

Communists Seen Generating Intense Political Pressure Inside Portugal

By FRANK BARTHOLOMEW
Chairman of the Board
United Press International
Lisbon - (UPI) - Small Portugal, strong and solvent with one of Europe's hardest currencies, finds herself today on the defensive against a smart Communist maneuver as never before in her history.

The Communist underground here seeks to spark and control a swelling unrest among the genuine liberals caused by India's invasion and annexation of the former Portuguese colony of Goa, by the current troubles in Angola,

and by the advancing age of Portugal's prime minister. These factors have generated intense political pressure.

The genuine Communists appear to be in an almost microscopic minority, but many responsible Portuguese believe the Reds are proceeding along a unique line fraught with danger to the regime.

Trigger Border Incidents
You are told that the Reds are seeking to focalize a series of incidents principally along the Spanish border, for the primary purpose of alarming Generalissimo Francisco Franco of Spain in the belief that he may find himself with a flank directly exposed to a Communist nation if he does not intervene.

"The day General Franco sends Spanish troops into Portuguese territory to 'tranquelize' any situation, he will find himself up against a solidified nation which has actually been driven into the arms of communism," a responsible conservative told this correspondent.

"The best hope is that General Franco, a realist, and Dr. Antonio Salazar, Portugal's prime minister who has survived many Communist maneuvers, realize these facts and will not be trapped."

Seen Beyond Control
The asserted Red strategy directed toward creating international involvements appears to proceed on the theory that even though the dangers may be entirely clear to the leaders of the two nations, conditions leading to this end

could be created entirely beyond their control. If so many border incidents

can be made to occur that Portugal, with a substantial part of her armed forces pin-

ned down in Angola against the rival factions of Holden Roberto and Mario Andrade,

could not cope with domestic turbulence, then observers fear that the Spanish army might cross the line with or without invitation.

Talks Held in Spain
The President of Portugal, Adm. Americo Thomaz, conferred in Madrid recently with Generalissimo Franco, with the border situation a reasonably presumed subject of discussion. However, the Spanish government has always laughed off any suggestion of intervention.

It is clear to the most casual observer that, whatever the requirement or desires of either government, Portugal's man in the street would react promptly and emotionally to any invasion of Portuguese soil by troops of another nation regardless of motivation.

Center in Universities
A large part of the genuine political unrest in Portugal, as differentiated from the professional Communist underground, appears to center in the universities. Its focal point is the fact that the prime minister, Dr. Salazar, who came to government himself from the academic world, is now 73 years old and has given no indication of naming a successor to take over his one-man control of the nation's destinies.

One Portuguese journalist remarks privately, "If anything took Salazar out of the picture, all Portugal would blow up tomorrow."
Not so, said another with a more optimistic viewpoint. Provision is made in the constitution for appointment of another prime minister by the president of the republic.

About 3,600 Cubans work at the Guantanamo U.S. naval base in Cuba.

They'll Do It Every Time



Social Workers To Meet at Domiciliary

White City—Acting Director Banks I. Paul has announced that a one day "workshop" for social workers from various VA hospitals and outpatient clinics in Oregon and Washington will be held at the domiciliary Thursday, May 17.

A special panel discussion by representatives of the county welfare department, the Salvation Army, Gospel Mission, American Red Cross and the county service officer, is included in the agenda.

Dr. E. G. Everett, chief medical officer, will welcome delegates and explain the purpose of the meeting, devoted to the changing domiciliary program and the various community services for domiciliary members.

An open discussion is included for consideration of

the admission of veterans from other stations. The meeting will close with a talk on "New Trends in VA Social Work" by Miss Dorothy Druschel, area office representative.

Dinner will be provided at the Rogue Valley Country club.

The essential idea of the meeting is to acquaint the agencies with the planned living program now in operation at the domiciliary, R. E. Kelley, chief of the social work service, said.

PUSHES POLICE AROUND

Providence, R.I. - (UPI) - G. Clifford Adams is one man who can push state troopers around and get away with it. Adams pushed 30 troopers into the Wanshuck Boys Club swimming pool Tuesday to acquaint them with the latest techniques in his course on lifesaving methods.

Washington—(UPI)—The House Tuesday approved a bill that would make a major change in the Uniform Code of Military Justice by giving commanders a stronger hand in punishing errant officers and men without resort to a court martial.



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