

BREAK UP THE NSC'S PORTUGUESE FASCIST NETWORK NOW

by Allan Salisbury

Sept. 6 (IPS)—Investigations by the Labor Committee's Security Staff into reported plans for the conduiting of \$30,000 in U.S.-made handguns from Newark, N.J. to fascist gangs in Portugal have uncovered a National Security Council (NSC)-coordinated fascist operation in the Portuguese communities of three Eastern seaboard states.

The operation primarily involves: — henchmen of the former Portuguese President and CIA operative Gen. Antonio di Spinola, — agents of the Second International's Soares-Portuguese Socialist Party's (PSP), — Cuban Gusanos and fascist elements within the Catholic Church, both in this country and in Portugal.

Ferrying warm fascist bodies and cold cash as well as firearms to CIA operations in Portugal, this extensive network provides a thin, "respectable" cover for direct U.S. intervention. To accomplish their aims, these agents have created an atmosphere of anti-communist terror in U.S. Portuguese communities.

The Cloaks Behind the Daggers

Newark's Portuguese community in the East Ward is rapidly being turned into a recruiting and conduiting station. Agents, guns, money and eager fascist recruits are assembled here for shipment to Portugal.

The operation is centralized through the East Ward's Our Lady of Fatima Church. The Church is currently involved in raising money with pro-reactionary exile and refugee groups for delivery to the CIA's Social democratic groups in Portugal, the PSP and the Popular Democrats (PPD).

Father Tinho, the second-in-command of the operation told a reporter that he and various refugee front groups expected "to raise thousands of dollars with the aid of the Church." According to Tinho, churches and social clubs are the best vehicle for this type of fundraising because "people are less suspicious about where their money is going to go."

Tinho, a former Portuguese Air Force Chaplain in Mozambique, was recently kicked out of Portugal for being a Maoist.

Tinho's boss, Father Capote is currently in Portugal on "undisclosed business." Capote was instrumental in placing a Portuguese consulate as an operations base in the East Ward during the Salazar regime.

Capote's pro-fascist newspaper,

Novos Rumos, is regularly conduited into Oporto, Braga, and by parishioners returning to the "homeland."

These so-called retuning parishioners are recruited at weekly fascist rallies in the East Ward organized by refugee groups directed primarily by PSP operative, Arnold Santos. Santos heads up Newark's branch of the "Portuguese Relief Fund," another CIA-funding conduit.

Shipment

The shipment of these recruits to the CIA's front lines in Portugal is handled out of the East Ward's Vauga Travel Agency. According to a special discount plan worked out with Capote's church, the Agency offers reduced rates for parishioners seeking a "pleasant Portuguese vacation." Since January of this year, more than 6,000 parishioners have taken the Portuguese trip. According to the Church, very few have returned.

The travel agency is headed by Jose Saraiva, whose brother is the ex-editor of the Portuguese Times, a CIA reactionary paper that circulates in the Portuguese communities of the U.S. Saraiva's brother is reported by informed sources to be handling the shipment of \$30,000 in handguns from Newark to centers of fascist reaction in the North of Portugal.

The agency itself is by no means solely concerned with the movement of fascist troops from the U.S. to Portugal. From all indications, it is a major spook center in the CIA Portuguese subversive operations.

In the basement of its relatively small office, is a branch operation of the Portugal's fifth largest bank, the Banco Pinto, Sotto Maior. Banks of telecommunications equipment fill the basement. According to Agency spokesmen, the telexes are "used primarily as a service for American corporations, allowing them direct communication with any bank branch in Portugal."

According to Father Tinho, however, a lot more sensitive information goes over to Portugal "than who is going on vacation or bank business."

A similar "travel agency" is operated by Fernando Santos, brother of Arnold, the PSP agent.

Coordination

The Newark operation is supported by and coordinated with branches of the fascist network in other Portuguese communities on the East Coast, especially Hartford, Conn. and New Bedford, Mass.

Manuel Gaspar, the chief organizer of the Portuguese Relief Fund in Hart-

ford, has played an active role in organizing the fascist rallies in Newark. Gaspar, one of many travelling agents in the network, lists his income sources as a Banks Travel Agency and the Firestone Rubber, Co.—Firestone has already been implicated in the LEAA-CIA Reading gun-running operation.

The Gaspar Relief Fund's accounts are handled by the Hartford Constitution Bank and Trust Co., an executive board member of the Hartford Process counterinsurgency operation. The bank is reported to be conduiting CIA funds into Portugal and Angola using the International Red Cross as its cover.

The Relief Funds act as a coordinating body for an assortment of CIA Portuguese fascist exile groupings.

Among these are the FLA (Front for the Liberation of the Azores), headed by Jose Amida who served in Salazar's Assembly.

The FLA is supported by "ex" Defense Intelligence Agency Colonel, now Queens College Professor Norman Bailey. Bailey, who is part of a Wall Street brokerage firm connected to Portuguese banks, just recently returned from the Azores arranging economic deals for whenever the FLA becomes the government.

Another exile grouping, the "Cape Verde Support Committee," has Roy Texeira, a former Salazar U. N. Ambassador, as its nominated head.

The U.S. Labor Party is not calling for additional investigation, though competent investigative work would no doubt reveal a covert operation of an even more extensive scale. The entire operation must be closed down now, before it succeeds in its intended aim—producing a bloodbath in Portugal. We offer the following list of names and phone numbers so that workers and ejected officials may take appropriate action.