

Wide Apprehension

Reds Harrass Betancourt Regime

By ROBERT BERRELLEZ
Of the Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Critics of President Romulo Betancourt say he is trying to fight man-eating sharks with a butter knife.

The sharks in this allegory are Venezuela's Communists and radical leftwingers. The knife is the legal means the president is attempting to use against them.

There is widespread apprehension over the outcome of this struggle.

Halfway through the fourth year of his five-year term, Betancourt has managed to survive spectacular if abortive attempts from the left and the right to dislodge him.

Last May and again this month the Communists, with some leftwing military support, staged two bloody uprisings at the ports of Carupano and Puerto Cabello. Despite the failures, the Communists are considered far from finished with their assigned task of removing Betancourt.

Their strategy is said to call for a deliberate provocation of a rightist military coup d'etat. This would eliminate the president and unit all leftwing opposition and their instruments of pressure—terrorism and nationwide strikes. This lineup once brought an army-backed

dictator, Gen. Marcos Perez Jimenez, to his knees.

Betancourt is known to be under pressure from an angry military establishment to get tough with his opposition.

The president and his backers have elected to move slowly along strictly legal lines. They want to preserve democratic institutions. They are reluctant to put too many teeth in a legal machinery that might spawn another dictator.

The Venezuelan constitution has no provisions to punish subversion or treason. Dictators in other Latin American countries have used these constitutional features to liquidate political opposition. Betancourt's non-Communist opponents argue that if the government were given powers to outlaw the Communists, then no political party would be safe.

The president has other legal

means at his disposal, however. Those charged with complicity in the recent military uprisings, including civilians, will be charged under the military code with "rebellion against institutions."

Military decisions are appealable to the supreme court. The civil code's article punishing "incitation to delinquency" will be applied to others actively advocating the violent overthrow of the government.

Betancourt has suspended certain constitutional guarantees. He also suspended political activity of the Communist Party and its ally Movement of the Revolutionary Left.

SALEM (AP)—Marion County Health Officer Dr. Willard Stone Tuesday warned residents of the community of Scotts Mills to boil their drinking water.

He said that one of the sources of the town's water supply, Butte Creek, is contaminated.

The town, which has 155 residents, is facing a possible water shortage. Its 8,000-gallon water tank has sprung a leak, and a State Board of Health engineer said that the tank has rotted beyond repair.

The ministry of the interior is preparing to dismiss or deport more than 100 Communist and Movement sympathizing professors in universities and high schools.

There are signs the Communists and sympathizers might have overreached themselves in the Carupano and Puerto Cabello rebellions. The city is plastered with pictures of Puerto Cabello death scenes bearing the legend "Communist Assassins."

Sen. Ildegard Perez Segnini, one of Betancourt's closest collaborators, said Communist violence is "providing the moral grounds for a growing wave of anti-Communism."

"People who have been reluctant to express their feeling lest they be censured as McCarthyites or reactionaries are no longer masking their sentiments," he said.

Olga Luzardo, 42, a member of the chamber of deputies and a founder of the Venezuelan Communist Party, defends violence: "It is the people's answer to an oppressive government that has violated the constitution."

She added: "Even the United States Bill of Rights says the right of a citizen to bear arms shall not be infringed."

Town Warned To Boil Water

Gifts, Grants Totaled

CORVALLIS (AP)—Gifts and grants to Oregon State University this past fiscal year totaled \$4.3 million, James H. Jensen, university president, said Thursday. Of the total, federal government grants accounted for \$3.6 million and the remaining amount was from other sources, he said.



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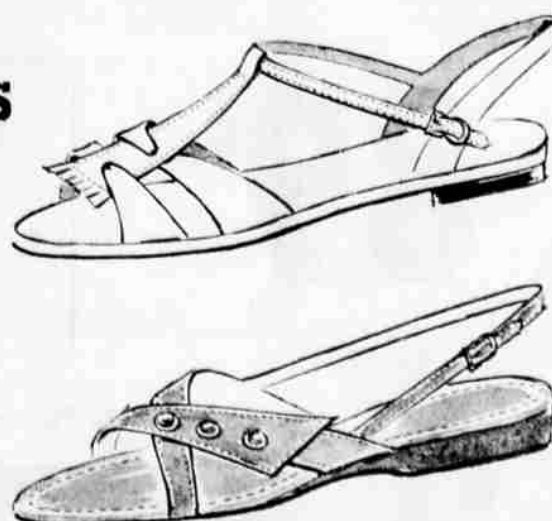
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