

CACC

NEWSLETTER

July 1, 1984

THE DEADLY WAR OF IDEAS IN GRENADA

Ideas are of the utmost importance to the communists. A conflict between ideas, which seems trivial to the outside observer, is so important to them that it may result in mutual killing. The slaughter of Maurice Bishop and his close associates in Grenada by their communist colleagues illustrates this.

Since the murder of Maurice Bishop and his lieutenants and the subsequent overthrow of the communist regime in Grenada by U.S. forces, there has been considerable soul-searching by communist leaders in the Caribbean.

One of these leaders is Bill Riviere, General Secretary of the Dominica Liberation Movement (DLM), who is a self-proclaimed Marxist-Leninist. He delivered a speech to the Black Studies Department at the City College of the City University of New York, on March 14. Major excerpts from his speech are published in the June 11 edition of the Trotskyist Communist magazine, INTERCONTINENTAL PRESS, under the caption, "The Collapse of the Grenada Revolution". Riviere states:

"I have been emotionally very close to the Grenada Revolution and have had personal and working relationships with the main actors in the October drama. Maurice (Bishop) was a personal friend as far back as 1973... Bernard Coard became a close friend with the triumph of the revolution in 1979. I shared a political relationship with them both." (Page 362) {Maurice Bishop was the leader of the New Jewel Movement of Grenada, and he was Prime Minister of the People's Revolutionary Government. Bernard Coard was the fellow communist who led the faction which murdered Bishop.}

Riviere proceeds to analyze the conflict between Bishop and Coard, paying particular attention to their areas of agreement and disagreement. He states:

"The party was united, too, in the knowledge that the movement from capitalism towards socialism was a process rather than an act. It constituted, that is to say, a period of transition called the stage of national democracy.

"Where disagreement occurred was in terms of the dynamics of that transition period. There were differences not of ideology but in terms of strategy and tactics." (Page 363)

The communists believe that the revolutionary process passes through several stages in its progress from the seizure of power to communism just as the mosquito passes through several stages in its progress from egg to adult. The main stages are: 1) Seizure of Power; 2) National Democracy; 3) Socialism; 4) Communism.

Seizure of Power

Power was seized in Grenada through a coup carried out by 46 armed men. This tiny minority became the government. Although they were communists, dedicated to establishing communism, they were well aware that they could not create socialism or communism immediately since the people were not ready for it. They proceeded to establish what they called, "The national democracy stage". Riviere describes this stage thus:

National Democracy

"The national democratic stage to explain it generally is a state of transition between capitalism and socialism. It is the stage when the objective and subjective preconditions for building socialism are laid down. It is the stage when you hit imperialism hard, but you are not strong enough to kill it.

"You implement measures that will lay the basis for a modern agriculture and industry. You effect actions that will gradually take ownership and control of the economy away from foreigners and place them in national hands. You undertake an agrarian reform that will win the support of the rural peasantry. You introduce programs that will not only increase the size of the working class, but will also heighten its class consciousness in preparation for the leading role that class is destined to play in the socialist stage. You take measures that will guarantee the support of the national bourgeoisie and the intermediate strata whose support is critically necessary at this anti-imperialist stage of struggle. You diversify your economic and political relations with the outside world, without unnecessarily inviting the hostility of imperialism. And you set in train a process of cultural rejuvenation that will free the masses from the mental and psychological effects of colonialism and racism.

During this stage, many observers in the United States and other countries are unwilling to believe that a process leading to communism is taking place. They observe a measure of political pluralism as national businessmen and other prominent non-communists are often included in the government. They are enthusiastic about programs of mass education to overcome illiteracy and the promise, and even the temporary delivery, of land distribution. They may be disturbed by the great propaganda campaign to persuade the people to hate the United States, which is branded as the land of imperialism, but they tend to excuse this because of past and present conduct of U. S. authorities. During this stage, relations with the Soviet Union and its "socialist" camp are established and a crash program of militarization is undertaken. Most importantly, revolutionary committees are established in every locality to spy upon the general public and to organize all their activities.

When the National Democratic Stage is transformed into the Socialist Stage, many observers blame this upon the treatment given by the United States authorities to the National Democracy. This is as reasonable as blaming the coldness of the water for the transformation of the mosquito larva into the adult insect. If only the water had been warmer and more hospitable, the larva would have been content to remain in it. Such observers, who are ignorant of the dynamics of communism, blame the United States for having driven Castro into the arms of the Soviet Communists, and are accusing the U.S. of driving the Sandinista leaders of Nicaragua into a similar relationship by hostile policies.

Socialist Stage

When the time is ripe, the stage of National Democracy is transformed into Socialism. Riviere describes the transformation thus:

"You needed to nationalize the whole economy, in the process putting even the local private sector under 'heavy manners.' ['heavy manners' is a Caribbean expression meaning to suppress, discipline or restrict]. You needed a strictly Marxist-Leninist party, that is to say a Workers Party, a Communist Party to guide the revolution. And you needed to, ... take leadership of the party out of the hands of all except the staunchest Leninists." (Page 363)

Riviere states: "The Coard group imagined that the national democratic stage of the revolution had been completed, and the time was ripe to commence the socialist stage." (P.363)

Bishop believed that the revolution remained in the national democracy stage. Their ideas were in conflict.

The conflict of ideas resulted in a conflict about policies and programs. As Riviere says:

The Coard group felt that the pace of the revolutionary process was being needlessly slowed down because of incorrect direction set by Bishop and the other leaders of government." (Page 363)

Resolution of the Conflict

Coard obtained a majority on the Central Committee of the Party. He could therefore command the Army. He gave orders; the Army fired; Bishop died. He was a casualty in the communist "War of Ideas."

When the communists kill their own so readily, it requires little imagination to predict how they will deal with the "class enemy" if they have unrestricted power in the Western Hemisphere

N.B. Riviere is a communist and uses the word, socialism, as the communists define it. To them it signifies 'The First Stage of Communism'.

GUS HALL ATTACKS PRESIDENT REAGAN

President Ronald Reagan is often accused of using immoderate rhetoric in his exposition of the nature of communism. In actuality, he is a model of objectivity and restraint in contrast to the screaming diatribes of the communist leaders.

The following is a typical communist attack on President Reagan. Its author is Gus Hall, General Secretary and Presidential Candidate of the Communist Party, U.S.A. It is an extract from an article captioned, "The Reagan China Trip in Perspective," which appeared in the June 9 edition of the WORLD MAGAZINE which is a weekly supplement of the communist newspaper, THE DAILY WORLD.

"Ronald Reagan is the world's leading, most consistent imperialist nuclear warhawk; a man who stubbornly pursues a foreign policy based on the development and production of weapons of nuclear superiority and nuclear first-strike capability; a man who views socialism as the 'evil empire' and who actively pursues a policy of using military and economic imperialist power to halt the processes of national liberation and drive the third world countries under the total domination of U.S. imperialism; a man who but a few months ago ordered the placement of offensive nuclear cruise and Pershing missiles on the borders between the socialist countries and the capitalist world; a man who constantly adds to and uses the big lie of anti-communism as the beginning and the end of everything he says and does; a man who actively works to weld together an imperialist, U.S.-Tokyo-South Korea-China axis.

"The Reagan Administration operates with total disregard for international law. Reagan is the head of a government whose policies are rooted in financial and military support to fascist, reactionary, militaristic, death-squad governments the world over; the head of a government that has made undeclared, counter-revolutionary wars an ongoing official policy, the head of a government that maintains on active duty the huge armadas of nuclear naval forces to back up its gunboat diplomacy.

"Whether directly related or not, immediately upon his return from China, Reagan made the most war-inciting speech since the days of Hitler—a speech setting the ideological and political stage for new U.S. military actions against Nicaragua, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Honduras and Guatemala.

"Reagan is the U.S. President who has made counter-revolutionary terrorism a major feature of U.S. foreign policy. Reagan is the U.S. President who has made a fanatic crusade against communism, against the Soviet Union and the socialist world the very center of his political existence.

"The Reagan Administration is the most serious threat to peace in the world today."

HOW THE SOVIET UNION TREATS ITS INDEPENDENT PEACE ACTIVISTS

Dr. John Whitehall flew from Sydney, Australia to New York City to interview the Soviet refugee artist, Sergei Batovrin, who played a leading role in forming an independent Peace Group in the Soviet Union. The Soviet Government showed its devotion to "peace" by first harassing him, then placing him under house arrest, followed by confinement in a mental hospital, and finally exile. The other members of the group received similar treatment.

A report of the interview was published in the May, 1984 edition of the prestigious Australian magazine, QUADRANT. Here are portions of that report:

Persecution

In MOSCOW on June 1982 some Russian citizens called a press conference for Western journalists and announced that they had formed "The Group to Establish Trust Between the USSR and the USA." The conference was held in the flat of a 26 year old artist, Sergei. Batovrin, around whom the group had formed. The group issued an appeal to the "governments and publics of the USSR and the USA" urging the "progressive and finally the complete abolition of nuclear weapon stockpiles and other means of massive destruction, and for the limitation of conventional weapons." Claiming that "elementary trust between the two countries had been lost" the group appealed to the two publics to

share responsibility for the future of mankind by entering a "four sided dialogue" with the governments of the USA and the USSR. They appealed to the publics to launch independent, unofficial peace initiatives and they appealed to the governments to "secure the conditions" for an international, free and open exchange of opinions and information.

They cited a number of specific proposals which were designed to encourage trust between the common peoples in the belief that this trust would ultimately influence the politicians towards peace and disarmament. (They perceived that politicians were "impeded ... by their political interests and obligations.") They proposed that politicians and other leaders should exchange children during school vacations? no one would bomb his own child, would he? They called for television shows in which leaders would answer questions from citizens of the other country. They proposed joint space, medical and third world programs, and that citizens should get to know each other through "people's" cultural exchanges, education programs and language studies. They believe that a marriage bureau could translate nuptial into national peace. War toys would be banned and the military use of animals e.g, dogs and dolphins carrying explosives, would be forbidden.

The Trust Group proposed that a joint SovietAmerican commission be established to research public opinion through regular polls, and then to disseminate that opinion by a special international "peace bulletin". The distribution would be funded and guaranteed by the governments of the USA and the USSR.

Soon after the announcement of the aims of the group, its members were taken to district offices of the Moscow Public Prosecutor and were warned that their activities were illegal being "anti-Soviet and provocative." They were warned that if these activities continued they would result in criminal prosecution under Article 200 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic (F. S. F. S. R.)

It is difficult to comprehend the persecution that followed the announcement of the honest if naive ambitions. Batovrin, speaking in exile in New York in March 1984, recalled that he did expect trouble. He said "it was clear that sooner or later we would be in jail. We understood we would be repressed from the beginning and that any independent group would be stopped by force."

However another founding member of the group, Mikhail Ostrovsky (27) who is also in exile in New York, did not have such initial fears. He remembered that they did expect "some trouble ... we knew the Soviet government did not like independent groups." However he added that they did not expect such a degree of troubles or "that they should occur for being involved for peace, because the government was placing such an emphasis on the peace movement." Ostrovsky was lucky. After several weeks of harassment, Soviet authorities allowed him one of two choices: "North or West." Ostrovsky chose West.

The others were not so lucky. The group was to suffer such repeated trouble that Batovrin explained that persecution became a new "lifestyle". This way of life was to involve house arrests, surveillance, interrogation, threats, beatings, dismissal from employment, jailings, Siberian exiles, incarceration in psychiatric hospitals and according to Batovrin, "attempts at murder."

Within days of the announcement of the group, its members were placed under a succession of house arrests and surveillances. Batovrin said these things don't sound too bad to Westerners "who can't understand." He said however that it was important for them to understand so that the call for disarmament and peace can be linked to the call for human rights. He recalled that surveillance meant a fish bowl existence with at times up to 50 KGB officers around his apartment. He said "if you walk in the streets you are surrounded by 6 or 7 men and if they want you to go in a certain direction, that's the way to go." He began to feel isolated because other citizens obviously sensed trouble and avoided him, with his guards, in the street. Under house arrest, they would be at the front door and so "if you opened it to go out, they would shove you back." In one of these house arrests, Batovrin's wife and daughter were out at the time of its imposition. The KGB refused to allow them back into the apartment, not even to get the baby's clothes. In that house arrest, which lasted a month, Batovrin's mother was escorted from her apartment to a shop, a couple of times a week, to get his food. Almost daily Batovrin was interrogated at the police station. He said "these are not just question and answer sessions but are always a monologue of threats. They would threaten to throw you into the river, break every bone in your body, or push you under a car. Then they would ask don't you care about the health of your daughter, or your wife, or your mother?"

Back in the house, he would spend the time thinking, at times painting but usually trying vainly to get sense out of the

jammed "Voice of America" radio program. "That program was the only way to get any news of our group" he said.

In June after the Trust Group had announced plans for an "international peace line" in which people of various countries were to make international phone calls to discuss the issue of disarmament, the telephones of all group members were disconnected and remain so today.

In a Psychiatric Hospital

In August 1982, the group intended to hold an art exhibit in memory of Hiroshima but the KGB confiscated over 80 of the paintings, arrested Batovrin and took him to a mental hospital. "The most terrible thing about it" recalls Batovrin "is that you don't know if you will be there for days or 20 years." He said he was locked in a room with 20 other people "most severe cases ?some were murderers ? they couldn't talk or say anything ? it was like being locked up with wild animals." There were 100 beds in a row, touching side by side on both sides of the room, with an aisle about a metre wide down the middle. The patients had to sit on their beds or stand in the tiny aisle. Although the door was open, Batovrin said "he couldn't walk out for there was a guard who would hit you in the face."

Batovrin was forced to take depressant drugs which according to his wife caused him to be dazed and withdrawn. He was threatened with "shocks." These are intramuscular injections of sulphur dissolved in peach oil which was in vogue as a therapy for schizophrenia some 40 years ago. It was then thought that the high swinging fevers had some kind of beneficial effect to the brain. It was ineffectual therapy, with a high incidence of side affects and was discarded in Western medicine within a short time. However these "shocks" are still being given in Soviet mental institutions apparently more as a form of intimidation and punishment than for any expectations of cure. Batovrin recalls that other patients were held down and given up to five injections in various parts of their body, at the one time. They would then collapse and suffer for days. He noticed that they were in great pain and were debilitated and confused by the high fever. Also, it was apparent that those people who had been having the "shocks" for a long time had developed a reddish?blue discoloration to their limbs. In some instances amputation was required, according to Batovrin.*

He also witnessed other tortures. Sometimes patients would be tied down to the wire springs of their bed so tightly that they "could not move a finger." They would be left like this for several days ? hungry and thirsty, and excreting upon themselves. Batovrin said "they want to make you feel as if you are less than human." Fortunately for him, he was released after a month due, he strongly believes, to protests on his behalf by Western peace groups. He felt these protests were especially effective because it was at the time when the Soviet Union was attempting to woo these groups in the hope of preventing the installation of the Cruise and Pershing missilies in Europe. Having lost that battle, he now feels that the Soviet Union cares little for the opinion of the Western movement.

As Batovrin's troubles with the KGB continued, he was twice offered an exit visa but refused to leave the Soviet Union. Then, fearing confinement in an asylum where drugs would eventually bend his mind, he and his wife, mother and daughter, left for the sanctuary of the West.

Prison

Oleg Radzinsky, 26 years old, used to teach Russian literature at an adult learning centre. He was an early member of the group and amongst the first to be arrested, and dismissed from his teaching post. After proposing an international "10 minutes of silence for peace" he was again arrested, on 26 October 1982, submitted to a psychiatric examination, and then transferred to the notorious Lefortovo prison in Moscow. According to Batovrin, Lefortovo is a little better than it used to be in Stalin's time ? "now they have to charge you with something before they shoot you."

Radzinsky was eventually tried in October 1983 and sentenced to 18 months jail and five years exile in Siberia. He was denounced by his wife who according to Batovrin "said everything the KGB told her to." Radzinsky is sick. In prison he developed bleeding peptic ulcers and he suffers from severe asthma as well as from pain due to an earlier fracture of a spinal bone. Therefore his trip to Siberia must have been a nightmare. He was crowded into a small compartment in the train with .37 other prisoners who were mostly criminals. The trip lasted a month with the prisoners being shunted into jails on the way. According to Radzinsky "they were always cold, always hungry, and because of insufficient water, always thirsty."

Disappearance

Soon after the foundation of the group, two of its members, Alexander Shatravka (33) and Vladimir Mishchenko (30) went to Siberia to find work as sawmillers. They also wanted to start a Trust Group in that area and to gather signatures for the peace pamphlet. According to Batovrin they "just disappeared." Later the group found out that on July 14th 1982, the two had been arrested and then kept in psychiatric hospitals for some six months. They were then transferred to the infamous Serbsky Institute of Judicial Psychiatry, to establish their mental fitness to stand trial. Having been declared mentally competent, Shatravka and Mischenko were transferred to an ordinary prison, awaiting their sentence.

In April 1983 the two were eventually charged under Article 190 of the Criminal Code, with "spreading wittingly false fabrications that slander the Soviet state and society." The two "slanderers" were sentenced to three years in prison and one year in a hard labour camp.

According to Batovrin the final verdict of the court declared that "an appeal to Soviet society over the heads of the party and the government, which regard the pursuit of peace as the essence of Soviet foreign policy, is slanderous." A special commission of political experts had examined the Group of Trust's document that had been seized from Shatravka and Mischenko. In their final report, the commission declared that the Trust Group's plan for an "international bulletin" was "tantamount to an intent to reveal Soviet military information to a potential aggressor."

Of special importance, however, was the conclusion that the aim of the Group of Trust was "to undermine the authority of the Soviet state and its leaders in the eyes of those same international powers that are evaluated by Soviet leaders as being actually quite useful as an effective reserve in the anti-imperialistic and anti-militaristic ideological struggle." This confirms the Soviet estimation of the international peace movement as being an instrument for Soviet plans.

Unemployment ?Catch 22

Mark Reitman is 48 years old and is married with two children aged seventeen and eleven. When he joined the group he was a mathematician, now he is a labourer. Like most others in the group he is involved in a "kind of a game" with the KGB Batovrin explained that if you are unemployed for three months you can be charged with "parasitism" which can earn you three years in jail. So the game involves finding employment, keeping it secret, having it discovered by the KGB, losing the job, beginning the countdown, finding another job with evidence of employment, keeping it secret...

Reitman was involved in another bizarre game in the middle of 1983. The group had heard that some Greenham Common people had been arrested in England and so they, decided to protest in support. They wrote a letter to Margaret Thatcher and attempted to deliver it to the British Embassy. The first time, they were surrounded by KGB police near the embassy, bundled into a taxi, and taken to a police station. They were told that the police believed a terrorist attack was to be mounted on the embassy and that the group was under suspicion. Then the police said "we are looking for guns" and demanded that the group take off their shoes! Reitman replied "if you are looking for our letter, here it is."

Vladimir Brodsky, a 39 year old cardiologist who accompanied Reitman, decided to insist upon the rules that he should not be searched, without a warrant. He was beaten up. Some five hours later they were released with the information that next time they might try to go to the embassy they could well end up in the river. There were three next times, all of which ended up in long interrogations at the police station, but eventually the letter got through. And then Margaret Thatcher replied. It took four similar attempts to fetch her letter.

Treatment of the Ill

Mark Reitman is a severe diabetic and needs to eat every few hours or he becomes ill, then shocked and unconscious. However since he became active in the group his life has become a succession of long interrogations. According to Batovrin:

they keep him until he is close to shock and then they let him go, but bring him back the next day. The KGB are using

it (his disease). They are simply trying to eliminate him ? for example in October 1983, he was arrested eight times in two weeks.

Each of the group carries a "prison bag" whenever they leave their apartments! Batovrin says that he carried some warm clothes, a toothbrush and some soap. Reitman used to carry food as well but the KGB always took it from him when they arrested him. Furthermore, Reitman has been refused treatment at his usual hospital because "all his files have been lost."

The Cardiologist

Brodsky, the cardiologist, is very important to the group because he is its source of medical knowledge of the consequences of nuclear war. Batovrin says the KGB does not want this information to be spread "because people might personalise the threat and protest against the arms race. Then they might become active and, out of their (the KGB's) control." In March 1983, Brodsky and others made a pamphlet on the consequences of nuclear war, reproduced it 2,000 times and dropped it in the letterboxes of some of Moscow's citizens. They also included lists of the addresses of peace organisations in the West with the suggestion that the citizens write letters.

Not surprisingly, Brodsky has fallen under constant pressure. Batovrin said "we are all really worried about him, he'll be the next to be tried." Brodsky has already spent 15 days in jail. Batovrin says Western peace activists simply don't understand what that means and he explained "there is no trial as such, you are just sentenced for 'hooliganism'. The prisons are terrible." One member was in solitary confinement in a small cell which was empty of all furniture. "It had a concrete floor to sleep on, but the KGB poured water on it."

Brodsky has been under increasing harassment in his job in an intensive care ward. It is the very nature of these wards that often patients die and this has afforded the KGB an opportunity to raise questions regarding his medical competence. He has also been pressured by charges of illegal abortions, stealing medicines and distributing narcotics.

Assaulting the K.G.B

The story of Yuri and Olga Medvedkov is no different. Both were leading geographers when they became early members of the group. Yuri has been demoted but fortunately is still employed. His 35 year old wife is facing a trial for having "assaulted a police officer."

Yuri was the first to experience 15 days in jail when he was charged with "hooliganism" in association with "harassing an old lady". He and another member went to send a telegram when they were surrounded by a small group of men who began to harass them and would not let them get off at a particular Metro station. Then, on a bus, a young lady pushed the geographer and began to shout "he is attacking me." The two thought they were being "set up" and sought the protection of an ordinary police station. The policeman on duty kindly offered to drive them home. However on seeing that he was being followed by official cars the policeman returned to his office, and after consultation with the KGB officers charged the two men with "pushing an old lady at the bus stop." At the subsequent "trial" the officer appeared as the witness to, the crime! When the charges were read it was claimed that the assault had occurred at noon, but it was shown that they were in the police station at that time! "But no one cared", according to Batovrin, and they got 15 days.

Olga Medvedkova is 2?3 months pregnant and has an eleven year?old son.

She and several others had attempted to attend Oleg Radzinsky's trial on October 13th but were stopped by police about 400 metres from the courthouse. They were then taken to a police station and after several hours were told that they could go. However a big van had backed up against the front door of the station, presenting its interior as the only exit. The police reassured them that they were merely being taken to the Metro, but the group were not unexpectedly suspicious. Olga refused to accept the offer and then, according to smuggled letters, was picked up by her 'hands and feet and thrown, not into the van, but against a wall, and, not once but several times. During one throw, she recalls "flying through the air and grabbing a door handle, which came off in her hand." Thus were assaulted, the police officers of the Soviet Union. Later she was charged, apparently under Article 191?C of the Russian Criminal Code and since then has been under constant surveillance, regular interrogation and house arrest. The other members of the group face perjury charges if they refuse to give "evidence" against her, The date of her impending trial is a kept

secret.

Soviet Goal

Blok and another demoted physicist, Yuri Khronopub, have now both resigned from the group. Batovrin bears them no ill will. He says they both suffered continuously ? "it's really terrible."

Speaking in his small unit in a poor, Spanish area of New York Batovrin said it was important that Western peace activists knew of these things because "(they) did not understand the Soviet government this is natural, being in a different world, to have a different view of the Soviet Union. If they go there, they go through red carpeting, they are always fooled. I want to help' people realise this."

He complained "they don't understand they can't influence the Soviet officials". He gave as an example, the Trust Group's call for a nuclear free Moscow. He said "when London was made a nuclear free zone, we suggested Moscow should become one. We, all eleven, were taken to the prosecutor's office and told it was 'provocative' ? anti?Soviet! If the Londoners were awaiting a response that was it." He said "if we were to go and protest at a missile base (like Greenham Common) we would be shot down, within the law. If we were to demonstrate against the S.S.20's, we would be charged with treason."

Unlike many Western peace groups, the Trust Group does not call for unilateral disarmament of the West. Batovrin says:

if the U.S. disarmed, the Soviet authorities would immediately press on the West, and even if there were no (Soviet) tanks immediately in Europe, there would be a slow Finlandisation of Europe.

When questioned as to why the Soviet Union has such a superiority of conventional weapons in Europe, Batovrin stated:

I believe it is for influence. It's a method of expansion of influence. I wouldn't call it peaceful ? it is by military pressure ? blackmail. The Soviet Union wants military superiority to expand its influence the possibility to dictate what they want.

Reaction of Western "Peace" Groups

Not surprisingly the group has not found favour with pro?Soviet peace groups. These groups either deny the existence of the Trust Group, claim it to be irrelevant, or that it was formed merely to expedite the exit visas of the leaders. Batovrin counters these arguments by saying that his group exists and is growing, and therefore in the closed society of the Soviet Union is highly relevant. He says that it now has over 2000 members in nine different cities. Support groups have been spawned outside Russia and have received similar oppression. In January 1983 L. Doronina was arrested in Riga, Latvia. She was charged with possession and distribution of disarmament documents issued by the Trust and according to Batovrin, was alleged to be guilty under Article 70 of the USSR Criminal Code (anti?Soviet agitation and propaganda) and sentenced to 5 years in labour camp and 3 years in exile.

Further evidence of the relevance of the Trust Group are the independent peace groups that it has inspired. The "Group of Goodwill" has about 400 members, mostly in Moscow. It has spread disarmament information, held demonstrations and exhibitions and has attended seminars with the Trust Group. This group has a more youthful following than the Trust Group but has not escaped persecution. The "Independent Initiative Group" has a smaller number of supporters and also holds demonstrations.

On December 8th 1983 the leader of the Group of Goodwill, Yuri Popov, was arrested and taken to Moscow's Neuro? Psychiatric Centre No. 14 ? and is still there. He is having "shocks". He is allowed no visitors.

POST OFFICE BOX 890 227 EAST SIXTH STREET LONG BEACH, CA. 90801 ?0890 Area Code (213) 437?0941

Christian Anti?Communism Crusade

July 1, 1984

Dear Friend,

I confess to being in a state of emotional conflict. Encouragement wars with discouragement.

I am encouraged because many of the friends and supporters of the Crusade are aware of the nature and magnitude of the communist danger and know what must be done to avert it. They are also willing to make the sacrifices required to conduct a program of action based on that knowledge.

The following letter exemplifies this. It is one of a number that we have received in this vein:

"In response to your appeal for a doubling of donations, Mary Ann and I would like to double our monthly contribution. Starting this month, we pledge \$200 per month to the CACC.

"We have increased our contribution for a number of reasons. First, the communist encirclement of the United States is proceeding at an alarming rate. Second, educational programs, such as you are conducting, are the only effective way to fight communism in the free world. Third, your educational programs offer people the hope of eluding communist takeover; this is far better than trying to free them after they have been enslaved. Fourth, your programs are effective and must be increased, if we are to win against the massive effort supported by the world communist movement.

"Thank you, Dr. Schwarz, for your many years of sacrifice and dedication. Our prayers are that God will bless the efforts of you and your staff."

Bruce Ronald Fiene, Ohio

I am discouraged because such individuals are too few. The number of gifts and the total income is diminishing instead of increasing. The income for May and June this year is substantially less than that for the same period last year.

I am encouraged by the worldwide response to the exposure of communism. The Rev. James Colbert has just returned from conducting seminars in Kenya and Tanzania, Africa; and Andhra Province in India. In Africa, he was accompanied by the Dr. Aradom Tedla, who is black, a graduate of the Universities of Colorado and Rome, and a devout Christian. Dr. Tedla's escape from Ethiopia was featured in an article in the December, 1983 edition of READERS DIGEST. They had some exciting and frightening experiences in Tanzania, a socialist state. These will be reported in our July 15 newsletter.

The good news is that the response to the message of the people everywhere, including Tanzania, was enthusiastic. The typical reaction was: "We must learn more and expose the real nature and aims of the communists to the people here." They pleaded for increased assistance in the form of more literature, tape-recorded messages and tape recorders, and help with transportation and food so that they can take the message to the schools, churches and villages.

You can reinforce the encouragement and disperse the discouragement by a good gift. An accompanying letter expressing your determination to share the burdens and offering suggestions, advice and constructive criticism, will be most welcome. I thank you for your encouraging and inspiring support.

With Christian love,

Fred Schwarz