

# Peru Woos Reds as U.S. Backstop

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and Jack Anderson

The government of Peru, which hasn't had diplomatic relations with Soviet Russia for years, is now frantically pulling wires to patch up diplomatic relations. The motive is to be able to jockey the U.S.A. off against the U.S.S.R. following Peruvian seizure of American oil properties and possibly copper companies.

The new Nixon Administration, which hasn't yet been able to find an Assistant Secretary of State to handle Latin American affairs, has until April 9 to patch things up.

After April 9 the fat will be in the fire, and you may see the first country on the South American continent—Peru—go the way of Fidel Castro.

April 9 is the date on which it is mandatory under the Hickenlooper Amendment to cut off the Peruvian sugar quota and all aid to Peru in retaliation for the seizure of the International Petroleum Company by the Peruvian military.

The military have been armed by the United States and many of them trained in American military schools in the past. However, they constitute the most serious threat to U.S.-Peruvian relations in a century. Some of the young officers have been studying the doctrines of Mao Tse-tung and Fidel Castro. They are vehemently anti-American.

Note 1—It was a previous

Republican Administration under Gen. Eisenhower which let Cuba slip into the hands of Castro by too much hand-sitting. While the Cuban revolution drifted from bad to worse, the State Department under John Foster Dulles did nothing.

Note 2—Peru has sent a first class diplomat, Fernando Berkemeyer, to Washington as ambassador to try to appease the situation. Berkemeyer long served as Ambassador in Washington, and single-handedly negotiated the sugar quota which Peru now enjoys. He shunned the lobbyists hired by other countries. Today, however, in view of rapidly escalating political events and the do-nothingism of the new Administration, he is less helpless.

## Assassination Study

The National Commission on the Cause and Prevention of Violence has been studying the '81 assassination attempts on the lives of American Presidents and prominent office-holders and has concluded that assassination may be becoming a way of life in the United States.

The Commission discovered that "Presidential assassins appear to have much in common.

"Of the nine persons who made the eight assassination attempts (on Presidents)," the report observes, "all were Caucasian males, smaller than average in stature, and ob-

essed with some cause of grievance that appears to be almost delusional.

"Except for John Wilkes Booth, all were virtually unknown; five were born abroad but were U.S. citizens at the time of the attacks; and four had tried marriage only to fail within a short period. The socio-economic status of seven deteriorated during the year prior to the assassination attempt. All used firearms, and all but one used handguns, in their attacks. Thus evidence suggests that Presidential assassins may fit a psychological pattern."

"The experience of other nations suggests that once assassination becomes part of a nation's political culture its eradication may be extremely difficult," warns the unpublished crime report. "The tragic murders of several national leaders in recent years have made Americans painfully aware of the vulnerability of prominent figures and have raised fears that the United States may face a growing threat of political assassination . . .

"As several of our Presidents have observed," the report continues, "it is difficult to prevent a determined assassin from killing a President, particularly when a mentally disturbed social isolate acts alone to avenge some real or imagined wrong."

The Commission believes, however, that the presidential

risk can be reduced by throwing obstacles in the way of possible assassins.

There also appears to be a political pattern behind the assassination trend.

"Several groups in our society," warns the report, "are impatient for, or threatened by, rapid social change. They tend to see the Government as indifferent to their needs and even as punitive towards them. The members of such groups are generally of lower socio-economic status than the rest of society.

"The task force is studying such groups—both black and white—and is paying particular attention to those who might be said to be part of a 'white ghetto.' The National Advisory Commission on rural poverty has concluded that substantial numbers of white rural Americans are living in a state of poverty and cultural deprivation comparable to that experienced by many black Americans; a similar conclusion might be warranted for some white urban residents. It is from these 'white ghettos' that many extremist and racist organizations such as the Ku Klux Klan recruit their members."

Meanwhile, the Commission is continuing its study "to illuminate the fundamental reasons why individuals and groups choose violence against prominent persons as the means of solving their political or personal problems."

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