

U.S. Strangely Helpful to Nasser

By Drew Pearson

While the Pan-American foreign ministers were voting sanctions against Fidel Castro in Cuba, the United States was in the ironic position of supporting with millions of dollars in wheat another dictator who has been even more effective than Castro in opposing U.S. policies — namely Gamal



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Abdel Nasser of Egypt. President Nasser has seized all American property in Egypt just as Castro did in Cuba. He has socialized industry just as Castro did. And he has waged a vicious, subversive campaign against American interests all around the Near East. It has been far more successful than Castro's campaign against Venezuela and other U.S. friends in the Caribbean.

Despite this, American aid to Nasser is more than the Russian contribution to building the Aswan dam. It totals \$418, million since 1955.

It was in 1956 that Russia decided to start building the Aswan dam. Since that time the Soviet Union has loaned

Egypt a little over \$250 million, all of which is in the form of a credit and must be paid back.

The American contribution to Nasser is in the form of U.S. grain paid for in Egyptian currency, which is left in the country. It amounts to almost a gift. Sixty per cent of all wheat used in Egypt comes from the United States. And this food helps pay for Nasser's propaganda campaign against the United States.

Nasser's Campaign

Here is what he is doing:

- While the Republican Party was meeting in San Francisco, nobody noticed that the Libyan Foreign Minister, Hussayn Maaziq, visited Cairo and promised Nasser to throw Americans out of the Wheelus Air Force Base at Tripoli. This is the biggest bomber base we have outside the U.S.A. and our lease does not expire until 1967. However, the Libyan government, as a result of Nasser's prodding, is urging us to get out earlier.

- Nasser is also putting the heat on Emperor Haile Selassie in Ethiopia to cancel the U. S. communications base at Kagnew on the Red Sea. This is the most important foreign communications base we have. It is essential for tracking satellites. So far Haile Selas-

sie has refused to budge, but Nasser is now accusing him of being a colonialist.

Castro, incidentally, has tried to get our bases canceled in Panama and Guantanamo but has not succeeded.

- Nasser has received arms from Russia just as Castro has — though considerably more. He is now sending surplus arms to Somalia in order to stir up guerrilla warfare against our good friend, Ethiopia. This is what Castro has tried to do, though he has not succeeded, by shipping arms to Venezuela and Brazil.

The United States has had to supply Ethiopia with arms to combat this warfare. Thus, we are supplying wheat to Egypt, which helps pay indirectly for arms to Somalia, and then we have to send arms to Ethiopia to combat Nasser's arms.

- American wheat is also going to help pay for 40,000 Egyptian troops kept in Yemen. This is an attempt by Nasser to win control of Saudi Arabia and the American oil properties there, just as Castro tried to penetrate Venezuela in order to control U.S. oil properties in that country.

Biting the Hand

The radio propaganda campaign against the United States in this Red Sea area

is vicious—so much so that the Yemen Republic recently apologized to the American Embassy.

The attacks occurred at the same time the United States was helping Yemen construct new roads, build a water purification plant and supply other economic aid. Yemen officials made it clear that the Egyptians controlled the press and radio through their 40,000 troops and there was nothing Yemen could do about the anti-American tirades.

- While President Nasser does not want war with Israel now, he is paying German technicians and scientists to develop modern rockets and, he hopes, nuclear weapons. American wheat indirectly is helping to pay for the cost of these former Nazis.

All this raises a serious question in the minds of our Allies. They wonder why the United States continues to subsidize a dictator who follows exactly the same policies as Castro and is more effective in carrying them out.

When in Israel, I queried Israeli leaders as to whether they were worried over a Nasser attack. They are not—at least not until he develops the modern rockets on which the former Nazi scientists are working, which we are helping to pay for.