

What Is Happening in Mexico?

by Bertram D. Wolfe

IN December the Mexican police arrested thirty-two members of the C.S.U.M. (Red Unions), of the Communist Party, and of the Young Communist League. A dozen of these, Latin-Americans of non-Mexican birth, were summarily deported without trial. Five, Eduardo Callero, Alfonso Cuellar, Santiago Diaz, Antonio Rodriguez and Pablo Santamaria, were condemned to a living death (also without a trial) by imprisonment in the remote penal colony on the tropical islands known as Islas Marias—a hell on earth, if ever there was one.

This was only one of a series of acts of terror which have been perpetrated over a long period of time by the government of Mexico under the guidance and direction of the Mexican Viceroy of King Morgan, Ambassador Morrow, against the Mexican working class and the Mexican anti-imperialist movement. These acts include the assassination of a series of Communist and trade union leaders, the deportation of others, the expulsion of political refugees fleeing from the brutal dictatorship of Uncle Sam's servile tools in Cuba and other Latin American countries, the suppression of the official organ of the Communist Party of Mexico, *El Machete*, the disarming of peasants, the shooting of their leaders, nullification of the land laws, the nullification of the provisions of the Constitution concerning minerals, oil, and sub-soil rights and the general surrender of the country and its toiling masses to the pillage of the financial overlords of 26 Broadway and 23 Wall Street.

It has long been the boast of the cynical agents of Wall Street at present at the helm in Mexico that "on the foreigners we use the 33 (Article 33 is the clause of the Mexican Constitution authorizing the deportation of "pernicious foreigners" and originally aimed against the oil magnates and imperialist agents) and on the natives we use the 30-30 (the small-bore rifle commonly used in the Mexican military campaigns)." One by one many of the best leaders of the Mexican workers and peasants have been assassinated and the 30-30 has not been limited in its application to natives alone as proved by the assassination of the Cuban Communist, Julio Antonio Mella.

On January 23, the Mexican Government broke off relations with the Soviet Union and a few days later, as the Soviet

minister was preparing to leave the country, ordered a provocative police raid on the embassy and searched the minister's baggage in violation of the elementary courtesies of "diplomatic privilege" with which bourgeois governments are supposed to act even when they are preparing to declare war on each other.

What is the meaning of these acts? The meaning is clear. President Rubio has just visited the United States. He came to receive his orders from the home office of the financial octopus whose Mexican agent he is. He no sooner received his orders than he executed them. The puppet strings are plainly visible.

The policy of the present government of Mexico may be summed up as follows: surrender the resources of the country to American capital; crush the labor and peasant movements to make Mexico "safe" for American exploitation; remove the traces of petty-bourgeois revolutionism as quickly as possible; become a junior partner of American capital in exploiting the native masses; earn your crumbs from Wall Street's rich pickings by hastening to obey the master's commands in matters of foreign policy as soon as they are communicated.

The overlords of Mexico had special reasons for ordering the provocative attack on the Soviet Union at the present moment. The main ones were: 1) vengeance for the Litvinov note exposing America's intervention in the Chinese Far Eastern Railway matter; 2) a public declaration to the "disarmament conference" in London that Mexico belongs to the United States—"America for Wall Street"—more coast-line, more war-power; 3) another step in the systematic steady, patient plotting for war on the Soviet Union—a plot already far advanced which includes such recent steps as Stimson's note on China, the Pope's effort to mobilize Catholics, the efforts of the Rabbis' conferences to mobilize nationalist Jews, the Archbishop of Canterbury's effort to mobilize adherents of the Church of England, France's provocations in the scandalous Koutiepooff hoax, Henderson's declarations in Parliament that he "suspects" that there is Communist propaganda in England and is "investigating" to see if his Majesty's "Labor" government should break off relations with the Soviet Union, the German government's raids on Soviet consulates and exoneration of chervonetz counterfeiters and a host of similar threads in a rapidly "thickening" plot to make an imperialist attack on the Workers' Government.

So far as the Mexican government's "heroic" part in this war conspiracy is concerned, it serves only to make clearer to the Mexican masses what the recent arrests, deportations, assassinations, suppressions, governmental strike breaking, wholesale surrender of the country's resources, violation even of the timid, petty-bourgeois, half-way measures of Articles 27 and 123 of the Mexican Constitution have already made clear—that the Mexican government is an agency of American imperialism collecting commission for delivering the country, hog-tied, to its oppressors. This must dispel the last illusions of any sections of the Mexican masses and raise fresh revolutionary forces in Mexico and throughout Latin-America who should-er to shoulder with the revolutionary workers of the United States, will go forward against the common enemy American imperialism, and against its agents, the puppet governments of Latin America.

point of our immediate revolutionary perspectives. On the basis of this we must prepare our trade union tactics, our tactical line in the factories. . . .

Such is the real aspect of the "new turn!" The right hand knoweth not what the left hand is doing! The Ecce's "struggle against the ultra-left" is a *sham battle* because the Ecce itself is the original fountain and source of the ultra-left sickness. In one breath Comrade Manuisky inveighs against "the ultra-left bombast and exaggeration"—on the part of the specially chosen scapegoat; in the other, he officially declares that the struggle for power is coming on the order of business in a number of European countries, that "the funeral march of the Social-democracy" is being sounded, that the sectarian tactics in mass work must be continued and even aggravated . . . !

But such diplomatic manouever and hypocritical twists and turns to shift responsibility expose themselves. The growing opposition movement and sentiment in the Comintern cannot be "dealt with" in this manner. This crisis in the Comintern-growing acuter every day—demands a complete change of strategical line and method of leadership on the part of the Ecce. This change can only be brought about by the Party masses themselves and not by the Ecce from above!