

G.P.U. Plans Framing French Trotskyists in Secret Fascist Plots

By Pierre Naville

PARIS, France.—The clandestine arming of the French fascist parties has never been a secret for anyone. The participation of the heads of the army in this enterprise has also been quite obvious. As to the complicity of the "People's Front" government in this conspiracy against the working masses, that has been just as patent, if not quite as avowed. Patent, because the arms depots have been exposed many times for more than a year (particularly by the Socialist Populaire and the Communist L'Humanite) without any government action; because the Surete National (the federal police) has been kept well-informed in the matter, thanks to its stoolpigeons, spies and provocateurs—without any intervention on the part of the ministry; because fascist propaganda and organization have been developing in the army with the support of Daladier, the Minister of Defense.

Government Complicity

Pozzo di Borgo, Duseigneur, La Rocque and the others have been and still are preparing their forces without any restraint behind the backs of Daladier, Blum, Dormoy and Co. just as Franco, Mola and the others prepared themselves under the benevolent eyes of Companys, Azana, Caballero and Co.

All the "revelations" about the conspiracy show that the government, with the knowledge of the Socialist and Communist leaders, has tried to canalize fascist activity in continuing to play off one force against another as a balance for itself, a sort of game which can only result in the worst kind of catastrophe for the working class. At the same time, the Pozzo di Borgo-LaRocque trial has displayed before the eyes of the public some Punch-and-Judy secrets: the Radicals secretly subsidized La Rocque; Blum and Salengro (the Socialist Minister of Interior who committed suicide about a year ago) negotiated with La Rocque regarding the organization of the P.S.F. (French Social Party—the newly formed fascist party of La Rocque) subsequent to the pseudo-dissolution of the Croix de Feu (La Rocque's military organization) etc.

Role of G. P. U.

However, there is one organization which holds that these forced revelations about fascist conspiracy are of interest only if they can be made to compromise the revolutionary organizations of the proletariat: that's the G.P.U. It is obvious that the facts revealed on different occasions by L'Humanite were brought to its attention, partially at least, by the G.P.U. But there is only one thing that interests the G.P.U. and its French lackeys: how to compromise the Fourth International.

In spite of all their strong desires, the agents of Stalin have not succeeded in linking the P. O. I. (the French party of the Fourth International) either to the "Etoile" bombings or to the first investigation of the "Cagouards," the so-called "Hooded Ones." The provocateurs are now once more taking up the charge in two articles which must be immediately unmasked.

Attempt to Smear 4th International

Their first attempt: In L'Humanite of November 21, one of its editors writes: "One finds (in the conspiracy) the Trotskyist provocateurs, headed by Trotsky." This sheet writes thus without the slightest attempt to justify such a statement. Pure calumny! In what role are they found? On what occasion? Under which circumstances?

In reality, although no Trotskyists are to be found mixed up in the fascist conspiracies, the agents of the G.P.U., on the other hand, are not, probably, entirely absent from such a framework. It has already been proven that the leaders of the White Russians (Skobline, Kondratiev) and some elements in the Gestapo, as well as in the French and Czechoslovakian police, are members of the counter-revolutionary police of Stalin. Why shouldn't it have its men among the French fascists?

Their second attempt: Ce Soir (the Stalinist evening paper in Paris) of November 30 writes: "The aim of this military organization (fascist groups in the South-West of France) thus appears to be very clear. It was a matter of provoking an armed

uprising in South-Western France in support of an uprising prepared in Catalonia by the 'Fifth Column' as well as by the P. O. U. M. elements and the anarchists."

For the G.P.U., the P. O. U. M. represents the "Spanish Trotskyists." Ce Soir launches forth with this dastardly calumny of the P. O. U. M. at the very moment when the attempt to implicate the P. O. U. M. in an espionage trial in Spain has entirely collapsed. The G.P.U. does not give up its aim very easily. To implicate revolutionists in counter-revolutionary enterprises controlled and fostered by the government—with the classic police technique of the bourgeoisie—there is the aim!

La Rocque Agrees

It must also be remarked that Stalin's agents find themselves in good company with La Rocque, in pursuing this aim. Here is a statement made by the latter at the Lyons Congress of the P.S.F. (Petit Journal, November 29): "If the safety of the country and the defense of the republican institutions (!!) demand it, he together with his collaborators will unmask the enterprises of the anarchists and the Trotskyists, associated with others, for the purpose of making France the charnel-house of their savagery."

Once more, by denouncing the enterprises of the provocateurs in advance, their failure will be assured.

A New Stalinist Crime: The Murder of Januola

PARIS, France.—The entire French press has made public the assassination by a Spanish (Negrin-Stalin) frontier guard, of young Sebastian Januola, 18 years old, on French territory, at St. Laurent de Cerdans. Januola stopped bullets destined for Fons, a young Spaniard who accompanied him. The latter escaped assassination. This crime has aroused great indignation among the population and the Negrin government has been forced to arrest Corporal Martinez and two of his men (on December 9) who will be tried in Barcelona.

But who are the real culprits in this crime? The Stalinists designate themselves in this role in a dispatch from Perpignan published in L'Humanite on December 7.

L'Humanite writes:

"It is reported from St. Laurent de Cerdans that a young Frenchman, 18 years of age, Sebastian Juanola, a farm worker from the Nautilla region, came here last night at 7 o'clock, accompanied by his sister and a cousin from the neighboring village of Coustouges. The cousin, one Fons, a native of Massanet de Yabrenys (Spain) and a militant in the Trotskyist P. O. U. M., whose actions in favor of the rebels are known, had deserted the ranks of the Republican Army some time ago and fled to France. Although they could have

taken another road, the three young people took a mountain road bordering on the frontier and penetrating Spanish territory in part of its course... The three persons suddenly came head-on in front of three government guards who, finding them on Spanish territory, asked them for their papers. Fons being a Spaniard, they ordered him to follow them. Fons refused. Juanola began to insult the frontier guards and to follow after Fons who had turned about and jumped over into French territory. Juanola was at his side. A shot rang out. He fell, fatally wounded."

The arrest of the murderers gives the lie to the fundamental point of this impudent article: Juanola and Fons were on French territory which they had not at all left (as the Havas correspondent attests). The Spanish guards, commanded by Stalinist leaders (Pozas, Burillo and their successors) openly draw upon anyone who displeases Mr. Stalin. The will of the Kremlin has become their task. The dispatch in L'Humanite is an admission of this fact. Fons and Juanola have been reviled because they belonged to the P. O. U. M. Stalin orders: exterminate the Trotskyites! And the guards obey: they shoot. One more crime—one more warning. It is time to organize for self-defense!

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

French Press on Soviet "Election"—"Fathers" of Stalinist Constitution Now "Traitors"—World's Mounting Armaments.

By John G. Wright

Echoes of Stalin's Fake Elections

Stalin's plebiscite met with polite but pointed razzing in the editorial pages of the world capitalist ("democratic") press. The fraud was so brazen and crude that the bourgeois editors stood only to gain by understatement. It goes without saying that they did not let the opportunity slip to cover Marxism in general and Bolshevism in particular with the muck that Stalin pumps out of Moscow.

The noteworthy thing is that the French partners of Stalin in the People's Front treachery have finally unbuttoned their lips. Even Le Populaire broke on this occasion its non-aggression policy toward Stalin, dropping its pretext of "diplomatic consideration" to criticize the electoral frame-up. The French social patriots had covered Stalin's judicial frame-ups with silence. Now that it is no longer expedient (or possible) to keep mum, Populaire virtuously declares that Stalinism has "succeeded quite convincingly in demonstrating to the populace the grave personal risk every citizen incurs by adhering to the opposition."

They dare even to make reference (somewhat belatedly) to the frame-ups. Says Populaire: "The January trial of the so-called 'parallel center' (i.e., Radek-Piatakoff trial—J.G.W.); the June execution of Tukhachevsky and seven other generals, the purge in the party, the trade unions, the Komsomol, the Comintern, the administration, the journalistic and literary circles; the havoc wrought in the so-called 'federated' republics—all this nips in the bud the very possibility of an opposition's crystallizing."

Concludes the Populaire: "...the system of Soviet (read, Stalinist) elections has nothing in common with democracy despite the fact that the Soviet government has had the gall to declare its electoral law 'the most democratic in the world.'"

Now that they have broken the negotiations for unity with the C.P., the French social-patriots declare that they "cannot but view with disparagement the system of rule which is a complete denial of democratic principles."

Naturally, this cannot but widen the breach between Blum & Co. and Stalin-G.P.U.-Thorez & Co.

100 Per Cent for Stalin

The Stalinski electoral district in which Stalin himself chose to run was in the nature of things destined to set the record in getting out the vote. Nothing less than 100 per cent would do! When the zealous officials completed the count of the ballots, they were slightly embarrassed to discover that Stalin had been elected by more than 100 per cent. The official explanation is that voters in other districts seeking the "great honor" of voting for the beloved butcher flocked to the Stalinski district, where apparently the vote was so secret that ballots could be cast even by those who were not registered there.

Stalinist Constitution Work of "Spies" Etc.

In February 1935 a Constitutional Commission of 29 was appointed to draft the Stalin Constitution. Of these "Founding Fathers," five have been officially reported shot as "enemies of the people;" one (Cherviakov) committed suicide; two are presumably in prison (Radek, tried and sentenced; Bukharin, reported to have been sentenced and probably dead); one is reported a virtual prisoner (Litvinov); one is under a cloud (Petrovsky); nine are "missing"—leaving still to be accounted for, eight others (Molotov, Voroshilov, L. Kaganovich, Zhdanov, Kalinin, Mikoyan, Chibbar, and Vishinsky) plus, of course, Stalin.

In other words, the notorious Stalin Constitution was drafted by a Commission composed two-thirds of Germano-Japanese-Fascist-Trotskyite-Bukharinist etc. spies, wreckers, poisoners, restorers of capitalism, etc.—that is, if you believe Stalin.

Fate of Austrian Revolutionists in U. S. S. R.

Early in 1934 the heroic little army of 600 Austrian socialists, members of the Schutzbund, went to the U.S.S.R. In a feature article for December 15, the Daily Herald reports that "The men who went to Russia full of enthusiasm are now trickling back in a steady flow anxious to go home to Austria where prison awaits them." They are reported as leaving "of their own choice." The Daily Herald also reports that "at least 10 Austrian Socialists are in prison" in the city of Kharkov.

"Cannon Balls, Cannon Balls, Jingle All Around!"

The League of Nations adds to the prevailing spirit of "peace and good will on earth" (hailed so graciously by the Daily Worker) by issuing its Armaments Year Book for 1937. The world military expenditure which in 1932 was estimated at 4,300,000,000 gold dollars reached in 1937 the staggering total of 7,100,000,000 gold dollars—with still greater expenditures in store. These figures are based on "official" budgets only, i. e., are far below the actual amounts invested in the impending war. The admitted amount is almost three times as much as the world military expenditure in 1913, on the eve of the first world slaughter. Europe's share is approximately two-thirds of this total. The plans of the imperialists in the sphere of war preparations may be gathered from the armament budget of "democratic" Britain which calls for:

1936-7	£188 million
1937-8	£278 million
1938-9	£340 million

In 1913-14, Britain's war budget was £77 million.

Browder and Co. strangely forgot to extend the greetings of the season to the greatest beneficiaries of Santa Claus, (and the G.P.U.).