

Guevara said.

The commander took the money, and his troops, already dispirited by government corruption, obligingly looked the other way. Guevara and his men moved through Camaguey Province, almost within sight of the central highway, and into the mountains of the Escambray.

So you see, this guerrilla fighter was little more than a cunning fox who hardly fired a shot at this time in his career. Another example of this cunning is to be found when the guerrilla fighters were reported to have valiantly "captured" the only armored military train in Cuba. Castro's effective propaganda organ, Radio Rebelde, described this action as a "fierce battle." What actually happened is that the train was sold to Castro by one of Batista's disillusioned officers. A few machinegun bursts at the empty train to make it look good—and the deal was consummated in a triumph of Castro propaganda.

The doubtful hero's diary hurriedly put together in Havana. Castro's introduction says that his guerrilla force landed in Cuba on December 5, 1956, when in fact it landed on December 2. Later, a guerrilla engagement is reported to have taken place on December 3. The inconsistencies run throughout the introduction. Castro's imagination is fantastic.

IF YOU APPROVE OF THE LIFE LINE PROGRAM, PLEASE TELL OTHERS OF THE STATION AND TIME THEY MAY HEAR THE BROADCAST.

This fantasy is what brought Che Guevara to Bolivia where he was shot and killed. He planned guerrilla strategy to a fine point, and with Castro's brilliant propaganda, Che actually believed his strategy had worked. This was his downfall. His success in Cuba had been due to the weakness of the government forces which would have done anything to get rid of Batista.

Off he went to Bolivia, believing himself to be the greatest strategist of all time. And what did he find? A people loyal to their own government and a weak comrade, Regis Debray, who betrayed him to save his own neck. Che's corrupt plans did not tempt the Bolivians. If he was to conquer he was going to have to fight. And it was then that he found he wasn't quite the strategist he thought himself to be. Che was subsequently hunted down, shot, and the guerrillas were captured or killed.

Castro's propaganda brought his own defeat. For once the truth won, and communism lost a figure of some stature for its cause.

Guevara the fox is dead. Debray must be chilly in the Bolivian prison. And Castro must be more than uncomfortable in his insecurity. A false image is a dangerous thing to have in a leader. Could it happen again in Cuba?

"A lie stands on one leg, the truth on two." (Ben Franklin)

Life Line

FREEDOM TALK

A DAILY RADIO COMMENTARY BY

LIFE LINE

November 1, 1968

DALLAS, TEXAS 7 506

No. 6

This is LIFE LINE, Melvin Mann from Dallas.

1. THE MYTHICAL SPLIT 2. DIARY OF A FOX

There is a mythical split between Cuba's Fidel Castro and the Soviet Union that is being talked about far too much these days. Misguided persons who would have us believe that Communist Russia is no longer supporting the plan for revolution in Latin America are prevalent in official Washington circles. Misleading reports in our national press show that some American journalists are falling into the same trap.

It is to Russia's advantage for the West to believe that it no longer seeks to dominate Latin America. Communists want us to think that their infiltration is nothing more than coexistence and helpful trade. This has been proven false time and again.

Last January, Colombia and Soviet Russia renewed diplomatic relations. The Soviet Ambassador, Nikolai Belous, had already been relieved of his position in Argentina. That was because he was found to be heading up a vast network of subversive activities, and Colombian President Carlos Restrepo was well aware of this subversion. Restrepo and Ambas-

sador Belous assured the Colombian people that Russia was interested only in diplomatic relations and would avoid interfering in Colombia's internal affairs. In mid May, news that the Soviets were doing the opposite burst upon Colombia with the force of a bomb.

Two Castroite couriers were apprehended at Bogota's airport, carrying over \$100,000 in cash and plans for launching urban guerrilla warfare in Colombia. The money was to have been delivered to Castro's guerrilla chief, Fabio Vazquez. To make matters worse, the two couriers revealed they had received their assignment in Mexico from a Soviet diplomat who had given them both money and plans.

The "double-track" strategy of Russian infiltrators in Latin America is not hard to prove, yet many people assure us that this is not so.

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Colombia passed a resolution last January which proclaimed: "The guerrilla movement is active and has successfully resisted all attempts to

destroy it." It went on to emphasize that guerrilla warfare is complementary to other forms of communist subversion.

The June issue of the Soviet-controlled publication, *World Marxist Review*, stated: "There is no contradiction between armed and non-armed forms of struggle—they complement each other. By supporting and facilitating both, our party has proved that armed struggle is harmoniously blended with other forms of the people's struggle which, in combination, make up our strategy."

In an article written for *Pravda*, U.S. communist leader Gus Hall stated: "You cannot possibly imagine how much easier it is for the American communist to speak to rank-and-file Americans... The Korean War succeeded in convincing a substantial part of our people that the Soviet Union was the aggressor. Today, it is rare for any American to imply in any way that the Soviet Union is acting the role of aggressor... They are condemning the U.S. criminal aggression in Viet Nam... profound ideological progress...."

The idea that the Kremlin bosses and Castro are no longer seeing eye to eye is simply not true. For fifty years no top Mexican official had visited the leaders in Moscow. However, Foreign Minister Antonio Flores went recently on a good will visit. He asked Com-

munist Party boss Brezhnev if the Russian government would sign the Treaty of Flatteloco. This treaty, already endorsed by the U.S. and Britain, proclaims that all signatories recognize Latin America as a nuclear-free zone—meaning one in which nuclear arms will never be used.

To the Mexican foreign minister's utter amazement, Brezhnev frankly said that the Kremlin wouldn't approve the treaty since Castro was violently opposed to it and had refused to sign it.

Castro has openly stated that Cuba will not hesitate to use nuclear weapons if and when it suits Havana's purpose. From time to time Castro has hinted to foreign diplomats that not all of the Soviet nuclear-tipped missiles were withdrawn during the 1962 missile crisis.

Moscow has no intention of backing an agreement that would prevent Castro's use of nuclear weapons in the Western Hemisphere. Fidel Castro is very useful to the Russian communists, and they back him financially and militarily.

For those who believe in co-existence with the enemy of freedom, the split between Moscow and Havana is nothing more than a pipe dream. For those who understand the purpose of communist strategy, this double-track plan is yet another hoax to dupe the native.

DIARY OF A FOX

When guerrilla fighters let one another down they do it in a big way. The end of Che Guevara came when French Marxist Regis Debray was captured and, as the saying goes, "sang like a bird." He is now paying the price for his infidelity by spending the next thirty years in a cold and dank Bolivian jail.

Che Guevara, the hero of Castro's guerrilla activities in Cuba, is not the hero some believed him to be. The campaigns which were referred to, as the "great guerrilla victories" back in 1957-58 occurred only in the imagination of Fidel Castro—not on the battlefields of Cuba.

Castro sent Che Guevara's diary to the editor of the leftist publication, *Ramparts*. *Ramparts* Editor Robert Scheer says it was his privilege to share these reminiscences with his readers. Several pages are missing, and surely the diary was tampered with before being sent out of Havana. Nonetheless, the editor is flattered that he should be used by Castro for telling the story of Cuban communist activities in Latin America.

An introduction written by Fidel Castro includes Guevara's much talked about march from Oriente Province to the Escambray Mountains in the fall of 1958, and would mislead the most cynical observer of the campaign. The picture of daring, brilliant strategy

and courage is quite different from the true facts.

Here are the details of Che Guevara's band of guerrillas marching from Oriente Province to the Escambray Mountains in the fall of 1958:

Castro would have been content to keep all of his forces safely holed up in the mountains some 500 miles from Havana. But there were two other anti-Batista groups that forced him to send Guevara on the march. The two bands, known as the Second Front of the Escambray and the Student Directorate, moved into the mountains following a bold attempt by the Student Directorate on March 13, 1956, to storm the presidential palace and assassinate Batista. Guevara was told to challenge these two groups and their authority over a large part of the mountainous region in central Cuba.

This is how Che Guevara did it. Guevara and a group of men made their way to Camaguey Province, bordering on Oriente, and there stopped at the U.S. Department of Agriculture experimental station. Here they expropriated jeeps and other items at gunpoint. Guevara wrapped \$100,000 in U.S. currency in a bundle and sent it to the military commander of Agronomic Barracks, together with a note advising him to take the money and let him pass. If this did not happen, then he would surely be shot "when the revolution triumphs," so