

## — Browder's New Book —

# A Good Neighbor Vs. a 'Specialist'

By JOSEPH STAROBIN

It's interesting to compare the current attitudes of two Americans, Sumner Welles and Earl Browder, toward the crisis of inter-American relations now besetting the hemisphere. I have in mind Mr. Welles' articles in the N. Y. Herald Tribune, beginning shortly after his resignation from the State Department, last autumn, many of which will evidently appear in his forthcoming book. I have in mind, on the other hand, the new book by Earl Browder on Teheran.

Mr. Welles is, of course, a specialist in Latin American affairs for better or worse. It is not so well known that Browder has a very special place in the hearts of Latin American progressives. He has been recognized for years as a champion of a non-imperialist foreign policy, and is among the most popular and respected North American figures.

For reasons not fully explained, Welles has made criticisms of the State Department and the Administration one of his chief aims in his Herald Tribune articles. He is nowhere so sharp as in connection with Latin America. Welles has one fixed idea, as though attempting to live down his own past. The United States, he says, must not give the impression of intervening in the internal affairs of the Latin American peoples.

We must recognize the Argentine dictatorship; we took too long to recognize Bolivia; the way to overcome the current degeneration of our policy is to call a meeting of the foreign ministers of all our sister republics. And that is about all Welles has to offer.

Very well. Suppose we were to admit that Argentine fascism is the internal affair of the unhappy Argentines themselves. Suppose we were to overlook the preparations for war against Brazil and Uruguay now going on in Buenos Aires. Suppose we were to refuse to learn the lessons of Europe, and suppose we were to continue a "non-intervention policy" in the hemisphere that proved so disastrous in Europe. Suppose we recognize Argentina—what then, Mr. Welles? How much nearer are you to any solution of the basic issues?

## WHERE WELLES LEAVES OFF

Welles gives no inkling of an answer. By contrast, Browder begins at this point, and grapples with the issues so fundamentally as to put the experienced, sophisticated and famous Mr. Welles to shame.

The Communist leader sees three factors now assisting Nazi intrigue in Latin America. First is Washington's failure to offer convincing proof that the Good Neighbor policy is permanent. Second is our "inability" to distinguish between friends and enemies, our toleration of Falangists compared with our coolness toward Latin American labor. Third is the continued struggle between Britain and America for trade and strategic position in the hemisphere.

You don't have to be an expert to appreciate these points. Millions of our fellow-Americans below the Rio Grande still suspect "Yankee imperialism" and fear a resurgence of its cruder expressions. It is notorious that some of our ambassadors, like Spruille Braden in Cuba or George Messersmith in Mexico are more sympathetic with Latin American reaction than with Latin American progress. A man like Lombardo Toledano is only beginning to be respected by the

*This is the second in a series of comments on Earl Browder's new book, Teheran, by Daily Worker editors. Tomorrow and Thursday, George Morris will discuss current labor problems in terms of Browder's book. Max Gordon contributes two articles Friday and Saturday on the political scene.*

State Department, and even then only by some circles.

Browder's third point is crucial. The Anglo-American conflict runs almost as deep in South America as in Asia. You cannot understand the tenacity with which oligarchic and feudal elements in the hemisphere hold to their power without realizing the support that Great Britain gives them.

## A CONCRETE STEP

How to convince our neighbors of our good intentions? Browder implies something far more essential and dramatic than a confab of foreign ministers: Independence for Puerto Rico. Were the United States in the course of the war to change its policy toward the only people we still hold in subjection, then all Latin America would be sure of the main direction of our policy for generations.

Browder's second point needs little elaboration; it is on the third point that he makes his major contribution. The way to dissolve the Anglo-American conflict in the hemisphere, he says, is to project a large-scale program of industrialization, establishing Good Neighborliness on the firm foundation of increasing living standards, modernization of agriculture, rapid growth of rounded-out industrial economies.

In such a project, there would be room for both British and American trade; more important, however, Great Britain's reliance on the most feudal and oligarchic sectors of Latin American society would be undermined.

Industrialization in Latin America means the accession of strength to forward-looking capitalists in an essential alliance with Latin American labor and other progressives. It means a profound political and social transformation in the hemisphere, achieved in such a way as to assist the expansion of our own trade and production. It means the eclipse of precisely those social elements on whom Britain has historically relied, but who have proved to be better friends of Hitler's than anyone else.

This is, in brief, not only a basic program but also a bold one. Sumner Welles with his intimate diplomatic knowledge, his travel, his 20-year concentration in this field has as yet produced nothing like it. And probably never will.

## Motta Lima Release Spurs Prestes Fight

MONTEVIDEO, June 26 (ALN).—Encouraged by the full pardon granted by Brazilian President Getulio Vargas to Pedro Motta Lima, former editor of the newspaper of the banned National Liberation Alliance, the Uruguay Committee for the Liberation of Luis Carlos Prestes, Alliance leader, this week urged President Vargas to release Prestes. He has been confined since 1936.