

New Crisis Looms As Blum Totters Again

RIGHT PREPARES COUP IN FRANCE

National Union Government Will Pave Way For Repression of Workers To Help Capital Meet Deepening Crisis

By ARGUS

As these lines were being written, the cabinet of Leon Blum was about to disappear. Its imminent fall was greeted by the Parisian stock exchange with a sharp rise in the value of the franc, in anticipation of the long-desired government of Public Safety.

A bourgeois correspondent has accurately described the Blum government as a bull being chased by the toreadors of the right wing in the parliamentary arena. Indeed, Blum's financial proposals represent nothing but the "intention... of being defeated" in the least dishonorable way.

The French reaction has permitted the People's Front government only one function: the stifling of workers' strikes. Completely sabotaging all parliamentary activity, the senators of the future National Union shifted in chorus at the government: "What about strikes? What about the sit-downs? The Citroen sit-down strikes have spread until there are now 45,000 involved in strikes around Paris.

Clashes Loom

At the same time the class contradictions advance irresistibly toward a violent clash. A little note in the American press gives the key to the present situation in France: In Calais, in Northern France, "a mass meeting of 1,000 unemployed members... of the Socialist Party declared their intention... to join (the fascist) French Social Party 'rather than starve with Blum.' Having excluded the Socialist mayor of Calais from their meeting, the demonstrators unanimously 'voted a resolution denouncing the People's Front program as 'a dream' and charging it had accomplished nothing...."

This symptomatic incident constitutes a most pitiless accusation against the People's Front and reveals its responsibility for the growth of French fascism. The unemployed, potentially the most determined elements of the revolution, are now becoming the first victims of the hampering of proletarian advance by the reformist-Stalinist conspiracy.

A Danger Signal

Desperately seeking decisive actions, the unemployed fall from the dream of "peaceful penetration" of the capitalist state into the dreadful nightmare of fascist "anti-capitalism." The Calais incident is an impressive danger-signal to the French working class. The revolution has lost much time. Now it is threatened with the loss of important parts of its forces to the fascist camp.

But the counter-revolutionary labor bureaucracy turns an unheeding ear to the warning voice of the proletarian masses. Threatened with dismissal by the bourgeoisie, they concentrate their efforts on proving their sincere concern over France's "capacity for defense."

C. P. on Armaments

A decision of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of March 18 invoking Stalin's famous declaration of Laval of 1935, "understanding and completely approving France's policy of national defense for the maintenance of its armed forces at the level of its security," stated: "the C. P. once more emphasizes that the Communist Party was right, and in the present hour, facing the necessity of raising the manufacture of armaments to the heights required by circumstances, associates itself with the declarations of the Trade Union Confederation (C. G. T.), headed by the reformist Jouhaux and the Stalinist Racamond) in favor of augmenting production," that is, the practical liquidation of the 40-hour week.

Confounding the interests of the criminal trade-union bureaucracy and the no less criminal G.P.U. with the intentions of the working class, they continue: "The workers are correct in being ready to act in order to as-

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Ta-tu Thau, Indo-Chinese Militant, Held In Prison of People's Front

His right side paralyzed as a result of hunger strikes in the People's Front prisons of Saigon, French Indo-China, Ta-tu Thau, leader of the Indo-Chinese Fourth Internationalists and a member of the Municipal Council of Saigon, is serving a sentence of two years' imprisonment imposed upon him by a People's Front court for his leadership of the struggle against French imperialism.

A broad campaign is being conducted in France by the P.O.I. (Workers' Internationalist Party) and the International Aid for his immediate release.

Ta-tu Thau is one of the veteran leaders of the national liberation movement in Indo-China. As editor of *La Lutte* he has been at the center of all mass struggles in the French colony for nearly a decade.

People's Front Repression

Always the scene of bloody repression, Indo-China has never been ground down harder beneath the heel of French oppression than it has been during the past two years of People's Front rule. During most of this period a Socialist, Marius Moutet, sat at the Colonial Ministry in France directing the blows at the national liberation movement in Indo-China, French North Africa, and other parts of the French Empire.

Directly involved in the persecution of Ta-tu Thau was Assistant Minister of Colonies Viollette, the same "Socialist" who played a leading role in hounding out of the French Socialist Party in 1935 the young revolutionists of the Seine Socialist Youth Federation who are now part of the Revolutionary Socialist Youth, "adherents of the Fourth International.

Ta-tu Thau is the outstanding representative of the national revolutionary movement in Indo-China and it is as the symbol of that movement that the People's Front regimes of Blum and Chautemps have relentlessly hounded him.

Arrested and Expelled

Ta-tu Thau, as a young student in Paris, was one of the first Indo-Chinese revolutionists to rally to the Left Opposition, joining the group of *La Verite* in 1929. He participated in a demonstration organized by that group before the Elysee Palace

Grand Jury Indicts Two In Rubens Mystery Case

Garber, Sharfin, Known As C.P. Supporters Or Members

By JUNIUS

Arthur Sharfin, member of Section XV of the Communist Party in the Bronx and "fall guy" for the G.P.U. in the Robinson-Rubens frame-up plot which was and may still be intended to involve the Trotskyist movement in this country in some kind of "conspiracy," has been indicted by a Federal Grand Jury in connection with a series of passport frauds.

Sharfin, who has been an employee of the Royal Egyptian Consulate in New York City, helped Adolph Arnold Rubens (alias Robinson), a G.P.U. agent now imprisoned in Moscow, secure the phony passports made out in the name of Robinson on which he and his supposed wife, also a prisoner in Moscow, travelled last fall to the U.S.S.R.

Garber Indicted

Along with Sharfin, a Fifth Avenue photographer named Ossip Garber, also a Stalinist and formerly of Springfield, Mass., has been indicted on a similar charge. He is one of the few persons who has admitted publicly that he knew the mysterious Rubens.

The Grand Jury returned a third indictment which is sealed, and which presumably will remain so until the persons named in it are arrested. There is reason to believe that the contents of this indictment will confirm statements made from time to time in the *Socialist Appeal* ever since the case began—statements backed up by well-authenticated facts—that all trails in the Robinson-Rubens "mystery" lead straight to the lair of the American branch of Stalin's G.P.U.—the Communist Party.

The indictments made public show that Garber had used the

in 1930 in protest against repression in Indo-China. He was arrested and expelled. Back in Saigon in 1931 he founded *La Lutte*.

La Lutte and the group around it was unique in the international revolutionary movement up until 1937. The newspaper was the organ of a united front between the Stalinists and Trotskyists of Indo-China. They fought side by side in united front actions and elections. Ta-tu Thau led the ticket of this unprecedented coalition in an election some two years ago which made him a member of the Saigon Municipal Council, a body created by the French in a niggardly attempt to satisfy the aspirations of the Indo-Chinese to independence.

The paper, and in particular its editor, became the target of police attacks which grew sharper as the group grew in influence and prestige as the leading factor in numerous strike movements and agitation for political and civil rights. Arrested in 1935, Ta-tu Thau and several of his collaborators were held for several months and then heavily fined.

Moutet Orders Suppression

In August, 1936, after the victory of the People's Front, the Lutte group started agitation for the creation of committees of action throughout the country with the aim of setting up an Indo-Chinese Congress. Orders arrived in September from Moutet for the suppression of this movement. The governor-general promptly arrested Ta-tu Thau on September 28. He went on hunger strike for 11 days and was finally released on November 15. During the winter of 1936-37 great strikes swept the French colony and once more Ta-tu Thau was put behind People's Front bars.

Is Paralyzed

While the "Socialist" colonial authorities in Paris smirked and told protesting militants that Thau was "simulating" his illness, the Indo-Chinese leader was actually paralyzed along his right side. Medical commissions which examined him in prison confirmed that he was in a serious condition. Nevertheless all appeals for his release have gone unheard. Instead, an old sentence from 1932 was invoked against him, increasing his full term to four years.

From his prison Ta-tu Thau has sent out word of his unshaken faith in the proletarian revolutionary movement and of his dependence upon its support to force his release.

We must add our voices to those that have already been raised in behalf of Ta-tu Thau as the representative of the national movement in Indo-China. It is the duty of American workers' organizations to protest to all local French consulates and to the French Embassy in Washington demanding his immediate release!

New Names Enter

The Sharfin-Garber combination is linked by the indictments to passport activities carried on in the names of Jacob Rosenberg, 28 E. 55 Street; Gerald Mark Moren alias Marko Filipovic; Ernest Wekin of "Chiles" Street; Carl Westerahl of 468 W. 148 Street; and Max Schulman of 2802 Olivine Avenue. Government officials did not reveal just who these people are or even whether they are alive or dead.

Stalinists Keep Mum

Whether Targun has political connections is not yet known, but it is already clear that at the heart of the whole affair are 14-karat Stalinists—Rubens himself, his wife (who is still in Butiryk Prison while the G.P.U. tries to decide what to do with its latest frame-up), Sharfin, Garber, Shaw, Helen Ravitch (who accepted the phony passports sent from Washington to "Donald L. Robinson"), Rubens' attorney, and others.

Sharfin Evades Questions

Last week Sharfin, who is still at liberty in the custody of his attorney, M. Edelstein, was brought before a Federal Judge

Ta-tu Thau was arrested on May 10 last year and was released on bail in June. In the interim the Stalinist Party in Paris finally succeeded in getting their confederates in Indo-China to withdraw from the united front movement. They quit the group of *La Lutte* three weeks before Ta-tu Thau was scheduled to come before the court. He had assumed full responsibility for the editorship of the paper and was about to bear the full brunt of the action against the group.

On July 9, after conducting himself as a true revolutionist before the court, Ta-tu Thau was sentenced to two years' imprisonment. An appeal only succeeded in adding five years' banishment to this sentence.


He was still out on bail awaiting the result of the appeal when he was arrested for the fourth time following a great railway strike in Cochinchina. Along with him was arrested the Stalinist leader Tao. When they were refused liberation on bail they began a hunger strike. They fought off forced feeding for 12 days before finally ending the strike.

International Solidarity

Active solidarity by the world working class, applying its own sanctions against the shipments freely going to Franco, direct aid in providing material support to the Spanish masses, can still become the most potent factor in transforming defeat into victory.

But the conditions of such a victory, as the Bolshevik-Leninists of Spain have ceaselessly said, is the pursuit of the revolutionary aims of the masses and not the abandonment of those aims in favor of a bloc with treacherous bourgeois politicians whose only aim is to preserve the capitalist system and to keep the masses in subjection.

Fall Guy



OSSEIP GARBER

and ordered to answer questions put him by the Grand Jury. He particularly desired to avoid questions relating to his connection with Harry Zukerman, who has charged that it was Sharfin who passed to him the phony Robinson-Rubens passport applications.

Sharfin apparently knew not only Zukerman but also Attorney Peter Targun, of the Tenants Research Bureau Inc., 401 Broadway. Zukerman was employed by that Bureau, and on occasion Sharfin used its address.

Another War Move

From Washington on March 30 came the announcement that a high ranking navy officer had been assigned to the U.S. legation at The Hague, thus bringing to light, in the words of a staff correspondent of the *New York Post*, "the little-known fact that this country and the Netherlands are cooperating closely in military preparations in the Far East."

The U.S. has had no naval attache in Holland since 1932 and "the sudden decision to assign an attache at this time was widely interpreted in diplomatic quarters as meaning only one thing—the State Department and navy want to establish closer ties between

War Movements Gain Momentum

(Continued from page 1)

The Japanese imperialists display growing alarm over the expansion of the armed might of their great rival. Referring to the navy maneuvers, the Japanese newspaper *Hochi* April 1 declared: "It is only too clear the United States is practicing trans-Pacific offensive operations."

Japan is clearly envisioned in Washington as the "enemy." The war propaganda of the Roosevelt administration is built around this prospect. Thus Col. Theodore Roosevelt, former governor-general of the Philippines, speaking April 2 before the American Academy of Political and Social Science in Philadelphia, painted a harrowing picture of the woes that would befall the Philippines if and when they secure independence from the United States.

Apart from "revolution and disorders" in the island, the speaker declared that seizure of the island by Japan was a certainty. "In the Philippines," he said, "there have been increasing signs of apprehension. The people now see that the Japanese menace is not a fable but a fact."

Politicos In Spain Flee For Cover

Scapegoats Sought For Series of Heavy Defeats

(Continued from page 1)

power of a revolutionary policy and the upsurge of the masses behind it.

Thousands are fleeing and deserting. There is confusion and demoralization at a time when all forces have to be gathered to make a stand against the Fascist drive and its Italo-German spearheads.

"Anarchist Sabotage!"

The leaders who have been responsible for these defeats now seek by all means to divest themselves of responsibility. "Anarchist sabotage," cried Gen. Pablo Martinez, was responsible for the Fascist victories.

But not all the whining in the world can provide enough of a cover for the foul betrayal and treachery of the Stalinist People's Front which is now leading Spain into the hands of Fascism. The military victory of Franco will be complemented by an accord between "democratic" England and "Fascist" Italy putting a cross, if they can, over the Spanish revolution.

On this last word has yet to be said, by the Spanish working class, and by world labor. The unleashing, even now, of a resolute revolutionary struggle which will hold out to the workers and peasants of Spain the hope of really breaking with the hated bourgeois regime can still turn the tide against Fascism.

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But the conditions of such a victory, as the Bolshevik-Leninists of Spain have ceaselessly said, is the pursuit of the revolutionary aims of the masses and not the abandonment of those aims in favor of a bloc with treacherous bourgeois politicians whose only aim is to preserve the capitalist system and to keep the masses in subjection.

SOVIET UNION NOTES

Stalin's Bloody Purge Surpasses All Previous Bonapartist Excesses; Red Army Decimated; Soviet Transportation Disorganized

By JOHN G. WRIGHT

The Purge in Progress

The current blood purge bids fair to surpass all those that preceded. Hardly an issue of *Pravda* appears without an attack on some department. The "criticism" of the Northern Sea Route Administration headed by Prof. Otto Schmidt has attracted most attention abroad. But it is only one of the departments under fire. In recent days the Soviet press has carried ominous charges against the Commissariat of Transportation, the People's Commissar for Agriculture in White Russia, the Presidium of the Moscow Soviet, its Chairman, H. Sidorov, and its secretary, Dendkov, etc.

The appointment of two new deputy Commissars for Heavy Industry, M. I. Tselischev and P. P. Kucherenko, which is reported in *Pravda* for March 20, denotes still another purge in that department—for the third time since last October!

According to the leading article in the same issue of *Pravda*, 132,000 employees in the trade network have been "brought up on charges for alleged embezzlement and dissipation."

The Purge in the Red Army

From top to bottom the Red Army has been decimated by the purge. As was to be expected, the Young Communist League in the army has been hardest hit. So many Y.C.L. units in the regiments have been left without bureau heads and secretaries that the Central Committee of the party and the Central Committee of the Komsomol have abolished the old restriction that only those who have been party members for at least two years were eligible for posts as secretaries of regimental bureaus of the Y.C.L. Says *Pravda*, "Members and candidates of the C.P.S.U., regardless of how long they have been in the party, are eligible for the post of secretary of the bureaus of the Y.C.L. and in exceptional cases, even those Y.C.L.ers who are not members of the party." (*Pravda*, March 19.)

The same leading article goes on to add that another restriction has likewise been abolished. Hitherto "political representatives" in the Army had to be party members. "Henceforth, according to the decision of the C.C. of the C.P.S.U., the most tested and politically qualified Y.C.L.ers are to be drawn into the political organs of the Red Army as deputies or assistants of the political directors."

The Crisis in Transportation.

We have already reported the grave condition of Soviet railways. Numerous items in the official press indicate that there has been no improvement in this field. We cite a few instances.

On Feb. 8, *Pravda* reported that 2,800 automobiles were left standing in the yard of the Gorki automobile plant. On March 17, in the Gorki yard 2,141 cars remained standing. "Some of them are becoming spoiled, others are half-covered with snow and ice... The yard where the finished machines are left standing for months is guarded poorly. Various parts are being stolen from the machines." (*Pravda*, March 18. Our emphasis.)

Flood threatens on the shores of the rivers Volga, Kama, Viatka, Belaya and others in the Tartar Republic, where valuable freight has been stored: 128,000 tons of grain, 13,149 tons of hay belonging to the state and unspecified quantities of *kolkhoz* hay, together with car-loads of sugar, salt, lumber, cement, alabaster, brick, etc. At the single station of Sosnovka, on the shores of the Viatka river 1,960 cars of lumber are stranded. The same situation exists on the river Sura. Meanwhile the railways are unable to move this freight. Especially criticized for "inactivity" is the administration of the Kazan railway line. (*Pravda*, March 19.)

Stalin's remedy: more executions among the railway personnel.

Hook Blasts Moscow Frame-Ups In New York Radio Broadcast

"Certainly anybody who calls himself a socialist, a friend of the labor movement, or even a liberal, must cry out with indignation against these totalitarian trials which Stalin offers us as proof that he has established socialism," Professor Sidney Hook, of New York University, stated in a radio address over station WEVD, New York, on Tuesday, March 22.

"Between Stalin, the executioner, and the very idea of socialism, there yawns an impassable gulf. Human hopes for a better social order everywhere depend upon an understanding of the truth about the Moscow trials, and the lessons they teach," he declared.

Testimony Proved False

Replying to Mary Van Kleeck, of the Russell Sage Foundation, who presented the orthodox Stalinist position on the same program, Professor Hook pointed out that the logical structure of the three trials rested on eight defendants who alleged they were intermediaries between Trotsky and the other defendants. He showed that in every case the testimony of competent persons and documentary evidence had proven the alleged communications with Trotsky to have been impossible.

"Instead of offering evidence, the last trial unfolded a story compared to which the Arabian Nights is as sober as a grocer's bill. The apologists of the Stalinist trials would have us believe that of the sixty leading political figures around Lenin all but Stalin were spies, assassins, and wreckers. This would be comparable to saying that out of the 56 American revolutionists who signed the Declaration of Independence all but one turned out to be British spies....

"When the Russian Revolution

occurred, its enemies proclaimed it to be the work of madmen, criminals, spies and degenerates. That, it would seem, is about to become the official view of the Russian government. It would also appear that the muchvaunted achievements of the Russian Five Year Plans were carried out under the exclusive leadership of wreckers.... Stalin in the past claimed that the defendants were his closest collaborators in all they undertook. If they are guilty, can he be less so?"....

Stalin Does Not Believe

That Stalin himself does not believe in the fabricated testimony of the trials, Professor Hook asserted, is indicated by the fact that he offers alliances to countries, such as England, with which Trotsky is alleged to be conspiring for the overthrow of the Soviet Union. "The key to the Moscow trials," he said, "as Blum pointed out in connection with the Menshevik trials, is the necessity of the Stalin regime to find scapegoats for its domestic failures and international isolation."

He answered the argument of supporters of the trials that they were a blow at fascism by citing Mussolini's greeting of Stalin "as a fellow fascist, crude in his ways but traveling in the right direction." He reminded his hearers that Stalin has refused to join the labor boycott of Nazi Germany, still supplies oil to Japan for her war with China, and until a few weeks ago supplied Mussolini with gas, oil and other materials for use against Ethiopia and Spain.

Professor Hook concluded with the warning that Stalin's frame-up and slander methods are being imported into the United States. "The Communist Party, which is the American branch of the Russian foreign office, has begun a campaign to convince us that whoever opposes any of its policies is a Benedict Arnold or an Aaron Burr, i.e., a spy and a traitor."

FUND FOR CHINESE COMRADES MOUNTS

The fund being raised by the Socialist Workers Party to aid the Communist League of China (Fourth Internationalists) is still mounting—but not fast enough. We are still quite a way off the minimum goal set, namely, \$200. Following are the results to date:

Previously acknowledged	\$143.71
Akron Branch	2.02
Lynn Branch	2.00
Los Angeles Branch	3.80
TOTAL	\$151.53

Comrades throughout the country are urged to put the collection over the top by not later than the current month. It can be done. It must be done!