

Widow Reveals How G.P.U. Slew Ignace Reiss in Swiss Village

Stalin Aimed to Silence Marxist School a Success Former Soviet Agent

By E.

A week after the assassination of Ludwig (Ignace Reiss who published his open letter resigning from the Russian Communist Party under the name of Ludwig) in Lousanne, I succeeded in meeting his wife and engaged in a conversation with her.

Ludwig's wife is of Polish origin. She produces the impression of a very energetic woman and excellently acquainted with the work of Ludwig and the work of the GPU in general. The day when I saw her she was still totally under the influence of the blow, talked quite unsystematically, and repeated always one phrase: "I will live." Often she produced the impression of a drugged person. On the one hand she is convinced that the GPU will kill her too (since they realize that she knows all that was known to Ludwig). On the other hand she thinks that perhaps "they" will believe that she is totally terrorized and will remain silent, and that they will, therefore, leave her in peace.

How Ludwig Was Killed

After having broken with the GPU, Ludwig wrote to a number of his comrades proposing to them that they follow his step. Nobody answered except a certain Gertrude Schildbach, maiden name Neugebauer, a functionary of the GPU in Rome with whom he had worked for twenty years and whom he had hired himself. Another reply came from a GPU functionary in England, who was supposed to visit Ludwig on September 2 for a discussion. According to Ludwig's wife, Schildbach had sincere hesitations. (The proof for it she sees in the fact that after the shooting of Zinoviev and Kamenev she was very shocked and wept in her conversations with Ludwig.)

On September 3 Schildbach arrived in Switzerland for the meeting arranged through correspondence by Ludwig. Ludwig's wife was present at this meeting. Schildbach declared to Ludwig that she was in absolute agreement with him, that she would break with the GPU, but that she did not know what to do in the future. Ludwig answered that it is necessary to join the Fourth International, to finish with the past, and for the rest we will see. She proposed to Ludwig that they have dinner the next night in one of the restaurants of Lausanne. Ludwig told her, jokingly, that he had no more money. She answered that she had some money and invited him. Ludwig's wife left for Montreux. Ludwig had to meet Schildbach again on September 4 to have dinner with her before leaving for Rheims. She was supposed to visit Ludwig's wife on the following Sunday. When Ludwig left his wife he told her that Schildbach produced in him a very strange and incomprehensible impression.

Assassins Known

The following is known to Ludwig's wife from the communications of the police: Ludwig and Schildbach had dinner together and then went out into the street. It was late and the streets were deserted. They intended to take an automobile, but another automobile arrived. A man jumped out and struck Ludwig on the head with a blackjack. Then they

shoved him into the car and killed him. Before his death he defended himself. In his hand they found wisps of Schildbach's hair. They found also in the car a coat with a Madrid label. The police believe that seven people, two women and five men, participated in the murder.

Schildbach fled, but left her baggage in the hotel. There they found some pictures of Schildbach, recognized by Ludwig's wife. The pictures were sent to the police of different countries. Observation of the Soviet steamers in various ports was established. The police identified one more participant in the murder named Kondratjeff (a white emigre) who aroused the suspicion of the police by pacing back and forth the day of the murder at one place in a railroad station. The police checked his papers and since they were all right they did not arrest him. Ludwig's wife says that for such kind of work abroad, the GPU always chooses White Guardists.

What Ludwig's Wife Knows About the GPU

As I have said already, Ludwig's wife speaks nervously, interrupts, and jumps over from one question to another evidently still upset from the recent blow. I will try to reproduce what she tells:

1. The whole foreign apparatus of the GPU is being re-organized. All the old functionaries are called back and there they are arrested and shot on suspicion of Trotskyism. Arrested or executed are: Unshlicht, Stashowski, Brunn, Walter, Rudzutak, etc. To the question, are these people really Trotskyites? She answered that in general all are against Stalin, even those who are always ready to sign anything and to praise Stalin. In their souls they hate him. She herself knows several people of the foreign apparatus who will refuse to return, some of them because they fear for their lives, others for ideological reasons. The murder of Ludwig was intended to terrorize all these people. For this reason it was committed.

2. During the trial of Pyatakoff she was in Moscow. She knows a number of details as to how this trial was framed up.

3. The case of the GPU man, Brunn. Since 1924 Brunn had been in his soul a Trotskyite but didn't speak about it. The GPU knew about it. Some months before the Zinoviev trial they removed him from his foreign post (the reason: the competition between Yagoda and Yezhov) and ordered him to investigate the case of the German colonists who had to be joined to the Zinoviev trial. He had to obtain "confessions." Brunn knew some of these people personally; moreover, he did not believe in this trial. Naturally he did not obtain "confessions." They arrested Brunn

Marxist School a Success As First Sessions Begin

The large registrations for the courses in the opening week of the Marxist School revealed great interest and enthusiasm. Since all the classes are lecture courses, attendance is permitted for individual sessions — a admission twenty five cents.

For the week of October 25th the subjects will be:

1. ELEMENTARY MARXISM —Monday, 7 P.M.—John G. Wright. Contradictions of Capitalism
- II. CHINA AND THE FAR EAST —Monday 8:45 P.M.—Robert Graves. The Chinese Revolution—1925-27
3. POLITICAL CURRENTS IN AMERICAN LABOR MOVE-

MENT—Tuesday, 7 P. M.—Maurice Spector.

Rooseveltian Laborism

4. SOCIALISM AND WAR —Tuesday, 8:45 P. M. — Max Schachtman.

The Epoch of Social Betrayal and Proletarian Resurgence, or War, Socialism and the Founding of the Communist International.

5. THE AMERICAN TRADE UNION MOVEMENT — Friday, 7 P. M.—James P. Cannon Basis for the A.F. of L.-CIO Split.

Those interested in receiving more information on the School should write to Marxist School, 116 University Place, New York City.

Y. C. L. Leaders Split New Jersey A. Y. C.

NEWARK.—In protest against the complete pro-war line of the American Youth Congress and its attendant suppression of the democratic rights of the opponents of the Roosevelt war program, the Y.P.S.L. demonstratively broke with the A.Y.C. of New Jersey at the latter's "Model Legislature" session in Trenton on October 16 and 17. The Town Club, representing a strong youth movement in Plainfield, likewise withdrew from the sessions, denouncing the steam-roller procedure of the Stalinist leadership. The representatives of the "Clarity" group youth expressed their protest by refusing a place offered to them on the state committee.

Of the 54 delegates present, at least 25 were member of the Young Communist League or the Stalinist "innocent clubs". No and his wife for insufficient vigilance and for indecision.

Refused to Confess—Shot!

4. The GPU man, Max Friedman, a Pole, had to be connected with the Zinoviev trial. They asked him to "confess." Friedman refused. He was shot without any trial or judgement.

5. Why do they confess? Those who agree to confess (a minority) think that anyhow one has to die. If one does not confess he is shot. If he does confess perhaps he can escape. Some people confess because of fidelity to the party.

6. She knows also in great detail the "touching up" of Feucht-wanger's latest book. About Feucht-wanger they are singing a little song in the U.S.S.R. which has the following sense: What does Stalin fear? that this Jew should not become an Andre Gide?

7. The case of Cherbinchich: He was wounded during a shooting on the Square Denfert-Rocherau in Paris. Cherbinchich was an agent of the GPU considered to be a provocateur and the GPU decided to kill him. At the beginning they proposed to Ludwig's wife that she help but it seems that she refused. In the spring of 1937 they tried to kill him on the Square Denfert-Rocherau but they wounded him only. Since he left the hospital Cherbinchich has disappeared.

more than 19 of the total delegation were politically unaffiliated (non-YPSL or non-C.L.) delegates. The Stalinists used their mechanical majority to put over their pro-war position without allowing the opposition the right to expression. Minority viewpoints, opposed to the "People's Front" line of the leadership were refused minority reports. The steam-roller was especially worked up to infuse artificial enthusiasm for Roosevelt's war-mongering speech in Chicago; for resolutions defining "national defense" as inclusive of Alaska and Hawaii (they weren't sure, apparently, about the status of the Philippines at this time); as well as in preventing a discussion of Fascism in connection with the "Peace Seminar".

The break came when the Y.P.S.L. representative, Robert Shaw, upon being nominated for the Nomination Committee, refused the nomination in a dramatic speech received with rapt attention by the tense audience. Declaring that the pro-war policy adopted by the Congress and its attendant lack of democracy rendered the A.Y.C. unfit as an instrument for solving the problems of youth, Shaw denounced the presence of reactionaries and Fascist on the National Council of the A.Y.C. and the failure of the New Jersey section to do anything about it, despite previous decisions adopted by that body. He further pointed out the nefarious role of the A.Y.C. in refusing to endorse the Conference to re-open Junior College, an institution which has splendid youth work to its credit, and declared that the Y.P.S.L., as in the past, would persevere in its efforts to build up a fighting united front movement around the American Youth Act and against the threatening war being prepared by American imperialism.

NOTICE TO PARTY BRANCHES

Please send in names of comrades elected to serve as correspondents to the SOCIALIST APPEAL. Special attention must be given to providing us with timely stories on trade union struggles.

All copy must be in by Saturday.

Bill's Column

Trail of a Renegade

The Star Spangled Banner

In an interview published in the Daily Worker, Earl Browder declared, that the only people who can really sing the Star Spangled Banner, are the members of the Communist Party. "If you want to hear the Star Spangled Banner sung as it should be, come to a good Communist meeting."

Judas Offers Himself

On Constitution Day, Browder in the name of the Communist Party said that in the event of a war against fascism, the C. P. would be in the foreground in stamping out extremists, "just as are our comrades in Spain". Twelve Anarchist Workers in Catalonia, fighters for their class, tortured, mutilated and butchered, were thrown from a car—dead—with their testicles in their mouths. That's how Browder's stool-pigeon and gangster "comrades" deal with "extremists" in Spain!

"Peace" Loving"

"We have in the United States, a group of pacifist societies who, in the name of peace, are counselling unconditional surrender (?) to the International bandits. Whatever their motives, such pacifists have become agents of Hitler and Mussolini."—Browder at the Convention of the Canadian C. P.—That indicates what's in store for pacifists at the hands of the Stalinist gangsters when Wall Street decides that the time is ripe for War.

Scabbing on the Police "Red Squads."

Testifying before the Massachusetts Legislative Committee for investigating "subversive movements", a local leader of the Communist Party called on the Committee to investigate organization activities of the Trotskyists.

A Warning

Let all class conscious workers and opponents of capitalist war take note. Browder's storm troops are ready. The day war starts, if not earlier, Browder will place his gang at the disposal of the Department of Justice. He has already pledged that Stalinist stool-pigeons and sadistic brutes will be let loose ever as they are in the U.S.S.R. and Spain.

Clarity Goes underground

The Clarity group in the S. P., finding voting for LaGuardia more than they can bear, have thought up a unique way out. Secretly they are instructing their supporters to write in the name of—whisper it—a candidate. If you want further instructions go to the home of Zam. Knock three times. Say Gus sent you. The pass-word is, "Tootsie-Fruitsie". Then if you can prove you reliability and there is no Altmanite in sight, Zam will slip you the dope. Of course you may also have to buy a master code book and a Breeder's Guide.

VILLAGE DANCE!!

HOTTEST! LIVELIEST! BEST IN TOWN!

PLACE:

5 Washington Square N.

TIME:

Saturday Night, October 30.

Dancing! Dining! Drinking!