

EXCLUSIVE

Media Whip Up War Tensions in Latin America

When ten days ago *Time* magazine ran a lengthy article discussing the danger of a second War of the Pacific in the Andean region, few Latin American politicians or commentators — even those who vigorously protested the provocative nature of the *Time* piece — would have suggested that this was the beginning of a coordinated press campaign to heighten tensions in Latin America to the exploding point, and to prepare the U.S. population for such a war and likely U.S. intervention. Now it is clear to all that this is in fact the case. In the past eight days, the following major articles have appeared in the international press as follow-ups to the argument laid out by *Time*:

*** On Jan. 7, the French financial daily *Le Nouveau Journal* published an article entitled "Moscow Master Coup: The Russians Implant Themselves in Peru," in which it is charged that the recent Peruvian purchase of Soviet war planes establishes a Soviet beachhead in Latin America. *Le Nouveau Journal* reports particular concern about these purchases in Chile, "where antagonism with Peru subsists after the War of the Pacific (1879-1883) that ended with Chilean occupation of the mineral-rich Atacama Desert, *considered as the Peruvian Alsace Lorraine*" (emphasis added).

*** On Jan. 9, Eliot Janeway — a top advisor to the editor in chief of *Time* magazine and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations — pulled Brazil and Venezuela into the media with an article in the *Washington Star* that called for a Brazilian invasion of Venezuela — on the grounds that Venezuela is the source of all of Brazil's economic ills. Wrote Janeway: "Overrunning Venezuela would be easier for Brazil than *swarming over Alsace-Lorraine was for Bismarck, Hindenberg and Hitler*" (emphasis added).

*** On Jan. 5, the British magazine *Defense and Foreign Policy* ran an article by Leight Johnson which called for the formation of a South Atlantic Treaty Organization (SATO), which would be available to intervene in any "hot spots" in the South Atlantic region. Previous discussion of SATO in many press sources has emphasized the role that Brazil would play in such an arrangement as a "surrogate policeman" for New York banking interests in the region.

Latin America Protests

Today, ten days after the *Time* story and three war-scare articles later, most of the Latin American press and many politicians are outraged.

Venezuelan Foreign Minister Escobar Salom identified the Janeway article as an attempt to encourage conflict where none existed, and the Brazilian daily *O Globo* sarcastically derided Janeway. Itamaraty, the Brazilian State Department, issued a statement refuting Johnson's call for Brazilian participation in SATO, stating that Brazilians had no intention of involving themselves in such international military accords.

On the Peru-Chile front, the Peruvian Foreign Ministry denied the *Nouveau Journal* slander, and charged the article was a total fabrication designed to create a climate of artificial tension where none existed. The Foreign Ministry's statement explicitly denied that any military accord with the Soviet Union existed, and predicted that this attempt to poison Peruvian-Soviet ties would fail. The Chilean Ambassador in Lima called the *Time* magazine article "nonsense" (un disparate), and Chilean Naval Minister Merino said *Time* was clearly "dimwitted and absurd" for trying to create conflict where none exists. Even the Ecuadorean Foreign Minister this week denounced the creation of a "war psychosis" in the region.

The Rand Corporation's War Scenario

Despite these protestations of pacific intent, and the rage that the press barrage has provoked in Latin America, the subcontinent is now closer than ever to war. The entire media campaign, designed and orchestrated by the Rand Corporation depends on creating an atmosphere of paranoia and national chauvinism in the various countries, which can then be manipulated into overt acts of war under appropriate circumstances of (media-created) regional tension. This is how press articles based on not one shred of actual fact lead straight to war.

There are three other distinct goals of the Rand Corporation's manipulation, in addition to the provocation of war itself.

First, to create the political conditions advantageous to the various pro-Rockefeller political factions in the respective countries. Second, to generate so much war hysteria among Latin America's population that they can be induced to *plead* for United States or OAS intervention even before an actual war breaks out. And third, to psychologically prepare the population in the U.S. in particular for just such an intervention. On all these counts, this past week's Media War has furthered the Rand Corporation's goals significantly.