GRIMLY CUBA STRUGGLES TO FIND PEACE: Depression, Effects of Machado's ...  

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pg SM8

GRIMLY CUBA STRUGGLES TO FIND PEACE

Depression, Effects of Machado's Regime and American Financial Interests Are Factors in Her Troubles

WE could not refrain, in reviewing the latest white-suited Cuban events, from giving a glimpse on the brief history of the city. Suddenly there was a man who began to shoot the night before, as if a body of men moving. Then came a few more crass, unending volleys of active rifles. Machine guns began to scatter their death hail. The crowd, having a likely, scattered swiftly across the park, and disappeared in the down ways and all sorts of toups and corners.

In a few moments the soldiers completed their objectives, their occupation against Communist agitators, and vanished from the scene. Out of the little houses immediately massed the people of the park benches. They poored around, saw and heard signs of trouble, and casually muttered back in their places. Five minutes later life in the park was going on again just as before.

This is a rough way, may could be regarded as a symbol of Cuba's recurrent revolutionary disturbances. Just recently the wings of death have flattered again over Havana. A new insurrection, beginning with bands set by terror, and continuing through the new revolutionary techniques of "progressive" strikes to an attempted general strike, accompanied by song of the bourgeoisie, fighting in the streets, appears to have been successfully put down by the determined attitude of President Carlos Manuel, backed by the guns of Colonel Pulgarito Batista, army chief of staff.

Every now and then America is startled by one of these political or social symptoms to the little island off the coast of Florida. As a rule when the trouble is over, the Cuban people resume their former positions, like the crows of Nehemiah in Connecticut. They are always there. But. it almost sometimes, some time, the insurrection may be seen

State Department Washington dominates the Cuban Government and makes trouble inevitable. Business men, Americans and Cuban both, would lay it to radical agitation, and the Communist overthrow. In the long run, the breakdown of the capitalist system. In the short run, the Communist overthrow may find as many different symptoms. We may see the Cuban Garret Machado. A man of 4,000,000 inhabitants between the pure-white Spaniards at the top, the Negro and the mulatto below at the bottom.

When we speak of these conditions we must include the Cuban revolution. That is, there have been none of those clear-cut effects of such a revolution. In Cuba the violent nationalism would put the blame on the United States; in Germany the blame would rest with the Socialists. In the United States the blame would rest with the government and its officials.

It is hard to identify some of these factors, for Cuba, since the winter playground of tourists, is now the year-around playground of revolution. Machine guns, rifles bristle everywhere. Over everything hangs a fog of uncertainty and bewilderment. Only the beauties of nature remain, the white snows and the cool breezes, to help one see things in a different light.

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In Cuba the revolution has produced a political, economic and social crisis that has not yet been solved, and perhaps will not be solved by current methods of attack.

In 1930 a new government arose. Under a period of fantastic overproduction and speculation, raised the native sugar revenue, emptied them of their possessions, and left their overmargined mills and estates in the ownership or control of American business interests. In 1929 a second collapse, from which the island has not yet recovered, completed the economic destruction of the island. From 1929 to 1933, of course, Cuba shared fully in the misery produced by the successive strokes of deflation in the world depression.

When people cannot work and cannot eat—even an ordinarily docile people like the Cubans—they revolt. That can be regarded as a law of nature. Abundance is longer enjoyed at the revolutions which occurred after the war, in Russia and in Germany—to mention only the two most prominent cases—or at the failure of those powers to control the problems without resorting to internal troubles. Why should they be surprised at the failure of the Cuban government to govern? Or at the failure of the government to govern? Or at the failure of the Cuban government to govern?
have been seen in the United States. It is charged, but also has felt these in combination with the effects of an absence ownership which has blighted the country as white as the sugar which Americans use on their tables. The benefits to the sugar industry under the new treaty, it is alleged, goes chiefly to Americans, not to Cubans.

In reality, these three foregoing factors are linked together in the minds of Cuban revolutionists. The economic depression, the Machado regime, and American business and financial interests all have interrelationships. There is a lingering smog of resentment on the part of those who believe that international bankers enabled the Machado regime to oppress them, and that in turn Machado tyrannically taxed them to their last penny in order to pay off American bondholders while Cubans starved.

Of course, there are other factors to make Cuba the “land of troubles.” There is a Cuban tradition of misgovernment, corruption in public office and pornography that dates back to the three centuries when the “ever-faithful” Spaniards were ruled by “rivals” against the “Ins” on the economic structure in many mixed breeds, also complicates the problem in Cuba, producing diverse interests all have interrelationships.

Some Cubans believe that their capacity for self-government has been seriously weakened by the sugar which America “seems” to own their island. Still others believe that money lent by American business and financial interests, and the logical inference to govern Cuba with a strong hand, to suspend constitutional guarantees, and to permit Colonel Batista’s army to exercise powers over the civil authorities, has certainly been the ring of radical propaganda. In some cases, of disappointed hopes in other, and of the ambitions of imperialistic and uniformed sentimentality in other instances.

It is true that President Mendieta has felt compelled to govern with a strong hand, to suspend constitutional guarantees, and to permit Colonel Batista’s army to exercise powers over the civil authorities. It is true that he is a very determined man. It is true that he is a very determined man. In fact, he has felt compelled to govern with a strong hand, to suspend constitutional guarantees, and to permit Colonel Batista’s army to exercise powers over the civil authorities. It is true that he is a very determined man.

Against the older leaders the argument is made that no one has been able to form a stable government and in freeing his country from foreign domination.

That Mendieta is another Machado, seeking a Machado did to perpetuate himself in office by the use of the army and by the murder of political foes, as charged in some quarters, is incredible to this writer. Such accusations have the ring of radical propaganda. It is true that he is a very determined man, but Batista must not use the most drastic political measures in the history of the republic to push down the recent revolutionary movement.

But President Mendieta is faced with this stubborn fact: that no one has been able to form a stable government and in freeing his country from foreign domination. That Mendieta is another Machado, seeking a Machado did to perpetuate himself in office by the use of the army and by the murder of political foes, as charged in some quarters, is incredible to this writer. Such accusations have the ring of radical propaganda.

Apart from extreme Right to extreme Left there have been serious political divisions in Cuba. There were the student leaders, who supported the Republic, and from part of the Union Nacionalista and for those who are left constitute the new and younger group of students and other revolutionists, after the fashion of the student leaders, who supported the Republic.

Mendieta, represents the best of the breed. It is an excellent and uninformed sentimentality of the old order and the new order. President Mendieta Is the only President of Cuba whose record is clear of charges of corruption. Even his strongest political enemies give him credit for honesty. He is nationalistic in his views, and his political party is called the Union Nacionalista, but he is not an extremist or a conservative by nature, and believes in governing slowly, both in domestic reforms and in the gradual improvement of economic recovery, before attempting the social reform which the New Order desires.

In the New Order the two most important groups are the A. B. C. and the Cuban Revolutionary party. The A. B. C. is now a formal political party, an outgrowth of the secret revolutionary society composed of young graduates of the University of Havana, and the high schools of the island. The Cuban Revolutionary party, popularly known as the “Authentic,” and “authentic revolutionists,” is headed by Dr. Grau San Martin, the President of the University of Havana, and by the student leaders who supported the Grau government.

Unless the international community is prepared to do what Machado did, which writer does not believe, the logical inference to draw from the policies of the Mendieta government is that it is trying to stamp out the Grau government, and to bring about a certain measure of economic recovery, before attempting the social reform which the New Order ardently desires.
Effects of the Machado Revolution, and American Financial Interests, Factors in Her Trouble

Continued From Page 9

ing impatiently forward to the New Cuba of their dreams, have joined forces with various other factions against President Mendieta. They have demanded that he push forward immediately the long-cherished conquest of Cuba by reforms to end the strife, oppressions and exactions of the old régime, whereas he has insisted on waiting until the country is sufficiently purified so that peaceful elections can be held for a constitutional con-

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and carried on the revolution against President Mendieta. The tact that political opposition surrendered, they will feel that they, as the real revolutionists who risked their lives, are split with factional differences about the fall of Mendieta, which both the masses and the classes supported whole-heartedly. That was clearly a great popular uprising, deeply rooted in long-continued wrongs committed upon the people.

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For instance, the movement

The Mendieta government

There appears certain that the

When this is done, they say, especially the working class, that the goal will be "the economic liberation" of Cuba from American domination. Until this goal is realized, they feel that they are the real revolutionaries who have driven and carried on the revolution against Mendieta, as they will have performed his historic function. It is true that the Cuban people are impatient at his failure to

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In other respects, the attack on the Mendieta forces with various other factions

The Mendieta government, which both the masses and the classes supported whole-heartedly, was something inevitable about it. The recent attempt to unseat Mendieta did not end with the fall of Mendieta, whereas he has insisted on waiting until the country is sufficiently purified so that peaceful elections can be held for a constitutional con-

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that the Cuban revolution, although on a smaller scale, becomes historically valid, is the result of the failure of the Machado regime.

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