slimmer the chances of carrying through their schemes will become. In the face of the Latin American people's wrathful opposition to hegemony, the smug calculations of Soviet social-imperialism will inevitably come to nothing.

(A commentary by Hsinhua Correspondent)