

Workers
Of the World Unite!

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F.D.R. War Plans Exposed

Britain Seeks 4-Power Pact Against USSR

Chamberlain Offers Concessions to Rome and Berlin To Form Anti-Soviet Bloc; Would Free Britain To Face Japan

"PEACE LOVERS" DESERT STALIN

The four major imperialist powers of Europe, "democratic" Britain and France, and Fascist Germany and Italy, took long, swift strides this week toward an understanding designed to iron out or postpone their own conflicts with each other by clearing the way for an attack on the Soviet Union.

This was the underlying significance of the spectacular series of events that began with Adolf Hitler's bloodless conquest of Austria on Feb. 14, followed by the resignation of Anthony Eden as British foreign secretary on Feb. 20, Hitler's open challenge for supremacy in Central Europe in his Reichstag speech the same day, and the opening of Anglo-Italian negotiations this week.

"Guarantors" Absent

Hitler assumed control in Austria after serving an ultimatum on Austrian Chancellor Schuschnigg at Berchtesgaden on Feb. 12. The "guarantors" of Austrian independence were not in evidence when Schuschnigg appealed for aid and he consequently gave way. Mussolini, who marshaled his battalions at Brenner Pass when Chancellor Dollfus was assassinated by Nazis in 1934 and thus checkmated the Nazi putsch, now looked on complacently. For him the Rome-Berlin axis is the means of making the Mediterranean an Italian sea and he is willing to give Hitler some rope in the Central Europe upon which he too has cast a covetous eye.

Great Britain—dragging behind a reluctant but helpless France—made no move to implement its fine pledges to "protect" Austria. It chose rather to accept Hitler's promise that Austrian "independence" would be maintained while the Austrian Nazis—with the new minister of Interior, Arthur Seyss-Inquart at their head—transform the country into a docile appendage of German Nazi policy.

Britain Seeks "Peace"

This was the outcome because British imperialism, with an anxious eye on its own slow-moving rearmament program, has reconciled itself to the inevitability of an expanding Nazi Reich controlling an ever larger portion of Central Europe. It has also determined to make terms with Italy rather than venture a struggle to see who is master of the Mediterranean at a time when Japan threatens the strongholds of British Imperialism in Asia.

Great Britain has obviously determined to make "peace" with Germany and Italy, whatever the cost, in order to turn the sharp edge of European antagonisms against the U.S.S.R. and to leave British hands freer to cope with Japan's encroachments upon British interests in China. This, too, Britain hopes to accomplish by turning Japanese attention away from British-dominated South China to the rich fields and mines of maritime Siberia.

U.S.S.R. Not Included

That is why the name of the Soviet Union—invoked once more by Hitler last Sunday as the one nation Germany regards as an enemy—was so notably absent from the hypocritical speeches of Neville Chamberlain and Eden in the House of Commons last Monday. The "peace of Europe," Chamberlain said, "must depend upon the attitude of four major powers, Germany, Italy, France, and ourselves." He pointedly omitted the Soviet Union when

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Leon Sedoff Dies In Paris After Sudden Operation

Thousands March Behind Bier; Await Results of Autopsy

Leon Sedoff, eldest son and closest collaborator of Leon Trotsky, died in Paris on Feb. 16 after a sudden intestinal operation.

The circumstances surrounding the tragic and untimely death of Comrade Sedoff, who was only 32, are as yet unclarified. The full results of an autopsy performed by Paris municipal medical authorities have not yet been made known.

What is definitely known is that there were several plots against Sedoff's life uncovered during the investigation of the G.P.U. agents involved in the murder of Ignace Reiss at Lausanne last September.

Foul Play Suspected

On one occasion, these arrested agents confessed, a trap had been set for Sedoff. Only by the merest chance did he escape it. Subsequently he was kept under the closest surveillance. A G.P.U. agent was found occupying a room opposite his own.

That the French police believed there was some ground for suspicion of foul play was indicated on February 20 when, according to a dispatch to the New York Times, they withheld permission for cremation of the body.

"Thousands of Trotsky followers of all nations" marched in

Geller Files For St. Paul Election

S.W.P. Enters Mayoralty Primary In First Campaign

ST. PAUL.—Launching the first election campaign of the Socialist Workers Party, the St. Paul Branch has filed Jules Geller as candidate for mayor in the municipal primaries.

Since the Labor-Progressive association of St. Paul (Farmer Labor Association) endorsed a member of a capitalist party, a Democrat, Geller, a trade union member, recently arrested on the Montgomery Ward picket line, is the only working-class candidate in the field.

Critical support will be given the Labor-Progressive candidates for the city council.

The step taken by the Labor-Progressive association in endorsing a Democrat, not even a member of the Farmer-Labor association, shows clearly the trend toward popular frontism, and is the first step in delivering the workers into the hands of a capitalist politician who has no interest in the maintenance of workers organizations, civil liberties, or in raising the workers' standard of living.

The Labor-Progressive candidates, actually Farmer-Laborites, who at least depend upon the organized workers at the polls, can occasionally act in the interest of the masses, under proper pressure. The Socialist Workers Party, while giving these candidates support, takes no responsibility for the actions of the candidates of the party of reform, and is conducting an independent campaign, maintaining no organizational relation with the Labor-Progressive association.

Vote Urged For Geller

Throughout the campaign the S.W.P. is pointing out that the only solution to the problems facing the working class, the abolition of poverty and degradation, unemployment, the combatting of war and fascism, lies in the overthrow of the capitalist system and the establishment of a workers' state.



Leon Trotsky

The procession which bore the body of Comrade Sedoff to Pere Lachaise cemetery, the New York Times reported.

Red Funeral

The coffin was wrapped in a red flag. At the cemetery the International, the anthem of the world revolutionary cause to which he devoted his entire life, was sung by the great crowd that came to pay final honors to a sterling revolutionist.

Leon was born in Russia 32 years ago. As a lad, he and his brother Sergei followed their father and mother across half the world through their years of exile, Austria, Switzerland, France, Spain, the United States, a Canadian concentration camp, and returned with them to the triumphs of 1917.

Unlike Sergei who continued his studies to become a technician and engineer—a career that did not save him from the vengeance and hatred of Stalin—Leon, a growing youth, joined the Young Communist League and embarked upon a career in the revolutionary movement.

Assembled Material

In 1928 he went with his father to their Alma Ata exile where he collected and assembled the material used by Trotsky in the writing of his Criticism of the Draft Program. In February, 1929, he accompanied his father to Prinkipo. Remaining there until February, 1931, Leon assumed responsibility for the editorship of the Bulletin of the Opposition, a task he continued to fulfill in the years that followed.

He was also in charge of the extensive correspondence carried on for some time with Oppositionists exiled in different parts of far Russia.

He went to Berlin to pick up the interrupted thread of his studies, attending the Technische Hochschule. In the final months of 1932, on the eve of the advent of Hitler, Sedoff had to live an almost illegal existence to protect himself from the hatred of the Nazi gangs. After Hitler took power, he had to flee the country, leaving Berlin in March, 1933, for Paris. He was reunited with his parents in July, 1933, when the latter came to France. He had seen them only briefly the previous years as they passed through France on their way back to Turkey after their visit to Copenhagen.

Edited Bulletin

Sedoff remained in Paris, however, editing the Bulletin. He was an able organizer and writer. His pseudonym, N. Markin, appeared over brilliant and searching studies of the Red Army, the Stakhanovist movement, and other phases of Soviet life.

Trotsky left France for Norway in June, 1935. Sedoff, re-

Trotsky Sees Possibility Of Foul Play In Death Of His Son

BY LEON TROTSKY

COYOACAN, D. F., Feb. 18.—The wound is still too fresh for me to be able to talk yet about Leon Sedoff as of someone dead. He was not only my son but my best friend. But there is one question upon which I am duty bound to make myself heard immediately: this question deals with the causes of his death. I must say from the very beginning that I do not have direct data at my command which would allow me to assert that the death of L. Sedoff is the handiwork of the G.P.U.

In the telegrams that my wife and I have received from friends in Paris there is no more information than that included in the news over the press wires. But I should like to give some indirect information which may, however, have great significance for the judicial investigation in Paris.

Sickness a Surprise

1) It is not true that my son suffered from a chronic intestinal disease. The announcement about this sickness came as a complete surprise to his mother and me.

2) It is not true that he supposedly suffered heavily during the past few weeks. I have at hand the letter received by me from him, dated February 4th. There is not a word in this letter, which is very optimistic in tone, about any illness. On the contrary, the letter shows that at that time he had become very active, especially in connection with the imminent trial in Switzerland about the murderers of Reiss, and was intending to continue his activity.

3) The death of L. Sedoff occurred evidently in the night of February 15-16. Thus between the letter and the death only eleven days passed. In other words, the sickness fully had the character of suddenness.

4) There is, of course, no basis for doubting the impartiality of the medico-judicial examination, no matter what its conclusions were. Not being a specialist, I permit myself, nevertheless, to point to one important circumstance: if we are to admit the possibility of poisoning, then we must remember that the question is not one of ordinary poisoning. At the disposal of the G.P.U. there are very exceptional scientific and technical means which would make the problem of medical examination more than difficult.

Possibility Exists

5) How could the G.P.U. gain access to his son? Here too I can reply only hypothetically. During the past period there have been several cases of G.P.U. agents breaking with Moscow. Naturally all those who broke sought connection with my son and he—with that courage which characterized him in all his actions—always accepted such appointments. In connection with these breaks, was there not some kind of trap? I can only advance this postulation. Others must verify this.

6) The French Communist press paid a great deal of attention, hostile of course, to Leon Sedoff. However, not a single one of the Communist papers has so much as printed a line about his death (see the dispatches from Paris). It was exactly like this after the murder of Ignace Reiss in Lausanne. Such kind of "cautiousness" becomes of especially great significance if we take into consideration that in questions that are acute for Moscow the French press of the Comintern receives direct instructions from the G.P.U. through the old agent of the G.P.U., Jacques Duclos, and others.

I do not affirm anything. I only announce the fact and pose the question.

Swiss Court Finds G.P.U. Killed Reiss

Facts Uncover Moscow Guilt In Murder at Lausanne

At the conclusion of an investigation occupying almost five months, court authorities in Switzerland have issued a finding to the effect that Ignace Reiss, whose bullet-riddled body was found on September 4, 1937 near Lausanne, was murdered by agents of Stalin's G.P.U. acting on direct orders from the Kremlin in Moscow. Reiss, himself an agent of the G.P.U. for many years, had broken with the bloody Bonapartist regime of Stalin and proclaimed his revolutionary adherence to the movement for the Fourth International.

Commenting on this newest development, the Bulletin of the Russian Opposition (No. 62-63) points out that the significance of the Swiss finding lies in this: that it is a factual confirmation of conclusions already arrived at on the basis of the political considerations involved in the Reiss murder.

Four Agents Involved

The Swiss authorities have definitely established the complicity of four G.P.U. agents: Beletsky, Sokolov, Grososvaya, and the latter's wife, Lydia Grososvaya. They had all posed as employees of the Soviet trade organization in Paris. All of them, with the sole exception of Lydia Grososvaya had succeeded in making their get-away.

The Swiss authorities demanded the extradition of Grososvaya from France. She was finally placed under arrest on Dec. 17. But the Stalin machine mobilized all its resources and applied "diplomatic pressure." The court hearing on her extradition was held secretly, and the decision arrived at was unprecedented in French judicial history: The judge reserved decision on the extradition demand of the Swiss authorities, and allowed Grososvaya to be set free on a bond of 50,000 francs, which was furnished by the Soviet trade representation. She was "bound" not to leave the Seine department. Freed on Dec. 20, Grososvaya sojourned for a time in the quarters of a Stalinist "diplomat" and then "disappeared" on Jan. 24. It was not until a week later, that the border authorities received a description of the fugitive, with an order to apprehend her.

Plot Trotsky's Death

Rather than run the risk of having Grososvaya face the Swiss courts, the G.P.U. either abducted her, or "ordered" her to escape. This latest cynical action of the G.P.U. has aroused French public opinion.

The editors of the Russian

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Key Leaders Hear Details Of Campaign

Parleys With Army and Navy Chiefs, Financial, Industrial, and Newspaper Barons Prepare Way For War Propaganda Drive

PLANS LAID AT SECRET MEETING

The swift pace at which the ruling class is preparing to plunge this country into war with Japan in order to establish American domination of the Pacific was revealed this week in startling information which, due to a leakage from high and reliable government sources, fell into the hands of the Socialist Appeal.

This information describes a series of meetings recently held by President Roosevelt with key leaders in the worlds of finance, industry, journalism, labor, and, of course, the army and navy. The purpose of all of them was to prime the pumps of the propaganda machine already at work to prepare the American masses for war.

Details, which the Appeal has every reason to regard as completely authentic, and which fit in neatly with the known orientation of American imperialism, tear the false pacifist mask from the face of the Roosevelt administration and expose the conscious preparations being made for war.

Deliberate War Preparation

The information reveals that a meeting recently took place in New York, attended by army generals, naval officers with the rank of admiral, Wall Street lawyers representing powerful corporations, representatives of the State Department, and a representative of a "certain powerful newspaper."

Those present agreed to launch a campaign of "education" to prepare the American people for the "use of war as an instrument of national policy." To implement the plan it was decided, with the cooperation of the State Department, to play up each international incident involving the United States and to do this along the lines suggested by the recent sinking of the U.S. gunboat Panay.

To Silence Opposition

The campaign to whip up the war spirit will be two-fold in character: First, appeal will be made to patriotic sentiment—the need to protect American "rights" abroad. The second and supplementary line of attack will be "idealistic," stressing the desirability of "defending the sanctity of treaties."

It was emphasized by those attending the conference that forces vigorously opposing the war drive must be silenced as quickly as possible.

Another corner of the war preparations was lifted by revelation

from the same sources that Roosevelt lately conferred with four leading newspaper publishers. To these manufacturers of public opinion, the president drew attention to the need for encompassing national unity by playing up alleged threats of war directed against the United States, thus enabling the government itself to employ the threat of war as an instrument of national policy in the Far East.

"At Drop of a Hat"

"This nation used to be ready to fight at the drop of a hat, and we must get it that way again," Roosevelt, in thoroughly characteristic language, is reported to have told the newspaper barons.

A move to line up the forces of labor for the coming war has been uncovered through information emanating from the same sources regarding a conference which took place recently between Roosevelt and the labor lieutenants of capitalism. Among those understood to have been present were President Wm. Green of the A.F. of L. and a person close to John L. Lewis of the C.I.O.

Roosevelt, it is stated, challenged and offered vigorous protest against the support accorded by labor organizations to the Ludlow Amendment and pointed to the need for labor unity "in view of possible police action in the Far East." It is necessary to "scare the pants off Japan," the president is reported as saying.

Action Against Japan

Even more startling than these revelations is the information, vouched for as absolutely reliable, that a definite agreement has been reached for joint American and British naval action against Japan. The arrangement, entered into by Captain R. Ingersoll, head of the war plans division of the U.S. Navy Department, during his recent three weeks' conference with heads of the British Navy, provides that in the event of Japan extending her naval blockade of the China coast to the British colony of Hongkong, the United States and Great Britain will jointly employ their warships to break the blockade.

The United States, according to the agreement, will furnish fifteen fighting craft and auxiliary vessels and Britain six. The joint naval array would then, in Roosevelt's own words, try to "roll the Japanese navy all the way up the China coast."

Entering the general picture of active war preparations, is, of

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Thousands Parade In Rain For Relief Demonstration

Parading in a steady downpour of rain, several thousand trade union Workers Alliance members demonstrated, in the deserted Wall Street section of New York, last Saturday afternoon, against lay-offs and for increased relief. The demonstration, sponsored by the Trade Union Committee for Unemployment Insurance and the Workers Alliance, was dominated by the People's Front line of the Stalinists, the main slogan being "Down with the 60 families, we want jobs."

Several progressive locals of the W.A.A. raised the slogan, "All war funds to the unemployed" — and Stalinist marshalls were kept busy seeing that this slogan was not taken up by the marchers.

The size of the crowd was estimated at from five to ten thousand. The size of the demonstration would undoubtedly be greater had it not been for the

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