HOW THE REDS MAKE A RIOT

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SCANNED FROM PAPER PRINTED ABOUT 1964.
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It's time for us to recognize—and to counteract—one of the communists' most deadly cold-war weapons: the vicious "manipulated" demonstration

A CHEMIST knows that if he drops a block of sodium into water, it will explode. An engineer knows that if he buries dynamite in proper quantities and patterns and detonates it, he can dig an irrigation ditch. A communist leader knows that if he chooses proper slogans, gathers a crowd and agitates it, he can create a riot.

The techniques of starting a riot are as simple, as scientific and as systematic as that. And ever since the beginning of the cold war the communists have been using the deadly weapon of the managed riot on every continent—to poison alliances, to topple governments, to humiliate leaders, to nullify billions in foreign aid, crush American prestige and shoot holes in U.S. foreign policy. The latest instances of organized violence include bloody fights between Buddhists and Catholics in Vietnam, food marches in India, chaos in the Congo, and mass executions by a riot-installed Red regime in Zanzibar. U.S. embassies and libraries have been mobbed and our diplomats humiliated in Indonesia, Ghana, Cyprus, Sudan and Bolivia. American businesses have been smashed in Panama and Venezuela. A recent study for the Defense Department showed that in the five preceding years in Latin America alone there were 351 reported outbreaks of communist-inspired terrorism, sabotage and guerrilla warfare, plus 299 riots, demonstrations and strikes.

Despite our diplomatic efforts, our missile strength and our military might, these riots could well defeat us in the world struggle if we don't learn how to cope with them. Abed Tornado. Consider the riot as it was wielded in Panama last January. That four-day anti-American maelstrom left 24 dead, 400 injured, two million dollars' worth of property damaged. When U.S. troops were fired on by snipers and forced to shoot back, the little republic's charges of "U.S. aggression" were blazoned around the world.

What really happened in Panama? Communists were already preparing to exploit frictions arising from a bus strike when a better issue fell into their laps. U.S. students at Balboa High School, defying agreements to fly the flags of both Panama and the United States at special places, hoisted the U.S. flag on their school's flagpole.

Informants hurried the news to Panama's communist Minister of Education, Solis Palma, and within hours students and hundreds of innocent Panamanian patriots were decoyed into a Red-planned tornado. Experts, reconstructing the Panama explosion, unearthed these facts:

- "Molotov cocktails" thrown against U.S. homes, places of business and automobiles contained not improvised rags stuffed into bottle necks but meticulously hand-sewn wicks. Student members of a pro-Castro Red organization had stayed after school making the fire bombs all week before the riots.

An amazed American witness stood beside a radio commentator broadcasting into a portable transmitter: "Ten thousand persons are defying the bullets, going toward the Canal Zone. ... The North American troops are machine-gunning the brave Panamanian patriots. ... Tanks are now in our territory." What the commentator was describing bore no resemblance to the scene before them—a small crowd of spectators watching a fire-bombed Braniff Airways office burn. (Not one U.S. tank or machine gun was used during the four days of disorder.)

- A Panamanian carrying a camera rushed from the Legislative Palace, drew a pistol and shot a man in the crowd. Affidavits from onlookers have confirmed that the killer then snapped a photograph of the body, stepped into a waiting auto and sped away. Later, six known communists led a funeral procession for "martyrs murdered by the North American imperialist troops."

- Panamanian President Roberto Chiari, under pressure from communist aides and fellow travelers, ordered the troops of Panama's National Guard to stay in their barracks for four days.* During the peak of the violence, he appeared on the Presidential Palace balcony with communist agitator Victor Avila, who tongue-lashed the crowds on to new attacks against the Yanquis.

*At Panama's request, the highly regarded International Commission of Jurists, from Geneva, Switzerland, conducted an on-the-scene investigation and concluded that if Panama authorities had acted promptly "the violence and damage to property and tragic casualties would not, in all probability, have occurred."
Reliable authorities identified at least 70 communists—an estimated 55 of them trained in Cuba—agitating and directing mob action.

Violence Step-by-Step. The communists have studied and taught mob manipulation for 60 years. Lenin himself developed mob techniques, which he taught in a clandestine communist school at Longjumeau, France, in 1911. His bold boast: “When we have companies of specially trained workers—revolutionaries who have passed through a long course of schooling, no police in the world will be able to cope with them.” Today, from a worldwide collection of data, including captured documents and interrogations of defectors from training schools, the step-by-step stages of Red-manipulated violence can be fully revealed.

**Stage 1. Infiltrate agents into strategic organizations and mass media.** To mobilize crowds, the party must first slip operatives into newspapers, radio stations, labor unions, civic associations, college faculties, student organizations, even military and police units. In Venezuela, for example, communists dominate the principal school of journalism, at Central University in Caracas, and students are trained in how to load the press with hate ideologies.

Actual Red control of an organization isn’t always necessary, as Britain’s democratic labor unions learned in March 1963. When their peaceful demonstration on unemployment moved into London, Reds sneaked into their ranks and invaded the entrance to Parliament where, traditionally, demonstrators are not allowed. Mounted police intervened, and a battle raged for an hour. Following instructions offered by the *Daily Worker* on “How to Unhorse a Cop by Quick and Certain Means,” rioters pressed lighted cigarettes against horses’ flanks. London newspapers called it one of the ugliest riots in recent history.

**Stage 2. Soften up the populace with symbols and slogans.** In the opening phase of a propaganda campaign, Red professionals never use an openly communist cause to sway people to their way of thinking. Rather, they seize upon universal aspirations for “peace,” “bread,” “equal liberties,” “freedom,” and then use these aspirations in inflammatory “class warfare” lingo. As scapegoats for all frustration they point to “U.S. imperialism,” “capitalist exploiters” or “the white power elite.” Under a steady drumfire of such hate slogans, ordinary citizens can be worked up sufficiently to move into the streets when the communists sound their riot gongs.

So effective is the sloganeering that Reds organized riots against higher tram fares in Calcutta and higher electric rates in Buenos Aires against U.S. forces in Japan and against a Congressional hearing in San Francisco.

**Stage 3. Draw together the nucleus.** Using the standard b37 hoo methods of newspaper publicity—leaflets, radio announcements and offers of free transportation, cell phones, the bored and the lazy who gather at any circus, fire or ruckus. Crowds may also be hired. In Brazil, an American mingled with demonstrators protesting the death of Red-leaning Congolese politician Patrice Lumumba. “Who is this Lumumba?” he asked the people around him. Nobody knew. “Where is the Congo?” Nobody knew that either. “Why are you here?” The answer: “I was paid ten cruzeiros.”

In Japan, during the weeks of the anti-Eisenhower demonstrations in 1960, Red agitators so regularly hired all applicants away from unemployment offices that police were able to ask newsmen that the absence of agents at those offices in the morning meant certain demonstrations in the evening. Japanese security officials estimate that the five weeks of anti-American violence cost the Reds a minimum of $1,400,000.

**Stage 4. Agitate the crowd.** Communists follow various patterns to fit the tactical situation when exploiting the mob. They may herd it closely like sheep or raise the tension like a boiler until it explodes. But the fundamental methods are the same. Here, based largely on documents captured from the Iraqi Communist Party, is how a Red “secret staff” runs off a demonstration:

**External command:** The riot comes under and his staff take up stations well removed from the activity, from which they can observe the entire “battlefield.”

**Internal command:** Red cadres within the crowd direct the demonstration under the external command’s orders. The internal commander, always closely guarded, often posts himself near a particularly conspicuous banner so that scouts and messengers can find him at all times. (In the anti-U.S. demonstrations in Caracas in 1958, Vice President Richard Nixon found that he could identify mob leaders: they rode piggyback on the shoulders of others, to be able to see better and to give directions.)

**Messengers:** They carry orders and intelligence between the internal and external commands, and report on police movements.

**Shock guards:** Armed with pipes and staves, these men wait in reserve. If police attack the communists, they jump in and provide a blitz to cover the communists’ retreat.

**Cheering sections:** Loud-mouthed agitators are carefully rehearsed in slogans to chant and the order in which to chant them.

**Police batters:** Specially trained women scream hysterically, faint at policemen’s feet or claw at their faces. Other pawns are instructed to roll marbles under the hoofs of policemen’s horses, attack them with razor blades on the end of poles, or jab them with pins, causing them to rear and charge through the crowd and thus provide photographers with “proof” of “police brutality.”

**Stage 5. Manufacture martyrs.** All agitators are taught to create a martyr, carry the body through the
streets, stage a big funeral, and commemorate the death as often as possible to keep alive the fanatical “struggle” atmosphere. U.S. Secret Service men saw tiny children shoved in front of Vice President Nixon’s official car in Caracas. The communist hope: to create a martyr whose death could be charged to the cruel Yanqui imperialists.

The Lesson Strikes Home. These cynical techniques can work anywhere—including right here in U.S. cities, as we learned last summer. Though the FBI investigation of the riots that swept Harlem and five eastern cities uncovered no systematic national organization or planning behind them—“aside from the actions of minor organizations”—J. Edgar Hoover’s report did uncover the tracks of plenty of individual communists and splinter groups. And, said Hoover, in at least two of the New Jersey cities “two individuals with histories of communist affiliation were instigators and leaders of the riots.”

In Harlem, the communists helped create the atmosphere that was bound to explode. Long before the riots, they launched a conditioning campaign with repeated charges of “police brutality.” Red publications in Harlem advocated armed units to fight the “drunken, prejudiced hooligan-in-uniform.” Last February, Harlem police began finding pamphlets printed in Cuba by an American Negro communist, Robert F. Williams. Just back from talks with Mao Tse-tung in Red China, he distributed, from Havana, instructions on how to adapt Mao’s guerrilla tactics to U.S. city streets. Red organizers set up block committees and captains to get out rioters the way political parties get out voters. Attempts were made to recruit jobless teen-agers, gang leaders and juvenile delinquents. Communist leaders secretly urged block captains to be ready to barricade the police at the first inflammatory incident.

Six weeks before the riots, police began finding hoards of bottles and brickbats on Harlem rooftops. By July the “Harlem Defense Council” was claiming 30 block committees. “This is a communist organization,” proclaimed Willki Epton, its chairman. “I am a communist. We’ll work with any group in Harlem—black nationalists, Muslims, or anybody else—where we agree on issues.”

It was in this atmosphere that a policeman shot and killed a knife- wielding 15-year-old Negro youth on July 16. Instantly the Red organization mobilized. Forty-eight hours after the shooting, on a tense, hot Saturday afternoon, Epton called a street rally. “We’re going to have a demonstration, and we don’t say it is going to be peaceful because the cops have declared war on the people of Harlem,” he told the crowd, according to a later indictment. “Every time they kill one of our damned people, we’ll kill one of them.” But the violence was actually touched off by another street-corner rally held that night by irresponsible reds and random rabble-rousers who chimed in. As the crowd poured around the police, its numbers swelled to hundreds. With-in an hour, rocks, botches and garbage were flying. The situation now needed no further communist help. It is pointless to argue whether the Harlem rioting would have occurred without communist presence. Laying the blame for any riot solely upon communist instigation is as incorrect as dismissing entirely the influence of communism’s “hidden persuaders.” The lesson of Harlem is that the Red wreckers can move in on any controversy, and every thinking person must be aware of their methods and objectives.

What Can Be Done? The need for action is pressing. A few steps have already been taken. Last September, after the eruptions in U.S. cities, President Johnson ordered the FBI and the Army to provide increased anti-riot training for police and National Guard units. Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, after bitter overseas experience with Red crowd agitators, prodded the Agency for International Development to start an “International Police Academy” in Washington, which today schools foreign policemen on the-spot handling of Red insur-gency, terrorism and riots. U.S. labor leaders business leaders founded the American Institute for Free Labor Development, which, with U.S. government support, is training thousands of Latin American trade unionists in 18 countries in democratic organization and anti-communist action.

But these steps are only a drop in the bucket. Urgently needed is recog-nition of the global problem at Washington’s highest levels—and priority action. The White House must get behind the long-delayed Freedom Academy, which would teach both American and foreign private citizens how to counteract communist incendiarism with democratic reforms and organization. And private citizens everywhere must emulate the inspiring Brazilians who fought back on their own last spring. There, organizing their own anti-communist units, leaders learned of a Red-instigated “spontaneous” mass march to be made on the capital in Brasilia, exposed the Red plan by press and radio, and forced its abandonment.*

Free men can fight back in these four ways:

1. Support wide public education about communist organizational methods and tactics of planned violence. In the United States, the American Bar Association’s Standing Committee on Education Against Communism, 1155 E. 60 St., Chicago, III. 60637 is spearheading the drive for more public understanding of Red tactics. Many local bar groups, high-school faculties, Junior Chambers of Commerce and other civic groups are raising funds.

2. Support the Red-terrorist harassment of the Freedom Academy, founded to train Latin American labor leaders in democratic organization and anti-communist action. For information write: The Reader’s Digest, Washington, D.C.

*See “The Country That Saved Itself,” The Reader’s Digest, November ’64.
and otherwise aiding the ABA program.

2. Seeh advice from those who have had experience in the kind of political in-fighting required to expose and defeat the communist "hidden persuaders." The communists devote "not their spare evenings but the whole of their lives," as Lenin commanded, to engineering social strife and violence. Amateurs who oppose them must learn fast. The following organizations offer information and assistance born of experience: American Institute for Free Labor Development, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006; National Strategy Information Center, 121 E. 71 St., New York, N.Y. 10021; Information Council of the Americas (INCA), 620 Gravier St., New Orleans, La. 70130.

3. Wherever Red agents of violence set up party units or front groups, citizens must organize specific attach forces to wreck the wrechers before their organizations are deployed for action. By keeping an ear to the ground and intelligence channels to official agencies open, citizens' groups can isolate the engineers of social demolition. In New Orleans, for example, when Lee Harvey Oswald, later assassin of President Kennedy, started organizing a chapter of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, there to expose him was INCA, which produces anti-communist radio programs to counter mass demonstrations in Latin America. Edward Butler, INCA's executive vice president, debated Oswald on a radio panel and, using officially documented data, forced him to admit his Marxist devotion and defection to Russia. Thus isolated, Oswald soon left town, demonstrating once more that exposure is democracy's most potent weapon against such hatemongers.

4. Where prevention fails, citizens must overwhelmingly support civil authorities and police to maintain order. In Harlem, after the first violence flared last summer, civil-rights leaders called together every non-communist organization in the community—69 of them—and formed the United Harlem Organizations. Working closely with police to expose and isolate the incendiaries, they distributed thousands of leaflets urging people to stay away from a communist-called rally. The rally fizzled. The UHO is now working hard to counteract the communist-promoted "police brutality" sloganeering, a decades-old communist stratagem diabolically designed to hamstring proper police action. Rights groups everywhere must expose it as energetically as they seek to prevent real instances of excessive force.

The lesson of the rising global tide of Red-led violence is one of the oldest lessons of history: eternal vigilance is the price of liberty.