

## British Expert Sees "Comic Strip View of History" in This Military Ideology

(Continued from Page One)

and "national communist" revolution which recalls the National Socialism of Hitler. The other was the extent to which they leaned for support not only on special cadres of professional soldiers and elite elements, like the parachutists, but on Foreign Legion units largely composed of Germans. We are recruiting similar adventurers from Central and Eastern Europe for service in the so-called Special Warfare units. They seem to come chiefly from right-wing elements. I was told that there were many former *Chetniks* among them; these were the Royal Yugoslav partisans under Mihailovitch, who collaborated during certain periods with the Nazis. The anonymous memorandum in the *Army Navy Air Force Journal* ends by saying "the two names . . . who are most mentionable in this field are Colonel Ed Lansdale, OSO, and Slavko N. Bjelajac, Special Warfare." When I reached Mr. Bjelajac by phone at the Pentagon, he admitted he had served with the Yugoslav Partisan forces under Mihailovitch.\*

### The Birch Society Mentality

It is no wonder the revolting French officers thought they had American sympathizers. I found at the Pentagon that ACSI (Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence) had translated and circulated widely among senior officers the leading "ideological" work of these French Colonels. This was put together by a Colonel Lacheroy under the pen name of Ximenès in a special double issue (Feb.-Mar. 1957) of the *Revue Militaire d'Information*. Mr. Werth calls it "amateurish and even childish in its starry-eyed discovery of the 'revolutionary war tactics' of Bolshevism," but it seems to have been regarded as hot stuff indeed at the Pentagon where it fit neatly into the Birch Society style views all too prevalent among some officers. A British writer who served in Amer-

\* It is interesting to notice that the Cuban exiles who told Sam Pope Brewer (New York Times, May 7) that they had been imprisoned and mistreated for objecting to the presence of Batista men in the Guatemalan training camps, described some of the supposed CIA men in charge as speaking English with an accent, "perhaps of Central European origin."

### Open Letter to the President

" . . . We are opposed to any further intervention in Cuba, direct or indirect. . . . Any transformation of the present Cuban regime must be the work of the Cuban people themselves. . . . The most basic issue is not the misplanning and incompetence of the CIA. . . . There are not guns enough and planes enough to keep Communism out of Latin America. . . . The only real defense is an offensive for social justice. . . . We believe that the Cuban revolution has turned upon its original democratic aims. . . . But we also believe that the U.S. must bear part of the responsibility for this tragic development. . . . From the present debacle we must derive new wisdom. . . . Let this nation now declare that it will not launch or direct any military attack upon Cuba. . . ."

—From a letter to President Kennedy May 4 initiated by Norman Thomas and also signed by Lionel Abel, James Baldwin, Roger Baldwin, Dr. John Bennett, Eric Bentley, Leroy Bowman, Van Wyck Brooks, Robert Delson, Mark Van Doren, Rev. John La Farge, Patrick Gorman, Prof. Manuel Gottlieb, Rev. Donald Harrington, Robert Heilbroner, Nat Hentoff, John Haynes Holmes, Rabbi Isidore Hoffman, Darlington Hoopes, H. Stuart Hughes, George K. Hunton, Robert M. Hutchins, Murray Kempton, Wm. Kemsley, Seymour Martin Lipset, Lenore Marshall, Emil Mazey, Stewart Meacham, H. L. Mitchell, A. J. Muste, Clarence Pickett, Norman Podhoretz, Charles Price, Philip Rahv, A. Philip Randolph, Dr. David Riesman, Prof. David Spitz, Irwin Suall, Mark Starr, I. F. Stone, Walter Uphoff, Dan Wakefield, Edmund Wilson, Elena Wilson, Frank P. Zeidler.

ican Combat Intelligence during the last war criticized these French military ideologists for a "comic strip concept of history" which tended to see a Communist plot behind all colonial insurrectionist movements, whether left or nationalist. (Paret: *The French Army and La Guerre Revolutionnaire*, Journal of the Royal United Service Institution, Feb. 1959, reprinted by the British Institute for Strategic Studies in the March-April, 1959, issue of its organ, *Survival*.) The Steve Canyon comic strip mentality is even stronger at the Pentagon.

(More Next Week)

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