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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

Journal (Optional)

Biographic Summary on: **LATIN AMERICA SOLIDARITY ORGANIZATION**

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6 September 1968

SUBJECT: LATIN AMERICA SOLIDARITY ORGANIZATION
#ORGANIZATION OF LATIN AMERICAN SOLIDARITY

I. The Latin American Solidarity Organization (LASO) was an off-shoot of the first Tri-Continental Conference which was held in January 1966 in Havana, Cuba under the auspices of the Cairo based Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization. The main outcome of the conference was a series of militant resolutions that brought protests from most of the Latin American republics except Mexico. The 27 Latin American delegates to that conference then formed the LASO. From 7-11 August 1967, the organization held its first conference in Havana, Cuba. The stated aim of this conference was "to unite, coordinate, and step up the struggle against the United States imperialism on the part of all the exploited peoples of Latin America." The slogan of the conference was "the duty of every revolutionary is to make revolution." This slogan was the center of the Cuban propaganda. The propaganda was pointed up by the election of Ernesto 'Che' GUEVARA as honorary chairman "in absentia". The Cuban insistence on the supremacy of "armed struggle" as the only valid course to achieve "national liberation" helped shatter the early ostensible unity between pro-Castro and pro-Soviet Communist Party delegates to the conference.

Also adding to the split was the Cuban resolution condemning by implication the Soviet trade and aid policy toward Latin America. The conference was expected to end with ringing declarations in favor of guerrilla warfare not only in Latin America but also in the Negro ghettos of the United States and anywhere else that seemed appropriate. It was the intention of the militants to develop a strategy, partly inspired by the war in Vietnam, which aimed at drawing the United States into as many scattered commitments as possible in support of governments harassed by guerrilla warfare, including state and city governments in the United States itself. It was theorized that the real significance of the conference may have been the way in which the militants were determined to link the struggles in Latin America with those in Vietnam and the United States.

The agenda of the conference included the following points:

1. The revolutionary anti-imperialist struggle, including armed insurrection in Latin America;
2. Joint action against political and economic intervention by imperialism in Latin America, including a need for a common strategy for all Latin American revolutionary movements;
3. Solidarity of Latin American peoples with national liberation struggles; including support for the American Negro and the defense

of the Cuban revolution against United States aggression.

The tone of the conference was set by Cuban President DORTICOS in his opening speech, he said that an atmosphere of "continental upheaval" was prevalent in the United States as well as in Latin America. Due to racial strife in the United States her capacity to give financial aid to the oligarchy governments in Latin America has been limited. The people must take advantage of conflicts and contradictions in the United States to "...strike with daring and vigor".

One of the highlights of the conference was the presentation of a group of six alleged CIA agents who were captured by the Cuban Army in July 1967. The members of the news media who were present at the conference were permitted to question the prisoners. The questioning was done, for the most part, through a Cuban security officer who acted as an interpreter.

The delegates to the conference were chosen by national committees of the LASO that were formed partly to avoid the problem of rival delegations arriving from the same country. Some represented established communist parties, some extreme nationalist splinter groups, and some guerrilla movements. Observers from many countries and organizations were present at the conference. Delegations arrived from: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Czechoslovakia, Columbia, Domini-

can Republic, Ecuador, Finland, Germany, Great Britain,
Japan, Mexico, National Liberation Front of South Vietnam,
North Korea, North Vietnam, Panama, Peru, Sweden, Uruguay,
and the United States.

The following is the proclamation that was issued
at the Conference.

7015
CSM 10-11-67

Proclamation of the General Declaration of the first Conference of the Organization of Latin American Solidarity.
August 10, 1967.

1. That making the Revolution constitutes a right and a duty of the peoples of Latin America.
2. That the Revolution in Latin America has its deepest historical roots in the liberation movement against European colonialism of the 19th century and against imperialism of this century. The epic of the peoples of America and the great class battles that our peoples have carried out against imperialism in earlier decades constitute the source of historical inspiration of the Latin American revolutionary movement.
3. That the essential content of the revolution in Latin America is to be found in its confrontation with imperialism and the bourgeois and landowner oligarchies. Consequently, the character of the revolution is the struggle for national independence, emancipation from the oligarchies, and the socialist road for its complete economic and social development.
4. That the principles of Marxism-Leninism guide the revolutionary movement of Latin America.
5. That armed revolutionary struggle constitutes the fundamental course of revolution in Latin America.
6. That all other forms of struggle must serve to advance

and not to retard the development of this fundamental course, which is armed struggle.

7. That, for the majority of the countries of the continent, the problems of organizing, initiating, developing and crowning the armed struggle at present constitutes the immediate and fundamental task of the revolutionary movement.
8. That those countries in which this task has not yet been undertaken nevertheless will regard it as an inevitable sequence in the development of revolutionary struggle in their countries.
9. That the historic responsibility of furthering revolution in each one of these countries belongs to the people and to their revolutionary vanguards in each country.
10. That the guerrilla is the nucleus of the liberation armies, and guerrilla warfare constitutes the most effective method of initiating and developing the revolutionary struggle in most of our countries.
11. That the leadership of the revolution demands, as an organizational principle, the existence of a unified politico-military command as a guarantee of success.
12. That the most effective solidarity that the revolutionary movements may practice among themselves, is the furthering and the culmination of their own struggle in their respective countries.
13. That the solidarity with Cuba and the collaboration and

cooperation with the armed revolutionary movement is an undeferable international duty of every anti-imperialist organization of our continent.

14. The Cuban revolution, as a symbol of triumph of the armed revolutionary movement, constitutes the vanguard of the Latin American anti-imperialist movement. The peoples that develop the armed struggle, as they advance along this road put themselves in the vanguard.
15. That the people who have been directly subjected by colonialism of the European countries, in order to achieve their liberation, must have an immediate and basic objective: that of struggling for independence, and uniting with the general struggle of the continent as the only means of being absorbed into U.S. neo-colonialism.
16. That the Second Declaration of Havana that expressed the beautiful and glorious revolutionary tradition of the past 160 years of American history, constitutes the program of the Latin American Revolution which has been confirmed, deepened, enriched, and made more radical by the peoples of this continent during the last five years.
17. That the peoples of Latin America have no differences with any other peoples in the world and extend their hand of friendship also to the peoples of the United States, whom they exhort to undertake the struggle against the repressive policy carried out by imperia-

list monopolies.

18. That the Latin American struggle strengthens its ties of solidarity with the peoples of Asia and Africa and those of the socialist countries, the workers of the capitalist nations, and especially with the black population of the United States which suffers class exploitation, poverty, unemployment, racial discrimination and the denial of their most elementary human rights, and which constitutes an important force within the revolutionary struggle.

19. That the heroic struggle waged by the people of Viet Nam gives valuable aid to all revolutionary peoples who are fighting imperialism, and constitutes an inspiring example to peoples of Latin America.

20. That we have approved the Statutes and created the Permanent Committee, in Havana, of the Organization of Latin American Solidarity, which constitutes the genuine representation of the Latin American peoples.

We, the revolutionaries of our America, the America south of the Rio Grande, successors of the men who gave us our first independence, armed with an undaunted will to fight, and with revolutionary and scientific guidance, and with nothing to lose but the chains which oppress us assert: That our struggle constitutes a decisive contribution to the historic struggle of humanity to liberate itself from slavery and exploitation.

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BASED ON: [REDACTED]

✓ London Times, 2 August 1967

✓ Weekly Summary, 11 August 1967

Tricontinental Bimonthly, July-August 1967

NB. The names of the individuals attending the LASO conference were obtained from [REDACTED] dated 10 August 1967; a Department of State Memorandum dated 18 August 1967, and other Agency Memoranda for the Record.

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