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The Antidote

Pastor Wurmbrand calls his second indictment of communism In God's Underground*, in which he gives a fuller account of himself and his experiences than in Tortured for Christ. And as the bishops met for the Lambeth Conference, perhaps one of them may have noted this writer's account of a service which the Archbishop of Canterbury attended in 1965, for the congregation consisted of "officials and secret police agents and their wives" who make up the congregation for any visitor to Rumania, be he rabbi, mufti, bishop or Baptist. The pastor, I understand, dealt firmly with the Rev. P. Oestreicher on television when this British Council of Churches' advocate questioned his views, warning him of the state of his soul.

He gives a graphic account of his arrest in 1948, when his captors removed his identity and gave him a name like John Smith—Vasile Georgescu—and tells of Anna Pauker the Foreign Minister whom he compares to Lady Macbeth, topful of direst cruelty. At a meeting with Stalin, Churchill had agreed that the Russians should have 90 per cent predominance in Rumania in return for a similar predominance in Greece, he says, so a million Russian troops poured into Rumania, and Rumania, formerly known as the granary of Europe, soon became a starvation area, despite a purge of 60,000 Rumanians.

He was joined in his cell by Patrascanu, until recently Minister of Justice, and asked him what the Communist creed really is. The ex-minister paused before replying, "We communists believe that we will dominate the world".

He sketches various inquisitors, like Colonel Dulgheru of the Secret Police and the torturer Brinzaru, telling how he stood and walked for hours, and spent two years in a cell deep under the Ministry of the Interior. No wonder he objected to the British theologian who wrote a book in which he concluded that "Christ would have admired the Communist prison system". The colonel told him, when he was near death after three years of solitary confinement, "We're not murderers like the Nazis. We want you to live—and suffer". So he was transferred to a prison hospital, sentenced to twenty years' imprisonment, and sent to a notorious room known as the death room. Scores died there but he notes that atheism did not survive.

He learned from the many new arrivals that conditions in Rumania had deteriorated pitifully, with a fresh outbreak of brutality and the slave camps on the Danube-Black Sea canal, and that a political purge overthrew the trium virate in 1952. Luckily the dictator Gheorghiu-Dej abandoned the canal project and this saved the life of Mrs. Wurmbrand who had been sent to work there. As one of his fellow prisoners put it, "In ten years, we've turned into a nation of thieves, liars and petty spies".

*W. H. Allen, London, 30/-.

One day the food improved, but this was to impress a delegation of women from the West whose report on Rumania's "model prisons" was circulated in Britain. France and America. The prisoners talked a great deal and when a companion called Tito a mild dictator, the pastor replied that "Mild" Tito had killed thousands of enemies and gaoled his friends. He points out that men trained in the school of Lenin and Stalin see goodwill "as weakness to be exploited", and he holds that for their own good "we must work for their defeat". Recalling Cato's view on Carthage (that it must be destroyed) he says that either the West must destroy communism or be destroyed by it. Another cell mate was ex-finance minister Luca, as were Colonel Albon of the canal project and the inquisitor Dulgheru, at the notorious Jilava gaol where the pastor survived the "black room".

The author was freed in 1956 under the amnesty but re-arrested early in 1959 and sentenced to six years, being joined in prison by an archdeacon who had resisted the Patriarch, and receiving twenty-five lashes with rods. A long term prisoner told him of a communist ceremonial known as a civil burial, when friends and family were assembled and told that the prisoner was dead for ever and ever and that they were present to "bury his memory", whereupon those present were called upon to denounce him.

But during these grim years the writer carried on his pastorate, even by tapping on the walls of the cell, and he gives a moving description of how he confronted his wife with a murderer of Jews and she forgave him. Mr. Wurmbrand refused a bishopric, on his release, because he knew the position meant being a police spy. A general amnesty was granted in 1964 owing to the conversion of Gheorghiu-Dej, which he did not long survive, for he defied the Soviet masters and opened new relations with the West.

Communism, according to this testimony, acts on a country like a drug that distorts every part of a human body, whether of will, mind or feeling, and it relies above all on fear. I felt after reading the pastor's first book that I could not go through it all again, for the reader is made to share some of the agony, yet I found that the second and fuller account gave a much deeper insight into the man and his work and experiences, and I recommend it as an antidote to the poisonous drug which is being peddled round the West with a good deal more enthusiasm than heroin and the rest.

-H.S.

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FROM WEEK TO WEEK

To raise the question of what is happening in and about Czechoslovakia is like asking what a move on the chessboard means. "Why all this display of military might?" asks the Daily Express (Aug. 22, 1968); and answers: "The truth is that the Soviet leaders are afraid, are scared stiffnot of bombs, but of ideas".

The Czechoslovak 'crisis' is a move in the deadly 'game' which, after centuries of development, is visibly moving towards its culmination. The prize is World Government. The contestants are on the one hand a self-perpetuating conspiratorial group aiming at a rigidly controlled centrally directed organisation of the population of the globe; on the other the organically evolving civilizations having their foundations in individual families sustained by religions, traditions, and beliefs.

To identify Communism with Russia as a military power confuses the reality. Since the 1917 revolution in Russia was not nipped in the bud, Communism in Russia has been financed from the U.S.A., and never more so than during and subsequent to World War 'II'. Since World War 'II', there has never been a time when Russia was under military threat. The reverse is the truth. It is Russia which proclaims that Communism will take over the whole world-peacefully, if possible, but with sufficient military power to impose Communist 'peace'.

A few quiet words behind closed doors about Czechoslovakia's economic realities would suffice to keep her in line. Why then this super-colossal all-star production? Because at all costs the West must see 'Russia' as a military power under threat by China, and barely able to keep its own house and neighbourhood in order, instead of, as it is, the military component of a bipolar international conspiracy, of which the other pole is internationally centralised money

In the past fifteen months—i.e., beginning with and including the Israeli-Arab 'war'—Russia has transformed the

strategic situation in the Mediterranean and the Middle East and pre-empted the West's position East of Suez and in the Indian Ocean. But while our suitably horrified gaze is focused on Czechoslovakia, nobody notices this; and the terrified commentators tell us that this Russian blunder not only endangers those beautiful bridges to the East but, horror of horrors, may encourage a return to republicanism in America, undoing the work of thirty-five years of Democratic dictatorship.

Mrs. Barbara Castle had lots of fun at Uppsala telling the Assembly of the World Council of Churches that the world's troubles were due to the 'fact' that twenty per cent of people had eighty per cent of the money. This means that for every £100, twenty people have an average of £4 each, and eighty an average of five shillings each—one sixteenth as much as those in the 80% group. If the whole £100 were evenly distributed, everyone would receive £1.

Mrs. Castle is dealing with ratios, so the £1 can be multiplied by whatever factor brings it to a subsistence level over any unit time period-weekly wage or annual income; and then this can be multiplied by the total of the world's population, and the result compared with the figures given as Gross National Products. It is to be hoped that Mrs. Castle will take time off from laying down the law to do this necessary little bit of homework.

But there still remains a question, out of which several other questions arise. The figure to be found relates only to a subsistence level for a world population 'equalised' by soaking the rich and distributing to the poor—the favourite pastime of the Socialists and the Financiers (strange bedfellows, but bedfellows nevertheless). Assuming an austere, but reasonably comfortable level of equalised subsistence, who is going to pay for the Rolls Royce which no doubt on occasions transports Mrs. Castle about her duties; or the jet aircraft to take her to Uppsala? Who is going to pay for those triumphs of modern architecture, the abundant Bank and Insurance Company buildings? For decency's sake, we must assume that such conspicuous consumption as State Banquets and luxury accommodation on international conferences are 'out'. But who is going to pay for space vehicles, Data Processing Machines (equality requires a lot of data processing), and advances in automation? And, above all, who will pay for the favourable balance of trade, and pay the interest due and accruing on debts to international financiers? Also . . . ?

It now (i.e., since the first of these notes was written) appears that the 'price' (a heavy price, the News says) that the Czechoslovaks will have to pay for the withdrawal of Russian troops is that the Russians must maintain troops along Czechoslovakia's western border with West Germany; and the Press must refrain from any criticism of members of the Warsaw Pact.

The 'crisis' bears a strong family resemblance to the Israeli-Arab 'crisis'-long and careful preparation, great drama and tension, massive display of fireworks, skilful deployment of students and demonstrators, minimum casualties, and maximum confusion. And—the transformation of the logistic situation.

As Sir John Glubb has pointed out the great problem of modern warfare is the pre-positioning of heavy military

equipment for the use of troops which can be concentrated at a given point in a matter of hours, by air.

Russia is said to be 'afraid' of an attack by West Germany. West Germany is bounded to the north by East Germany, bent on the Communist 're-unification' of the two Germanys; on the south by 'neutral' Austria and neutral Switzerland. Czechoslovakia's western border penetrates into West Germany, and opposite this border, France (which pursues Communist objectives) penetrates into West Germany. Czechoslovakia itself is a relatively narrow land passage direct from Russia into West Germany. 'East' Europe, West Russia, and the Middle East form the Heartland—the territorial basis of world conquest, as envisaged by the geopoliticians*.

So, in short, Russia (or Communism, which envisages the victory of a world Communist system has achieved an almost bloodless logistic victory. If West Germany reacts to what can obviously be seen as a threat by a logistic response, this can be denounced by Russia from a secure logistic position as an 'act of aggression'. And, because of the existence of the Communist international espionage system', even West Germany's mere intentions would be instantly known to the Kremlin. Thus, the Czechoslovak 'crisis' has achieved the paralysis of West German (and NATO) initiative.

In this way, World Dominion advances, peacefully, war 'deterred' by the nuclear umbrella (or parity of destructive capability by the two Great Powers).

Iron Curtain

"Should the German people lay down its arms, the agreement between Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin would allow the Soviets to occupy all Eastern and South-Eastern Europe together with the major part of the Reich. An iron curtain would at once descend on this territory which, including the Soviet Union, would be of enormous dimensions."

-J. Goebbels, Das Reich, Feb. 25, 1945; quoted in the Times, Feb., 1945.

"We were through the 'iron curtain' at last!"

—Ethel Snowden (Member of official Labour Party delegation): Through Bolshevik Russia (1920).

*See The State of the World: K.R.P. Publications; 3/- posted. †See Theory of Subversive Action by R. Cosyns-Verhaegen: Tidal Publications, Box 3266, G.P.O., Sydney 2001. 60 C. posted.

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The Abyss

The two wars now being fought in Nigeria and Viet Nam are neither of them racial conflicts, the one being tribal and the other political. Each leaves a trail of refugees and starving children whose heartrending condition has reached the very abyss of misery. Yet race appears almost the sole concern of a variety of speakers ranging from bishops to Simon Dee, the television personality, who attacked Mr. Enoch Powell in his sermon at St. Paul's during the Youth Service or "Walk In". This inspired the Rev. P. J. Indes to comment (Church Times, July 26, 1968) that "many of the injustices and disregard for human dignity are far more widespread than those attendant upon 'racialism'", adding that public demonstrations have "a high degree of emotive content which obscures the particular and specific problems which have to be faced".

At about this date, the Bishop of Southwark preached at Walsingham and referring to the House of Lord's debate on sanctions against Rhodesia, said that he refused to accept that "only members of the small White minority" in that country were our kith and kin. I should imagine that many members of the coloured majority there are thankful for the peace and order which this minority most responsibly maintains. And in this light the Roman Catholic bishop of Umtali, Bishop Lamont, appeared less than generous when he warned his audience against "phoney Christians" who, he alleged, practised injustice and discrimination. (Catholic Herald, July 5, 1968).

One would expect almost anything to happen at Uppsala, and Bernard Pawley gives a lurid report (Church Times, July 19, 1968), and says that the world economic situation, particularly as outlined by President Kaunda, and "as manipulated by the capitalist nations, must be reviewed . . . must call into question the essential motives of capitalism . . . a larger proportion of our capital resources must be dedicated immediately to development projects overseas". Mr. Pawley demands in fact that the wealth-producing nations shall have no say in the use or dissipation of their resources. But one would hardly expect to be "face to face with Black Power in a big way in the person of James Baldwin . . . A glint of frenzy in the eye greeted the prophecy that the end of White South Africa was at hand (and that would mean the total annihilation of all Whites)". The delegates from East Germany were not allowed to reach the World Council of Churches, while those from Greece decided wisely enough, not to go.

I do not mean to imply that all public figures are totally indifferent to Biafra. Indeed two people have already been killed in attempting the formidable feat of taking some supplies there. But mostly they turn their backs on the tribal problem and ignore the communist threat of chaos, while denouncing those who are trying to deal with these two problems. We cannot have the niceties without law and order; obviously there can be no effective law at all, and there would be no peace or liberty as we know it under communism. That is an abyss that threatens all.

--H.S.

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Czechoslovakia

(FROM THE "CORRECTION, PLEASE!" SECTION OF The Review of the News*, AUGUST 14, 1968.) ITEM: From an Article entitled "Russia's Crumbling Empire" in U.S. News & World Report for July 15, 1968:

The idea that Europe's Communist governments are united behind Moscow has been ripped to shreds. Nothing will ever be the same since the peaceful "revolution" in Czechoslovakia . . . Like Tito in Yugoslavia, who started the whole independence movement 20 years ago . . . Red leaders in this region are creating various breeds of national Communism ... the big stimulus to this trend now is centered in Czechosłovakia. There, Dubcek, who zoomed to power out of obscurity six months ago, is leading a peaceful revolution . . . the entire fabric of the Soviet empire is unraveling.

CORRECTION: We are reminded of a popular refrain which says: "Seems to me that I've heard that song before." And sure enough, we have. Tito, as every informed American realises, has been in the process of becoming "independent" of Moscow's control for twenty years, yet always sides with it against the West on crucial issues. Twelve years after his "break" with Russia he said: "Yugoslavia, in time of war, as in time of peace, marches shoulder to shoulder with the Soviet people toward the same goal—the goal of the victory of communism." And to this day Yugoslavia remains a police state under totalitarian Communist rule. But in spite of this the United States has been suckered into undergirding Tito's régime with economic aid, "cultural exchanges" and so on.

Earlier this year Communist Rumania was very much in the news because, as one Associated Press headline put it, a "Liberal Drive May Be On In Red Rumania." As a result, various "Liberal" spokesmen began urging that the United States quickly take advantage of this opportunity to wean the Rumanian satellite away from mother Russia. We pointed out at the time that informed anti-Communists agree with Dr. Brutus Coste, a former top Rumanian diplomat who testified that: "The Rumanian régime is and remains a Stalinist type—harsh, brutal-a régime not bent upon reform but upon full internal control . . . "

Now, we are hearing that "song" again as U.S. News & World Report adds its voice to the "Liberal" chorus singing about the surface appearance of the situation in Czechoslovakia, without taking into account the fact that the Communist masters at duplicity and subterfuge are calling the tune. Note that U.S. News claims that the Soviet empire is falling apart; on July 27, UPI reporter Henry Shapiro stated that "The Kremlin is ready to compromise today in its showdown with Czech Communist reformers"; on August 5, the "Liberal" New York Times claimed "A Prague Victory," because Czech leaders "appeared to have outmaneuvred the party leaders of the Soviet Union"; and, also on August 5, the "Liberal" Boston Globe editorialized that "the cause of individual liberty has been well served by the shrewd and resourceful Czech ruler, Alexander Dubcek."

It is heartening to know, however, that at least one

journalist has been willing to reveal that the emperor has no clothes. Nationally syndicated columnist Paul Scott recently outlined how Maj. Gen. Jan. Sejna, the Czechoslovak Army officer who defected to the United States a few months ago, explained to American officials what is happening in Czechoslovakia. Scott summarized Sejna's report as follows: "The tightly controlled 'liberalization program' is being staged by Prague, with Moscow's secret guidance and support, to head off what happened in 1956 in Poland and Hungary when people at large rose against the Communist party . . . At several high-level meetings in the Kremlin late in 1967, Moscow and Prague Communist leaders determined that massive dollar credits and trade from the West, especially the U.S. were needed to bolster the sagging economy and stem unrest in Czechoslovakia. As part of their covert program to obtain this massive Western aid, Moscow and Prague decided that the Czechoslovakian government would need a new image, especially for the American taxpayer who will foot most of the bill.

"Under the personal guidance of Soviet party boss Brezhnev, one of his closest comrades, Alexander Dubcek, was elevated in a bloodless coup to first secretary of the Czechoslovakia Communist party and the real position of power in that country. According to Gen. Sejna, the mission of Dubcek is to give the new Communist régime the 'appearance' of being independent from Moscow and a government supporting 'business-like reforms.' Immediate objective of the Prague-Moscow plan was to gain support at home for Dubcek's Red régime and then financial help from the U.S. and other Western European countries.

The Yugoslavia-Rumania subterfuge is obviously being employed by the Kremlin in Czechoslovakia, and it is a phony.

The State of the World

The state of the world has grown steadily worse since 1945, and appears now to be on the brink of explosion. And the evidence of conspiracy, once in the main largely conjectural, is now abundant, clear and readily available. But not through the usual channels.

This review of world affairs was originally published in 1946. It was reprinted in 1967 with some added notes. The essential thesis remains unimpaired; and fore-sight is more

convincing than hind-sight.

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