

MEXICAN POLICE KIDNAP COMMUNIST PARTY MEMBERS,
SEEKING GUATEMALAN EXILES

NEW YORK, Jan 3 (IPS)--International Press Service learned today that two members of the Mexican Communist Party, Eusebio Martinez and Hilario Moreno, were kidnapped on Dec. 30 by several armed men. They were taken to a secret prison where they are being tortured by one of the repressive arms of the Mexican government, probably the Federal Security Office.

The Mexican Communist Party (PCM) denounced the kidnappings in an urgent telegram dated Jan. 1, which was directed to the President of Mexico, Luis Echeverria. That telegram, published today by the Mexican daily Excelsior, affirms that the reason for the "arrest" given by the agents who kidnapped Martinez and Moreno was the agents' pursuit of Guatemalan political exiles. This, the telegram states, violates international agreements on political asylum and violates the constitutional rights of Mexican citizens.

Information was also given of the kidnapping of Mrs. Lilian Jimenez, born in El Salvador, who was taken on the same day along with two of her children to an unknown place and interrogated intensively. The interrogators, who threatened to beat her children, told her to confess to "having relations" with a Guatemalan who was totally unknown to her. She and her children were released two days later.

Mrs. Jimenez, in a letter which also appeared in Excelsior, related how the agents came to her house at 6:00 a.m. Holding pistols to the chests of her and her children, the agents took them away in different cars, after sacking the house and taking 25,000 pesos (given to her by the University for the recent death of her husband, the Guatemalan poet Raul Leyva).

These kidnappings are identical to the Federal Security Office's kidnapping of Carlos de Hoyos Perez, leader of the Latin American Labor Committees in Mexico, on Dec. 11, 1974. They are part of a broader campaign on the part of Echeverria's political police and army to repress any opposition to his fascist policies. Several days ago a peasant march was attacked, for example, as it went from the state of Veracruz to Mexico City. Various leaders of the Socialist Workers' Party (PST) were jailed and charged with gathering and carrying forbidden arms.

The recent kidnapping and repression are taking place at the same time as President Echeverria cynically declared in his year-end message to the armed forces: "It is worth more to be excessive in liberty than to sin by authoritarianism."

Echeverria is manipulating the right wing reactionary Monterrey businessmen's group, calling them "dark forces which are colluding with the foreign enemy, trying to create chaos through criminal rumors against the Mexican revolution and its institution." Echeverria thus portrays himself as impartial protector of the "national

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sovereignty." His police state measure will continue until he is stripped nationally and internationally of his left cover. This left cover is vital for him to present himself as an anti-imperialist and Third World leader for the Rockefeller Cabal. Yet he is instituting bald police-state measures domestically while collaborating with Guatemalan fascists responsible for the recent assassination of a leader of the Guatemalan Communist Party.

The International Caucus of Labor Committees has launched an international campaign to show the working class of the world the real nature of "fascism with a democratic face" in Mexico. At this moment the campaign is focussed on rescuing the two members of the PCM from the hands of the police by making Echeverria responsible for the fate of comrades Martinez and Moreno. The ICLC has sent a telegram to this effect to the Mexican Communist Party, urging them to join the international campaign to expose Echeverria's fascism.

CIA ATTEMPTS TO UNDERMINE HARD-PRESS YUGOSLAVS

Jan. 3 (IPS)--Yugoslavia and its socialist leadership under Marshal Joseph Broz Tito are facing the worst economic squeeze in that country since the immediate post-war reconstruction period. Its hands tied by foreign debt obligations, the Yugoslav League of Communists (LCY) is constrained from expanding production and is struggling to keep the country from going bankrupt. These conditions are making more difficult the implementation of the LCY's Tenth Congress decisions, based on Marshal Tito's program of strengthening the working class' position through the conscious Marxist leadership of the LCY.

Yugoslavia, located at the head of the Balkan peninsula, plays a major role in NATO strategic thinking for control of Europe. Moreover, even a modicum of success for Tito's relatively advanced ideas could give a boost to the left faction in European Communist Parties. Motivated by these considerations, the CIA and other Rockefeller political agents are taking the opportunity presented by Yugoslavia's dire economic straits to undermine LCY rule through subversive activity and an anti-LCY campaign in the world press.

Trade Deficit

From 1971 to 1972, the Yugoslavs had begun to decrease their payments deficit through rising "invisible income" from tourism and gastarbeiter, Yugoslav workers living and employed in European capitalist countries. Simultaneously a program of planned reduction of imports contributed to building up the country's international currency reserves.

This precarious stabilization of Yugoslavia's foreign liquidity was shot to hell with the October 1973 oil hoax price rise,