US must face revolutions

By Steve Carhart

Much as our government might like to believe that the mixed economies and elective governments found in the Western nations are a model for the underdeveloped world, they may often compare poorly with more authoritarian concepts, usually associated with Communism, as a basis for the rapid development of backward nations. While ideas of "political freedom" and "economic freedom" are effective bases for the operation of an advanced state, they are the product of years of fairly peaceful evolution in relatively advanced nations which did not need to be concerned with imminent starvation.

Revolutonary appeal

Unfortunately, while better communications and population pressures have convinced even the most backward nations of the need for quick progress, the time it takes to eradicate stagnant tradition without a thorough revolutionary upheaval has not decreased appreciably. This is where Communism steps in; it is revolutionary rather than evolutionary. It can certainly change society (albeit at high human cost) and its doctrines are expressed in terms of class and exploitation, convenient themes in the underdeveloped world. Our course is not helped either by the fact that in many small countries "private enterprise" is equated with control by a privileged minority.

A comparison of China and India will illustrate the need for a thorough change in the fabric of backward societies if modernism is to overcome entrenched tradition. By forcibly indoctrinating the populace in the virtues of production and equalizing income through regelination, the Chinese have increased industrial production and, according to many correspondents, stopped starvation. China's traditional culture has been destroyed in the progress, of course; this step was probably necessary to adapt the nation to the needs of modern production.

India lags

In contrast, India has chosen an evolution over revolution; unproductive cows consuming badly needed food are one example of the impact of tradition on modernization. US surpluses are a vital part of India's food supply. The rajahs who ruled parts of India before the revolution still receive stipends from the government, while starvation is reported in Calcutta.

Does this mean that Communism is the only solution to the problems of underdeveloped nations? Not necessarily; the important point here is that when one is attempting to modernize an underdeveloped nation, drastic government measures which would be unnecessary or unpalatable in this country must be used in order to overcome the inertia of traditions. Some combination of large-scale land reform, income equalization, control and forced development of industry, and even regimentation of the populace will probably be needed in many instances.

Flexibility needed

Some nations, such as Chile and the Philippines, are apparently making progress under representative governments; they should and do receive our full support. Less sophisticated nations may require a more authoritarian revolutionary government which will conduct a thorough housecleaning. We must recognize that when progress isn't fast enough, revolution is likely. If we can learn to deal with revolutions, we may be able to help them achieve rapid modernization through major social changes while avoiding "cultural revolutions" and similar political excesses fostered by blind adherence to Communism.

Making the Scene

(Continued from Page 11)

open regularly during the day with occasionally free art exhibits including the current exhibition of European Paintings and drawings from the Block collection.

Open during a different time period are the continuing midnight experimental films being shown at the Cinema Kenmore Square. The series, running every weekend, has proved a boon to the site people around Kenmore Square.

Why should you confide in a guy you've never met before?

Because the guy we're talking about is a college recruiter from Alcoa. And the only way to play it is honestly. He'll be on campus in a couple of days. And here's what we recommend you do at the interview. First, lay your cards on the table. Tell him what kind of work would really turn you on. Then, sit back and listen while he explains how your plans figure into Alcoa's plans. (You'll be surprised how versatile Aluminum Company of America can be.)

So make it a point to meet Alcoa's recruiter. He's a confidence man you can really trust.

Interview date:

February 15

An Equal Opportunity Employer

A Plans for Progress Company

LITTON INDUSTRIES

ADVANCED MARINE TECHNOLOGY DIVISION

Challenging


Full Time — Part Time — Summer Jobs

in Los Angeles—Washington—Cambridge

For details call collect

E. FREE

Area Code 213; Tel. 836-5500 or Local 542-0279 (evenings)