

Hundreds of peasants have been arrested and tried in recent months for demanding title to lands owned by latifundists.

For their part, the big landowners in the areas affected by the occupations have asked the government to let them arm to fight back the peasants.

The situation in the rural areas is worsening, and unless Balaguer finds a solution, he will lose the majority of the voters. Thanks to cut and out freed and promises of agrarian reform, the rural vote made possible Balaguer's 1966 and 1970 victories.

## Non - Alignment is not neutralism

By Lionel Martin

FRINKA LATINA Feature

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The Conferences of Non-Aligned Countries, four since 1961, represent an attempt by nations who are not members of military pacts to find common political ground and exert their collective influence on the world community.

All of the countries that attend these conferences, except Yugoslavia, are part of the so-called Third World: Africa, Asia and Latin America. There is a broad spectrum of political philosophies and systems represented in the Conferences. The common denominator, however, is that all the nations are striving, in one way or another, to fight their way out of underdevelopment.

The latest Conference, the fourth, was celebrated at Georgetown, Guyana, a few months ago. At this distance, it is easier to see, in perspective, the meaning of the Conference and its Declaration.

Of the fifty-nine full participants at the Conference thirty-nine came from the African continent, twenty-three from Asia, four from Latin America and one from Europe. Another twelve, ten of them from Latin America, attended as observers. To see things in historical perspective, it is worth observing that twenty years ago only a handful of the full participants were independent countries.

What is crystal clear is that non-alignment has not been taken to mean neutralism. From the first conference in Belgrade in 1961 to the Georgetown conference in August of this year, the attending nations have taken forceful stands on a number of hot issues which divide the world. The view of the majority of the nations was summed up by Cevaldo Bertucci, President of Cuba, at the Cairo conference in October of 1962. Non-alignment, he said, does not mean a "position of neutrality or abstention before the grave problems of humanity."

The Conferences have been very explicit in their fixing of guilt for the world's major areas of tension. The Cairo Declaration declared:

"Imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism are the essential causes of international tension and conflict..."

... of the Fight to Fight for Independence:

If the colonial powers persist in opposing the aspirations of the colonized peoples, these have a legitimate right to resort to arms to assure the full exercise of their right to self-determination and independence."

The recent Declaration of Georgetown reiterated the anti-colonial positions of past conferences. It expressed full support for the struggle of the Portuguese colonies and for the victims of apartheid. It demanded the dismantling of foreign military bases in Asia, Africa and Latin America, particularly those established or maintained against the expressed wish of the countries concerned."

The Georgetown conference also touched on issues which are politically explosive and which as a consequence, brought down the wrath of those who considered the barbs were aimed at them. In this regard, United States foreign policy was in the direct line of fire of at least three of the decisions.

:The Conference recognized as a full participant the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam. The final Declaration expressed solidarity "with the heroic peoples of Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos for their self-determination." It condemned the bombings of North Vietnam and backed the seven-point proposals of the PAV of the Republic of South Vietnam.

:The Georgetown Conference recognized the Puerto Rican Movement for Independence as a guest. The Declaration, reiterating a position taken at Cairo in 1964, declared that Puerto Rico had a "legged and inalienable right to national independence." Several weeks later, the United Nations Special Committee on Decolonization gave another blow to American policy by putting the question of Puerto Rican independence on the agenda.

:The Declaration expressed "full support for the Chilean Government of People's Unity."

These three decisions flew directly in the face of United States foreign policy. U.S. communication media reacted indignantly and criticized the Conference.

The declaration of Georgetown reaffirmed what had been known for many years: non-alignment is not neutralism.

Fidel Castro on possible talks with US

By Pedro Martinez Pires *ADD*

Havana, (PL).- Prime Minister Fidel Castro declared that any discussion between Cuba and the United States in bilateral relations is impossible unless the latter's ties with Latin America in the point of departure.

"I think that when the day comes that the US becomes a gendarme and ceases to be a gendarme in Latin America, relations between us may improve," remarked the Cuban leader in the 15th lengthy dialogue with the press in Aguacate, about 10 kilometers from Havana.