

The Latin-American Masses Confront Their Imperialist Foe

Proof That Only Workers and Peasants Can Win Struggle for National Independence

By MANUEL GOMEZ

Vast changes have written themselves into the Latin-American scene in the six years since the birth of the Daily Worker gave the oppressed Latin-American masses a faithful interpreter and champion in this country. Those six years have witnessed the fiercely intensified assiduousness and exigent drive south-



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ward of U. S. imperialist exploitation. They have also witnessed the advance of Anglo-American imperialist rivalry in Latin-America to a critical stage. Finally, they have seen the many-million Latin-American masses shake themselves free from hindering influences to make one bold fighting stand after another while moving unmistakably toward the upbuilding of an integrated class-conscious revolutionary force against all their oppressors, native and foreign.

Wall Street and Washington have exhibited a sophisticated variety of method in this period of matured imperialistic experience. The bloody bayonets of the marines have been their main direct reliance in those Latin-American countries where American capital had already long dominated the field. The massacre in the City of Panama in 1927 has proved to have been no isolated event. It indicated that imperialistic strategy was busy with plans for the canal area and was a prelude to the vicious assault against Nicaragua. In

South America different methods have been pursued, sometimes so innocent-seeming as the sending of financial missions, while every opportunity has been seized to establish the position of Washington as the arbiter of South American affairs—as in the Tacna-Arica matter and the Chaco controversy. On occasion this has been done even under the guise of peacemaker. But American imperialism's expressions of pacific intent in the south have not prevented it from continuing to make use of such tyrannical butchers as Juan Vicente Gomez in Venezuela, Augusto B. Leguia in Peru and Gerardo Machado in Cuba. They appear particularly cynical at the present moment, when marine bayonets are still wet with the blood of martyred Haitian workers, peasants and students.

Such an undeviatingly aggressive course naturally confronted American imperialism with one crisis after another. The armed struggle headed by Sandino in Nicaragua served to rally anti-imperialist resistance throughout Latin-America. Similarly Sandino's own desertion of the struggle was one of a whole series of events that have tended to expose the vacillating role of the petty bourgeoisie, which in most Latin-American countries today takes the road of pseudo-revolution ending in compromise with imperialism on the basis of joint exploitation of the Latin-American masses. The experiences of the emigreled Venezuelan affair, the debacle of fake Liberalism in Columbia, the events in Haiti and the Virgin Islands—all these had their influence in determining accused workers and peasants to break away from bourgeois leading strings.