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Uncertain Character Revealed

Trial Shows Up Communism in

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SANTIAGO, Chile, Nov. 21—The uncertain character of communism in Cuba was again displayed this week in a repercussion from the sensational trial eight months ago of Marcos Rodriguez, a young Communist informant to the Batista police who in 1957 caused the death of four young revolutionaries.

Veteran Communist leader Joaquin Ordoqui was suspended Wednesday from his post as armed forces vice minister and from the national directorate of the United Party of the Socialist Revolution (PURS). Premier Castro said Ordoqui's "political conduct" since 1957 is to be investigated.

Evidence was produced at the nationally-televized trial last March that Rodriguez in Mexico later in 1957 told Ordoqui's wife, Edith Garcia Buchaca, that he had informed the Batista police of the whereabouts of four hiding members of student revolutionary directorate who had attempted to assassinate dictator Fulgencio Batista. Not only did Ordoqui and his wife keep this fact hidden but Ordoqui intervened several times after the Castro regime took power in 1959 to protect young Rodriguez from the prosecution which last April led to his execution.

Helped Negotiate Pact

Ordoqui, until very recently responsible for Communist indoctrination of the Cuban armed forces, and former Popular Socialist (Communist) Party boss Blas Roca negotiated the 1938 pact with Batista which was the prelude to legalization of the Communist Party and Batista's first presidential term.

Castro climaxed his five-

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hour testimony at the end of the Rodriguez trial by trying to stem fears of a general purge within his regime, urging the exoneration of Edith Garcia Buchaca on the ground that "never can the word of a confessed and proven informer be taken against the word of a revolutionary." Ordoqui himself was not mentioned in this context.

The widely-known hostility of leaders of Castro's July 26th Movement, now

Shortly after Castro's Dec. 1, 1961 speech declaring himself a Marxist-Leninist, his name stopped appearing in the Communist newspaper Hoy.

Under an agreement engineered by Soviet Ambassador Sergei Kudrievstev, Fidel and Raul Castro and Minister of Industries Ernesto Guevara remained out of public view to allow the PSP group to show they could run things better.

According to this account, Russian advisers appeared at the side of each cabinet minister. Ordoqui, a PSP politburo member, tried to run the army for the integrated Revolutionary Organizations (ORI).

ORI organizational Secretary Anibal Escalante named PSP functionaries to most

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merged into the PURS, toward the old PSP has generated two major internal eruptions in the course of the Cuban revolution: Castro's 1962 denunciation of old guard PSP leader Anibal Escalante for "sectarianism" and, exactly two years later, the Rodriguez trial. Ordoqui was a key figure in both cases.

Western diplomatic informants interviewed during a 10-week visit to Cuba last summer told this reporter that the Escalante affair represented an effort, coordinated by the Russian embassy in Havana, by the Politburo of the old PSP to displace Castro and his July 26th associates at the head of the revolutionary government.

national and provincial Party command positions, arousing intense jealousy among July 26th elements.

Castro intervened with his denunciation and expulsion to Czechoslovakia of Escalante at a moment of high friction between the two groups. Shortly thereafter, according to Havana diplomatic sources, Castro requested and obtained Soviet withdrawal of Kudrievstev, who in World War II was expelled from Canada as leader of a Russian spy ring.

Delicate Juggling

The upshot of tensions like those involved in the Escalante and Rodriguez affairs had led Castro into a delicate juggling of personnel to keep the peace. The action against Ordoqui was preceded several weeks ago by the return of Anibal Escalante from banishment and by his recent appointment to a minor post in the Ministry of Foreign Trade.

The declining influence of Blas Roca in the Cuban hierarchy is compensated by the continuing power of President Osvaldo Dorticos, agrarian reform director Carlos Rafael Rodriguez and Purs Executive Secretary Capt. Emilio Aragonés, all in varying degrees associated with Cuban communism in the pre-Castro era.

Also noted recently was the return from disgrace to cabinet position of Faustino Perez, whose objections to the Communist takeover had once embarrassed Castro.

The veteran Communists seem to be barely holding their own in the palace politics of the Castro regime, whether they be ideological tutors or tolerated guest.