

25 Sep 75

The Symbiotic Connection

by Harrison E. Salisbury

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Years before the Russian Revolution a symbiotic connection was fully developed between the various police agencies and the various radical revolutionary groups....

The parallels with contemporary America are too close for comfort. I do not suggest that our society is treading the fateful path of Nicholas's Russia. Our society is still strong and vibrant, but no one can read the daily headlines about our secret security agencies like the F.B.I. and the [CIA] without recognizing the similarity of symptoms....

.... The suspicion is still alive today that in some manner the [Russian] police themselves had a hand in Stolypin's murder (and other terrorist acts).

If events in California (and Washington) have not spelled out the peril of police-informer-radical symbiosis, the Russian precedent should. What we are confronted with is not merely violation of the law and deep confusion of roles - it is evidence of serious decay within the structure of our social and political system.

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