

Freedom House Describes 1967 As a Trying Year for Freedom

Freedom House, issuing its alerting "China's neighbors to annual Balance Sheet of Free-Maoist extremism." Elsewhere abroad, the balance sheet concluded that in 1967 freedom was "sorely tried at home and lost ground abroad."

On the domestic scene, the report said:

"Violent antagonisms born of centuries-old racial oppression and discrimination burst upon our cities, adding to the general malaise over Vietnam, affecting every public act and institution. Dissent, license and civil disobedience were commonplace."

The balance sheet, which was prepared by the organization's public affairs committee, asserted:

"Over-all, violence—whether socially or antisocially motivated—was fraying the fabric of American society. Freedom suffered in the name of freedom."

The committee found a possible "hopeful note" in the "brutal catharsis of summer"—"Americans were questioning their institutions, their leaders, themselves as never before." The report found evidence of a display of conscience that could lead to a diminution of social abuses.

Gains in Asia

Overseas, the report continued, Asia was the scene of "the most perceptible gains for freedom." The committee found some Asian leaders turning to the United States for leadership, and cited the conflict in Vietnam as the most direct contribution to the gains.

The cultural revolution in China, led by Mao Tse-tung, the Communist party chairman, was considered an indirect aid to the non-Communist world by

In Africa, "military take-overs and tribal rivalries" were cited as impediments to economic and political development.

The report found no fundamental relaxation of controls in Eastern Europe and lamented the devaluation of the British pound as well as France's stand against Britain's admission to the Common Market. It praised the tariff cuts of the so-called Kennedy Round of economic negotiations, but concluded that, over-all, the non-Communist world had suffered losses in Europe.

The report found encouragement in the agreement by 19 Latin-American countries to establish a common market, and declared that the death of Ernesto Che Guevara in Bolivia was a setback to Premier Fidel Castro's threat to the area. Major Guevara had been a close associate of the Cuban leader.

Freedom House, established in 1927, describes itself as "a nonpartisan educational organization devoted to the strengthening of free societies at home and abroad." The Balance Sheet of Freedom has been issued every year since 1952.

The 1967 report was prepared by Leo Cherne, Paul H. Douglas, Roscoe Drummond, George Field, George B. Ford, Harry D. Gideonse, Mrs. Andrew Jackson, Francis P. Miller, Whitney North Seymour, Gerald L. Steibel and Rex Stout.