

puerto rico

LEAA Traps PSP in Latest Terrorist Creation

Aug. 28 (IPS) — Over the past months, the Puerto Rican population in the island, especially in the countryside, has been terrorized by seal and search operations directed by the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA) Tactical Unit Police. Their alleged quest was rapist Tono Bicicleta. Unlike the CIA terrorist gangs in the United States, the Symbionese and Black Liberation Armies, and their Italian counterpart the Red Brigade, the Puerto Rican version does not even pretend to be political. Yet, the Puerto Rican Socialist Party (PSP) has fallen for this CIA melodrama.

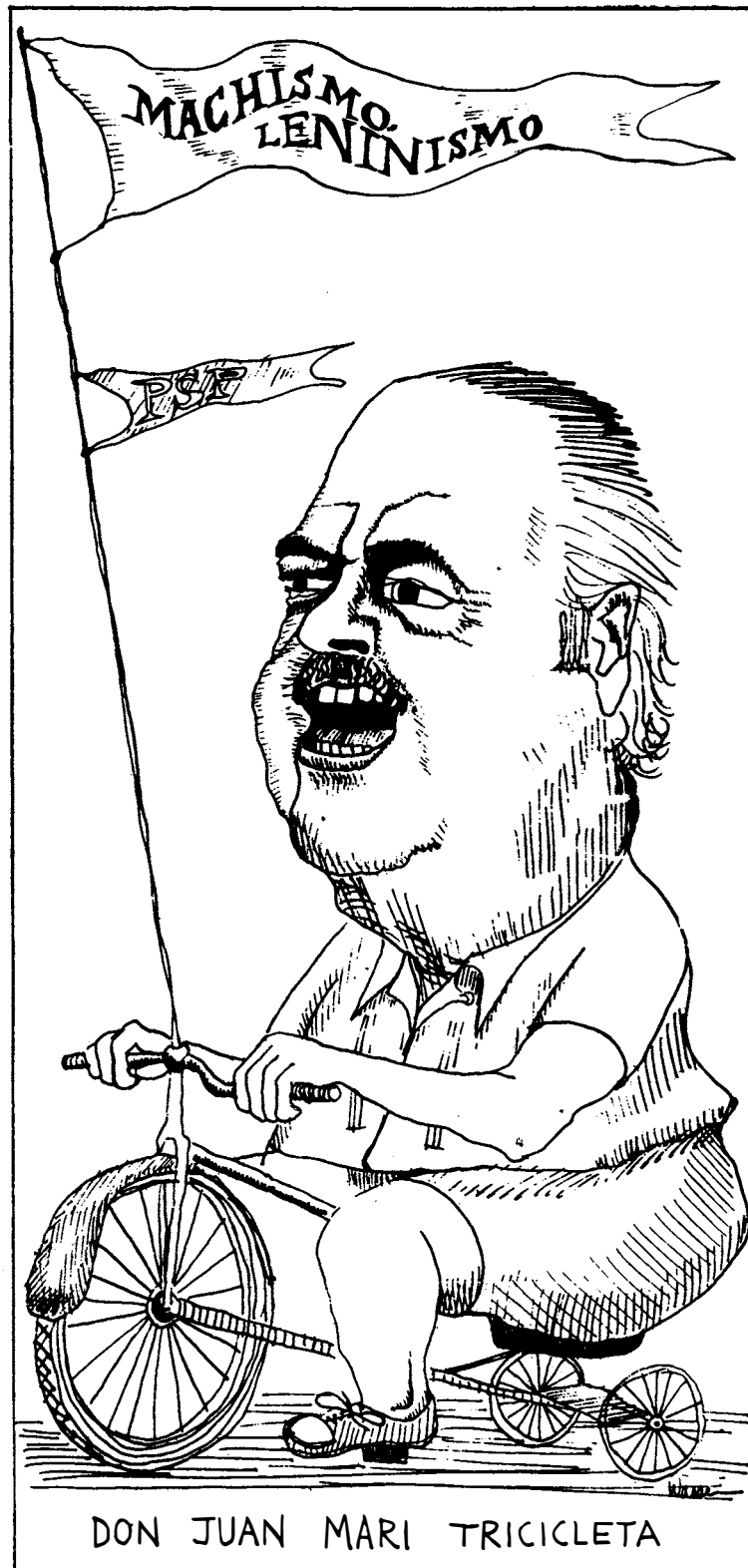
Two weeks ago, after 30 reported rapes, Tono Bicicleta finally was captured despite the evident reluctance of police to nab him. Citizens went three times to the police station before the police would move to get Bicicleta. The police went to the bar where Tono had been spotted, walked up to him directly, then asked if he had seen Tono. At this point, Tono said, "He went thata way," and he disappeared in the opposite direction. Tono was caught later by townspeople and one lone policeman, who suffered the only casualty in the operation when he tripped on a wire as he was crossing the street.

The "capture" comes after weeks of intense mobilizations of police forces, particularly in the key areas of the upcoming slave labor programs — copper mining and oil super-port development projects in the central western parts of the island. In this strategical region, the LEAA Tactical Unit Police and vigilante squads sealed off key towns — Ponce, Caguas, Mayaguez, Las Marias, Lares, and Utuado — practicing anti-guerrilla maneuvers, and acting as protectors to the terrorized and mystified population.

Along with Tono's arrest, the press featured front page coverage of the search for drug mafioso Tom Iglesias, a one-time member of Tono Bicicleta's gang. In a test of San Juan's LEAA High Impact Project (community control anti-crime operation), a special unit of the police force poured out of San Juan into the surrounding countryside by air (helicopters), land, and sea (boats patrolling rivers) where Tom Iglesias allegedly was spotted.

"Folk Hero"

The radical, counterinsurgent Federation of Puerto Rican Policemen in mid-June started pushing Governor Hernando Colon to call out the 92nd Brigade of the



National Guard. They suggested that instead of mere dry run summer maneuvers the Guard could involve themselves in real practice by relieving the police of searching for Tono. Gonzalez Laboy, the Federation President claimed that the government refused his plan because "they are scared since it might cause too much of a political up-roar with strong political repercussions, especially in light of Tono's status as a folk hero."

Edwin Reyes, the head of the PSP newspaper *Claridad's* literary section in his column of August 18 put forward the PSP position on Tono's rapes: "Imagine that instead of kidnapping women and antagonizing neighbors, Tono would have dedicated himself to campaign against the mining companies who want to steal our copper, eh, Mister?"

This statement and the recent articles of the PSP-U.S. First Secretary Ramon Arbona praising the political

document issued by the terrorist CIA-controlled Weather Underground Organization, are the more concrete signs for the reactivation of leftist terrorist activities within the PSP and the Puerto Rican Left.

The Rockefeller-CIA faction knows very well that to be able to proceed safely with their investment plan for Puerto Rico, they have to destroy even the laughable PSP by turning it another Revolutionary Union countergang formation as they are successfully doing with the U.S. Zone Committee of the PSP.

Reye's article concludes: "If a man like Tono, without ideology, alone, and acting against the people, was able to fool the bailiff's tenacious blockades for such a long time, imagine what we'll be able to do — those who instead of chewing gum will put lead in their weapons, eh, Mister?"

More CIA Terror in Mexico

Mexico City, Aug. 29 (IPS) — **Federal agents ordered all roads in and out of Guadalajara closed today, in a massive seal and search operation against the Mexican working class. The military occupation follows a classic CIA terrorist kidnapping episode in which Mexican President Echeverria's father-in-law, J. Guadalupe Zuno Hernandez, was abducted by four members of the infamous Frente Revolucionario Armado del Pueblo (FRAP).**

The CIA-spawned FRAP first publicly surfaced in mid-1973 when it arranged for 30 so-called "political prisoners" to be released in exchange for kidnapped U.S. Consul Terence Leonhardy — the 30 were almost all "leftist" CIA agents, who conveniently were shipped to

Cuba to continue their work there.

This psywar operation follows a similar set-up around the phantom Lucio Cabanas guerrilla group. First reports from Mexico indicate that busloads of passengers in and around Guadalajara have been stopped and searched, in an attempt to pull in any "suspicious leftists." This taste of military regimentation of workers' lives, if left unexposed as CIA provocation, will lead to ever-bolder moves by the Echeverria administration towards total fascist control of society.

The Latin American Labor Committee is stepping up its exposure of this and similar Rockefeller provocations in order to defend the working class and the left from such attacks.