

Spain in Grip of Stalinist G.P.U.

Socialist Kidnaped and Smuggled Off to Russia

An early August issue of *Libertad*, one of the underground organs of the CNT-FAI, carries sensational information regarding the workings of the Stalinist GPU in Barcelona.

According to this paper, the head of the GPU is a certain Alfred Herz. This Herz appears to hail from Philadelphia, where he was active for some time in trade union circles. The GPU operates in Barcelona from three different centers mainly, although it maintains offices in various parts of the city as well as on the countryside, usually in locations close to local police stations. The three main centers are the Consulate of the U.S.S.R., the Hotel Colon—which was a P.O.U.M. headquarters before its suppression—and the Karl Marx Barracks of the Stalinist P.S.U.C., reserved especially for the most refined forms of torture.

Herz has his agents in every police station, from Barcelona all the way to Valencia. The secret service uses the camouflaged designation "Foreign Department of the P.S.U.C." as a cover for its work. The "Foreign Department" has in its possession a complete file on the whereabouts, contacts and relatives, etc. etc., of every person in one way or another distasteful to the leadership of the Comintern section in Spain. Since the establishment of the Stalin-Negrin government, these unfortunates have been tracked down systematically. Collaborating from a vantage point in this work is a certain Schoysa Kinderman. The latter is chief of the foreign intelligence service of the Valencia police. In this capacity, he has been able to keep track of all contacts between members of political organizations and their central committees located in Valencia or Madrid.

have influence, but the delegation felt itself in such danger of Stalinist reprisal that it refused to leave Barcelona without the accompaniment of a delegation from the FAI. The latter had to escort them to the airdrome, from which they took off for their homes.

Investigators Vanish

The prominent Socialist-Revolutionary lawyer, I. Sternberg, first Commissar of Justice in the Bolshevik-S.R. coalition government of the Soviets, has assumed charge of Rein's defense. The Valencia government, through its Special Service, placed an agent in charge of investigating the Rein case. This agent and his chief, Fernando Meca, have since also disappeared in the same mysterious fashion.

The investigation, thus far, has discovered the following facts to be reliable. Mark Rein was not killed by the Herz apparatus. Sometime between April 11 and April 30, he was shipped from Barcelona "as a trunk" on a boat headed for Russia. Rein is, therefore, undoubtedly in the hands of the Russian GPU.

However, the investigation of this case has only begun. The heads of the Second International appear determined to get at the bottom of it. Just as this case has already revealed appreciably the methods whereby the Stalinists in Spain are carrying on their persecution of non-Stalinist labor figures, so the further developments will no doubt uncover the whole international network extending directly from the G.P.U. headquarters on Lubyanka Street in Moscow.

The Case of Mark Rein

Mysterious disappearances of personages in the labor movement since last May have grown in number. In every case where the mystery of a disappearance has been solved, the threads have been traced back directly to the Herz apparatus. One such case which, after the lynching of Andres Nin and the "disappearance" of Erwin Wolff, has aroused especial attention, is that of Mark Rein.

fact that the anarchists were responsible for it, because of his disagreements with them. This version was not, however, credited in any of the non-Stalinist circles. The Executive Committee of the Second International dispatched a delegation to Spain, to investigate the case. The Stalinist alibi immediately proved to be worthless. For, not only were innumerable obstacles put in the way of the delegation by all government organs in which the Stalinists

Mark Rein is the editor of the newspaper *Sozialdemokraten*, published in Stockholm, Sweden. For some time, *Sozialdemokraten* has been publishing regular reports from Russia, shedding an interesting light on recent events in that country. The information contained in these reports is apparently of such an authentic nature, that its source is generally regarded as being a person in high position in the Communist Party of Russia. The G.P.U. has for a long time shadowed the offices of the Stockholm newspaper, in an attempt to uncover the source.

Is Son of Abramovich

What has aroused particular interest in this case is the fact that Mark Rein is, in reality, a son of Raphael Abramovich, the well-known Russian Menshevik leader and member of the Executive Committee of the Second International. Rein, under this assumed name and using an American passport, came to Barcelona early last Spring and organized a group of anti-Stalinist socialists in the P.S.U.C. He published articles, in which, among other things, he criticized the policy of the CNT, declaring that his criticism is directed against the CNT exclusively because they are the only ones capable of doing things

Immediately after his arrival the Herz apparatus began to plan his seizure. He was lured into their net over the telephone, in a message from a woman who asked him for an interview. After several days absence from the hotel where he was staying, the management of the hotel received a letter signed by Rein, dealing with the disposal of his baggage and other such matters. The Madrid date-line on the letter was obviously written by a different hand from that of the author of the letter.

As soon as news of Rein's disappearance began to spread, the late circulated stories to the ef-

Dr. Fiorello H. Jekyll and Mr. Fiorello H. Hyde on New York's Columbus Day

The distinguished representative of Wall Street in City Hall, Fiorello H. LaGuardia, on Columbus Day gave the workers of New York City a lesson in People's Front politics that would be well NEVER to forget. Within a few hours' space LaGuardia appeared before a Fascist demonstration sponsored by the "Sons of Italy—with Generoso Pope, agent of Mussolini in America, and at the "non-fascist" rally conducted by the Stalinists and American Labor Party reactionaries. The "Non-Fascist" celebration held only a few hours after the fascist demobilized was advertised as a Columbus Day holiday.

October 12th was established 3 years ago by revolutionary socialists and even the Stalinists as a day for militant anti-fascism. For 3 years every counter-demonstration staged by the anti-fascists against the fascist parades was the scene of the most bitter physical clashes. Last year young socialists were brutally beaten and imprisoned for their heroic stand against an overwhelming number of fascists and police.

As last year, LaGuardia first accepted the invitation of the Italian Fascists. This was an unexpected blow to the Communist leaders who, anxious to overlook LaGuardia's connections, expected that he would speak before their People's Front meeting. When the Stalinists learned that LaGuardia loved the Fascists as well as their votes they directed a Committee of peaceful inquiry to His Honor for an explanation. The Mayor informed them that he intended to speak for the Fascists. "But what about our meeting?" asked the shame-

less visitors. Well, LaGuardia told them, I'll speak before your meeting also.... on the condition that instead of having an anti-fascist rally, you make it a Columbus Day Celebration. The Committee promptly accepted the suggestion and hurried to organize for Columbus Day.... Is there any question of who will fight fascism here?

MAN BITES DOG

When a dog bites a man, that's no news. But when a man bites a dog, that is news.

The New York Times of October 18, prints as "news" the following dispatch from its Madrid correspondent:

"Francisco Largo Caballero, ex-Premier, who has threatened for three months to launch a stump campaign against the government, was permitted by that government to address an open meeting in Madrid today...."

It certainly has become "news" when the Stalino-bourgeois People's Front government—arch-defender of "democracy"—grants permission (!) to a labor leader, critical of the Stalinists, to speak at a public meeting.

STALINISM and BOLSHEVISM

by Leon TROTSKY

Pioneer Publishers 100 Fifth Avenue New York, N. Y.

Drive to Aid C.N.T. Is Endorsed by L. Trotsky

CARLO TRESCA
New York City, N. Y.
Esteemed Comrade Tresca,

With warm sympathy I respond to your call for action to help the Spanish revolutionary victims of Stalin-Negrin. The militants of the C.N.T. incontestably occupy first place among these victims.

As a Marxist I am an adversary of Anarchism. Even more irreconcilably am I an adversary of the present opportunism of the leaders of the C.N.T. But this cannot hinder me from seeing and recognizing that in the ranks of this organization are concentrated the elite of the Spanish proletariat. Profound revolutionary solidarity binds me to the anarchist workers; whereas in the pseudo-Marxist cliques of Stalin-Negrin I see only masked class foes.

Against the attitude of the Nation and the New Republic, I totally share your indignation. The executioner is hideous, but more hideous is the priest in the service of the executioner. As the agent of imperialism, Stalin's G.P.U. invokes hatred. Completely nauseating are the long-haired democratic preachers who pander to the Stalinist executioners.

The struggle for the liberation of humanity is impossible without the simultaneous mobilization of contempt for such courtisans, sycophants, lackeys, bigots as the Nation and the New Republic.

I wish you the best success in your campaign and I shake your hand with revolutionary greetings.
October 6, 1937.

LEON TROTSKY

Subscribe, Give

to the Socialist Appeal. Some subscriptions have come in as a result of our appeals in the past—but they have not warranted the expansion program that we want to put into effect. Let each reader of the *Socialist Appeal* either renew his subscription now or get at least one new subscriber—and we promise that there will be no delay in mailing your paper. So far the paper has come out on time. Every effort is being made to keep it coming in the same manner—AND YOU MUST HELP NOW.

But just getting the *Appeal* out on time is not enough. The demand for the *Appeal* is growing daily. The national office wants to make it possible to distribute

it to trade unionists on a trial subscription basis; to hand it out during strikes; to popularize it amongst those who have never seen it by giving away free copies. We have had many requests from all over the country, particularly in industrial areas asking us if it would not be possible to send bundles for free distribution. The method is used by the Stalinists with the *Daily Worker*. We must fight fire with fire.

CONTRIBUTIONS to make this work possible can come from no one but you—the readers and supporters of the *Socialist Appeal*. Use the blank below, contribute if possible—and no amount is too small or too large—and at least get another subscription!

Socialist Appeal
116 University Place
New York City

Date

I enclose \$..... for which please send me the *Socialist Appeal*. One year—(\$2.00); Six Months—(\$1.00).

I enclose \$..... as my contribution toward building the *Socialist Appeal*.

Name

Address

City

FALL FROLIC

Dancing Entertainment Refreshments

Swing Band

Saturday, November 6th at 9 P. M.

15th Street and Irving Place

Irving Plaza

TICKETS: FIFTY FIVE CENTS

For Sale at: Labor Book Shop

28 East 12th Street, N. Y. C.

Auspices: Young Peoples Socialist League
Socialist Party (Left Wing)