

forces still present in Soviet society would then emerge. The efforts to marshal events by a drastic return to stalinist methods would inevitably result in a worsening of the domestic and international situations, without solving the problem altogether.

The result might be a progressive disruption of the country with the possible break-up of Soviet society into forms we cannot anticipate. This occurrence would spell suffering and grave risk, not only for the USSR. And the development of such a disruptive process could result in the Soviet leaders pursuing aggressive policies abroad.

In any case, the break-up of a country which has a world position such as the USSR would create a power vacuum and a chain reaction of unpredictable but extremely dangerous crises in international relations, thereby increasing once again the effective dangers of war.

In conclusion, the Soviet Union may shortly find herself at the crossroads. The decisions she will take may powerfully affect our lives. Ours may advance hers, and greatly influence her course. They may represent the decisive factor for the East-West and world relationships in the years to come.

When the chips are down, the United States is bound to accord first place to her own hemisphere and to the risks and opportunities which lie on her own doorstep. Europe as a whole, not only Latin Europe, is linked to Latin America by a variety of bonds: bonds of culture, bonds of tradition, and complementary economies, unique in comparison to other regions of the world. There are other objective reasons why Latin America comes first and these are illustrated by the case of Adela.

THE CASE FOR LATIN AMERICA

Adela was devised for Latin America; it could not have been launched for any other developing area. When this novel undertaking was decided upon, the case for Latin America was stated as follows:

The continent has been independent for 140 years, whereas in Africa, non-Communist Asia, and most of the Middle East countries independence is new or quite new. Latin America has had decades of experience with various forms of self-government, or at least local government, and in most of the countries there is deeply-held popular allegiance to the concept of government by the people. There is a great deal of illiteracy, but there is also a great deal of literacy. The cadres are made up of reasonably well-trained and responsible people. It will be a miracle if Africa, for example, manages to have comparable cadres two decades from now.

Latin America is also more fully prepared than the other developing areas in the growing validity and strength of its regional institutions, such as IADB, OAS, ICAP, LAFTA and CACM.

Another basic difference characterizes the problem of development in Latin America, where there are fundamental contrasts between regions and within economic sectors. Underdevelopment in Asia and Africa, on the contrary, is much more even. These contrasts, which are the reflection of bottlenecks and obstacles to development, are also the symptoms of ferments and vitality which are not to be found in the stagnating areas. They also mean that the forces of organization are beginning their process of polarization.

LATIN AMERICAN TESTING GROUND

Finally, Latin America has had extensive experience with a system of economic activity based primarily upon private endeavor. The bulk of activities which Americans or Europeans would consider to be normally in the private sector, are in the private sector in Latin America.

Latin America therefore is presently the great testing ground as to whether a system substantially based upon political freedom and private economic endeavor can work in an underdeveloped region. And the world work has to be interpreted not only economically but also socially and politically.

It depends on Latin American decisions whether an adequate and combined policy for Latin America can be started by Europe and the United States, or whether Europe and the United States will be inclined to indulge in their present uncoordinated and sometimes antagonistic policies with little benefit to Latin America.

Another question was raised some months ago by a prominent American political leader: "whether or not Latin America can successfully walk the razor's edge across the development threshold depends to a large extent on whether or not civilian, democratically elected governments there can provide sufficient satisfaction."