

Hands Off Guatemala!

By WILLIAM Z. FOSTER

TODAY the little country of Guatemala is a world issue. This is because it is a real symbol politically. The progressive democratic government established by the Guatemalan people, which the United States is trying so hard to knock out, is a clear example of the steps that the peoples of Latin America generally would take if their countries were not held in the grip of national dictatorships.

At least two-thirds of the 160,000,000 people of the Latin American countries are notoriously in a chronic state of semistarvation. They are kept in this condition by the classes of reactionary capitalists and landowners who rule their countries, in close cooperation with the Yankee imperialists. Just how the people feel about all this, and the course they would take if they could break the fetters holding them in subjection is being demonstrated by Guatemala and, a few months before Guatemala, by British Guiana.

The reactionaries, Yankee and



domestic, who are now dictating the economic and political life of Latin America, are in deadly fear of such democratic developments as those in Guatemala. For they see in them the explosive possibilities of the social volcano which is Latin America. They fear that what happened in Guatemala, in the democratic resurgence of its people, may well also happen in Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Mexico, Cuba, Puerto Rico, and in a whole number of other countries south of the Rio Grande.

GUATEMALA is the symbol of Latin American protest against economic exploitation and political enslavement. It is also the symbol of the determination of the Latin American peoples to maintain their national independence in the face of the arrogant aggression on the part of the "Colossus of the North."

John Foster Dulles got a much-needed lesson in this reality at the current 10th meeting of the Inter-American conference at Caracas, Venezuela. Obviously, he went to the Conference in the easy expectation that he could wipe out the democratic government of Guatemala, much as the United States

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is accustomed to kicking around the Puerto Rican people or as Britain recently treated its colony of Guiana. But at Caracas, he has run into real opposition from many Latin American states which have no love for Yankee intervention and domination.

Dulles is attempting at Caracas to divert the attention of the Latin American peoples away from their serious economic problems—for which the U. S. is largely responsible—and to get them drunk on the anti-red hysteria. He wants to McCarthyize the whole of Latin America, to enable the reactionaries to terrorize the people over an imaginary danger of a Soviet military attack, even as is being done in the U. S. This, of course, would enable the exploiters the easier to pluck them and to subjugate them to their war program.

Obviously Dulles, due to Latin American opposition, is going to be far less successful in this with his necessarily watered down anti-Communist resolution, than his Wall Street masters had hoped for.

THE WHOLE ATTACK of the U. S. State Department upon the Guatemalan government is a gross interference in the internal affairs of that country, an infringement upon its national sovereignty. Undoubtedly, this interference will be directed towards an armed revolt to overthrow the present democratic Guatemalan government, if circumstances should so permit. To this end the U. S. government and the United Fruit Co. are working hand-in-hand.

All this is quite in line with the many counter-revolutions carried on by U. S. agents in Latin America, especially in the vital Caribbean area. It is the up-to-date Latin American version of the Eisenhower-Dulles "liberation policy" of instigating civil wars in countries that refuse to put on the yoke of Wall Street.

A deplorable aspect of the entire situation is the failure of the labor movement of the U. S. to speak out resolutely in defense of Guatemala. It is sheer opportunism for labor leaders to conclude that the working class in the U. S. has no interest in helping to maintain democracy in Latin America. It is worse than that; it is labor imperialism, it is playing the game of Yankee aggression at the expense of the peoples not only of Latin America, but also of the U. S.

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