

# BRITAIN AND ITALY SIGN ROBBER PACT

(Continued from page 1) orbit of French imperialism. Its attachment to the Soviet Union depends entirely upon the continuance of the pact between the Kremlin and the Quai d'Orsay. When that is ruptured, the link between Moscow and Prague will be severed—unless, as is entirely possible, Hitler severs it sooner by another bold stroke which would end the feeble fiction of Czechoslovakian independence.

The only real remaining ally of the Soviet Union is the international proletariat. This ally has been confused and disorganized by the criminal policies of Stalinism, repelled by the murdering regime of the Kremlin Bonaparte. Neither Stalin nor his satellites abroad can rally the workers for defense of the Soviet Union. This task now devolves completely upon the revolutionary vanguard of the working class, the parties and organizations of the Fourth International.

## FRENCH SIT-IN STRIKERS TOLD TO END FIGHT

(Continued from page 1) has been dissolved. Re-registration will automatically eliminate all oppositionist elements.

This move has been directed, first of all, against the left-centrist tendency represented by Marceau Pivert. During the struggle carried on within the S.F.I.O. by the Fourth Internationalists, Pivert leaned for a while, under their pressure, toward revolutionary Marxism. But at the decisive moment, he capitulated in the name of "party unity" and became a docile collaborator of Blum in the latter's first People's Front cabinet.

The death agony of the People's Front has forced Pivert once more to the left. The S.F.I.O. leadership has finally suspended Pivert from all leading posts for three years. But this measure proved insufficient to repress the rank-and-file revolt against the policy of retreat which became permanent during the past three years.

In the demonstration against the Senate which followed the fall of the Blum cabinet, Pivert and his group participated despite a party ban on the demonstration. The party leaders responded by resorting to the time-honored methods of bureaucratic suppression.

By maintaining the myth of unity with the party and international of the social patriots, by rejecting a consistent program of social revolution, the Pivert opposition has been relinquishing the positive aspects of its activity, the struggle against social patriotism and class collaboration.

The Pivert group is now placed before the necessity of making a definitive choice. Left centrism has an international record. In Germany, the former Lovestonites Walcher and Froehlich have succeeded in wrecking the Left Social Democratic Opposition. In Spain, Nin and Maurin transformed the revolutionary workers of the P.O.U.M. into involuntary accomplices of the People's Front. Pivert will be able to escape doing likewise only if he surmounts the ambiguities of his centrist position.

**Soviet Union Isolated**

If such an agreement should prove to be the precursor of a four-power agreement among Britain, France, Italy and Germany, isolation of the Soviet Union will be complete. There remains only Czechoslovakia and that country is already an unstable factor. At the moment, while conciliating its German neighbor apprehensively, Czechoslovakia continues to move in the

## Famous German Actress Is Shot In Moscow Without Public Trial

Execution of Carola Neher, well-known German actress and widow of the famous German poet Klabend, has been reported in the Scandinavian press from Moscow, according to advices received here last week.

Carola Neher, like countless other victims of Stalin's counter-revolutionary regime, was shot as a Trotskyist without being brought to public trial, although it is generally known that she had earlier been sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment in an "isolator."

**Attempted Suicide**

It is also known that in prison she attempted suicide by cutting her wrists with the sharp edge of a tin can lid. To fellow prisoners she complained continually that she was innocent and that she had relations of a purely accidental nature with persons later condemned as Trotskyists.

Carola Neher rallied to the Communist cause early in her distinguished career as a dramatic artist in Germany. After

Hitler's seizure of power she escaped to the Soviet Union. Born in Munich, the daughter of a well-known musical composer, she first pursued a successful career as a dancer.

**Played Character Roles**

Her first appearances on the stage were in character roles in the repertoire of tragedies written by the great pre-Hitler playwright Frank Wedekind, which enjoyed great popularity in the Germany of that day.

Through her work she came in contact with the poet Klabend, whose "Chalk Circle" made an international reputation for its author. They were married soon thereafter.

Carola Neher, whose premature demise at the hands of the sadistic butcher in the Kremlin is being mourned by her comrades throughout Europe, was best known for her great histrionic achievement in the role of Polly, leading feminine part in Bert Brecht's "Beggars' Opera," which likewise became famous the world over.

# Mass Meeting In N. Y. Backs Mexico Labor

## S.W.P. Delegates Given Greeting On Return From South Trip

NEW YORK.—Solidarity with the Mexican workers in their struggle against Yankee imperialism was the key-note of an enthusiastic mass meeting held under the auspices of the Socialist Workers Party at the Center Hotel on April 14.

After hearing reports on recent events in Mexico by James P. Cannon, national secretary of the S.W.P., and Max Shachtman both just back from a Mexican tour, the meeting adopted a resolution of greetings to the Mexican workers and sent a message to the government congratulating it upon its action in expropriating British and American oil properties.

**International Support Needed**

Cannon pointed out that while the expropriation was not what the Fourth Internationalists would like to see realized, since it provided for compensation to the oil companies, a real expropriation of American imperialism could hardly be accomplished by Mexico alone. For that the support of the American workers, in solidarity with those of Latin America, was needed. "The idea of the Fourth International took shape for us there," he stated, "as it never had before.... We must take the initiative in setting up a Pan-American section of the Fourth International, and then be in a position to fight for a real expropriation of American imperialism all along the line."

Comrade Shachtman spoke on the question of imperialist war and the betrayal of the workers in the struggle against fascism by the People's Front. "While in Mexico," he said, "we gained a sort of physical feeling of the falsity of the idea that a war will be confined to Europe or Asia without the participation of the United States. Guatemala, a spearhead driven into the side of Mexico, is a base for a fascist movement being organized against Mexico by Nazi Germany. Arms and ammunition are being imported from Germany.... Conscious of that fact, France, in her imperialist interests, is supplying Mexico with arms."

**New Panaceas Have Failed**

Analyzing the People's Front policy in the Civil War in Spain and in the Popular Front governments of Leon Blum, he drew the lessons of the defeats of the workers, which have demonstrated that "the bourgeoisie in its most democratic sections prefer fascism to socialism under workers' control." "We were more and more convinced," he stated, "that the old principles stood the test and that the new and old substitutes for them had failed."

Mary Wills, recently returned from Europe, described conditions in Barcelona as she found them in the fall of 1936, when the workers were running industry, and the suppression of the workers' movement by the Prieto-Stalinist government during that winter, culminating in the Barcelona May days of 1937 in which she participated. "The workers know they have been sold out," she said, "but they do not know what to do about it.... The government is taking exactly the measures necessary to convince the workers they have nothing to fight for. Spain has proved that only a courageous Bolshevik party with a revolutionary line can fight fascism. The lesson of Spain is to build the Fourth International."

**Resolution Adopted**

The following resolution, adopted by the meeting, was sent to the workers and government of Mexico:

"The mass meeting at the Hotel Center, under the auspices of the Socialist Workers Party, warmly commends the action of the Mexican Government in expropriating the properties of the British and American oil companies which carried their exploitation of the oil workers to unbearable extremes, and even brazenly defied the laws of the country.

"The bold and courageous action of the Mexican Government in thus defending the economic and political independence of the country inspires and encourages the workers and oppressed people of all countries under the yoke of imperialism.

"The meeting declares its full solidarity with the people of Mexico in their heroic fight and calls upon all American workers to give them full support."

**Stalin's Reasons**

All I have just stated is easily verifiable. Then why, it will be said, should they lie so stupidly? Why should we be associated, Magdeleine Paz and myself, since we did not work together politically? The explanation is not hard to find.

Magdeleine Paz was one of the first to protest against the "Moscow trials"; above all, she courageously led the battle in search of the truth within the League for the Rights of Man, one of those organizations that Stalinism needs most for its present policy. Magdeleine Paz is dangerous. Therefore, they must try to discredit her, to ruin what influence she might have, by saying that Krestinsky gave her a part of the money he allegedly received from von Seeckt; that is the link.

And through me, they are aiming at the International Commission of Inquiry and seeking to strike it a blow. The Commission made a report that is overwhelming for the accusers. The conscientious and searching investigation made by the Commission throws full light on the Moscow trials. The French press has kept silent about its work and its conclusions—the press of the right as well as of the left. But this has not been true everywhere. The American press, among others, has reproduced at length and commented on the revelations and decisions of the Commission. The real criminal has appeared: Stalin. And that just at the moment when Stalin is trying to win the leading political circles of Washington and to assure a large base for his propaganda throughout the country.

**Commission Exposes Lies**

The International Commission of Inquiry, which met in New York during 1937, definitely established, with an impressive abundance of proof, that the very bases of the indictment in the first two trials (August, 1936, and January, 1937) were nothing but lies.

Stalin answered with a big new trial in every way similar to its predecessors, with the single difference that the inventions are even more delirious. Having shared in the work of the International Commission of Inquiry, I know very well how the Stalinist police plots are manufactured, on what lies and distortions they are erected. Today, I must examine my own case, since Krestinsky alleges he transmitted to me—Magdeleine Paz and myself—important sums of money intended for Trotskyist propaganda, and he states that this took place in Berlin, at the Excelsior Hotel, in 1928. But:

**The Real Facts**

I did not go to Berlin at any time during 1928.

I was not in Berlin with Magdeleine Paz nor did I ever meet her there.

I never visited Krestinsky in Berlin.

Moreover, although I resided for an extended period in Moscow between 1920 and 1924 and belonged to leading bodies of the Communist International and the Red Trade Union International, although I directed L'Humanite—when it was communist—and consequently was in contact with many Bolsheviks, it is a fact that I met Krestinsky only once, in 1924, entirely by chance. During this accidental encounter, which lasted only a few minutes, I did not have an opportunity even to speak to him. After that date, I never saw Krestinsky again, either in Berlin or elsewhere.

Finally, in 1928, I was on the fringe of the Communist Opposition, but in no way participated in its activity.

By Alfred Rosmer

# Enough of Mud! Enough of Blood!

Alfred Rosmer, author of the following article, was a member of the Executive Committee of the Communist International in the days of Lenin and Trotsky. He was also at one time the editor of L'Humanite organ of the French Communist Party. As a member of the International Commission of Inquiry into the Moscow Trials, he had an opportunity of studying closely Stalin's frame-up methods. In this article he tears a wide rent in the most recent of Stalin's frame-ups, the trial of the twenty-one which ended with the execution of Bukharin, Krestinsky, Rykov and other prominent Russian Bolsheviks.—Ed.

**New Falsehoods Needed**

There is no possibility of refuting the report and conclusions of the Commission: its work was too well done and too solid. The only remaining possibility is to try to discredit its members by showing them to be, for instance, the accomplices of those executed. Thus it was necessary to lie again, to mobilize a dead man—von Seeckt—and make the Reichsmarks, the pounds sterling, and the yen circulate. But these new lies in their turn will be denounced and exposed? What of it? The great problem for Stalin is to stifle the truth, to prevent it from being heard.

His press will shout the lie every morning, everywhere. He has considerable means at his disposal; his openly Stalinist press is reinforced by a camouflaged press, the finest sample of which is doubtless Ce Soir, which gives itself out as a "great independent daily," keeps stubbornly silent about its financial backers, and shows only discreetly the snouts of its Stalinist directors.

The first two trials did not, at least in France, arouse great feeling. The voices that rose to denounce these monstrous parodies of justice found slight echo.

**Protests Widening**

This time it is different. The circle of protests is widening, refutations come from all sides, resolutions are being voted. The sinister, unending "purge" had already occasioned a growing disquietude, and now there is a new Moscow trial. Too much mud and too much blood! Only the professional Stalinists, with strong stomachs, can still swallow it without wincing. One wonders: Has Stalin gone mad? Has his omnipotence deprived him of reason? Has he lost his head and sunk into a particularly cruel form of sadism? Possibly.

But what is henceforth clear is that his policy, on which everything is dependent, is a dangerous poison for the labor movement, and that its ravages are already great. It degrades Bolshevism, it soils socialism, compromising its growth and its future to an extent that no fascist assassin could even dream of attaining. The most pressing task today is to help the workers—alarmed by this systematic massacre of old Bolsheviks, painfully troubled in their attachment to the Soviet Union and the conquests of the October Revolution—help them to understand that a new society, a socialist society cannot be built on lies, with the blood of its pioneers.

A. Rosmer.

Friedrich Adler, stigmatizing them as witchcraft trials, had small following among the parties of his own International. Organizations whose first duty should have been to intervene in defense of the accused were evasive, or even went so far as to cover up, without courage or frankness, Soviet "justice." They tried to regard these trials as episodes, disagreeable to be sure, but peculiarly Russian, with which they had no occasion to concern themselves further.

**Unit Quits Communist Party Denounces Moscow Frameups**

The New York Jewish Daily Forward of April 18 reported that Unit 3, Section 9, of the Pennsylvania Communist Party had issued a declaration protesting the criminal Moscow trials, denouncing the policies of Stalinism as "disastrous for the interests of the working class" and announcing its withdrawal from the party.

In a statement approved by a majority of the unit, the policy of "collective security" was rejected as preparing a new war. The Moscow trials were described as criminal frame-ups which contrasted, like a macabre joke, with harmonious, unanimous decisions of the "freely-elected" Soviet parliament. The internal regime in the party was denounced as being one of insufferable bureaucracy in which all expression of free opinion is stifled by the hurling of epithets of "Trotskyist, wrecking, murderer."

"Therefore we hereby present an official declaration of doubt and disagreement with the Communist Party. We have thoroughly thought over the answers given by the party to these and other problems. We have come to the conclusion that the program and tactics of the party are disastrous for the interests of the working class. Therefore we resign officially from the American Communist Party."

The unit added it was not joining any other party and called upon other party units "who agree with our stand" to join it.

A. Rosmer.

# Roosevelt Looks Vainly For Depression Remedy

(Continued from page 1) increase prices and the cost of living for the workers. Workers now employed will suffer substantial cuts in real wages. The unemployed who are now on relief or getting \$64 a month on works projects, will be even more depressed. Those unemployed only will have temporary relief who get jobs in private industry as a result of the inflation upswing.

But this relief will be short-lived. Inflation will cut the purchasing power of the workers; surplus products will pile up as capitalists prepare themselves against future price rises. Consumption will have lagged again behind production. And the illusion of recovery will crash into the reality of depression.

Roosevelt's program is a counsel of depression. It can no more stop the tide of capitalist decline than King Canute could stop the ocean waves from rolling.

**New Burdens Loosened**

The inflation program will cause a spurt in economic activity, causing a further increase in employment, although it will never absorb all the millions of unemployed. However, it will also

## Capitalists Ask For Doles To Bolster Sagging Output Levels

American capitalism is declining sharply, causing widespread unemployment, smashing living standards, and bringing untold suffering. Mass uncertainty and discontent is growing.

To keep this discontent from becoming directed against capitalism, the New Dealers try to hide the decline beneath promises of abundance. President Roosevelt exclaims at Gainesville, Georgia: "We are going forward to better days.... The United States is rising and is rebuilding on sounder lines. We propose to go forward and not back." (N. Y. Times, March 3, 1938.) The Stalinists long ago anticipated their capitalist masters by insisting: "We are still in the recovery phase...." and "There are still present possibilities for the maintenance of the recovery trends." (Alex Bittelman, Daily Worker, October 28, 1937.)

**To Hide Decline**

All this propaganda, because it serves to hide the decline of American capitalism, is part of the ideological struggle to suppress the workers. Its utter falseness is proved by the statistics of the capitalists themselves.

The appropriate years for comparison are 1929 and 1937. Both were peaks of economic activity, following depression. Both are turning points into depression. In all previous economic history, the latest peak of economic activity was always higher than the previous one. The trend was plainly upward. How does 1937 compare with 1929? What is the trend today?

The most general and comprehensive indices of business activity show that 1937 was much lower than 1929. According to the very comprehensive index of business activity compiled by Business Week, business activity in 1937 was fully 30 per cent less than in 1929. The United States is not "rising" and most certainly not "going forward to better days." The trend is plainly downward.

**Production Index**

Production is the precondition of consumption and the basic sustaining force of society. Let us see what happened to production. Industrial production as a whole, which includes manufacturing and minerals, declined between 1929 and 1937. The averages according to the Federal Reserve System, are:

Year	Index
1929	119
1937	110

The drop in industrial production is nine percent. However, this does not take into consideration the fact that the population increased by millions. If we take account of the population increase, the decline between 1929 and 1937 is not nine but almost 15 percent. (The Monthly Labor Review of November 1937 said the loss was 16 percent between 1929 and 1936. Due to further increase in population at the same time that there was an increase in production, pretty much the same loss held for 1937.)

In short, production is falling at the same time that population is rising. Capitalism cannot profitably satisfy the needs of ever-growing portions of the population. Falling production is falling about the heads of a growing population, pressing down upon them more and more. Above all it presses down upon the workers, who compose seven-tenths of America.

The present depression, far sharper than that which followed the stock market crash of 1929, has sent the capitalists scurrying to Washington for "relief." And they got it in far

more generous portions than the unemployed.

First of all, more than \$2,500,000,000 which the Reconstruction Finance Corporation had given out to capitalists as "loans" was wiped off the books by congressional action. But that was past "relief." The Glass bill, designed to enlarge the "lending" activities of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, will give plenty of "relief" in the present. This bill has administration support.

The bankruptcy of American capitalism will provide plenty of capitalists seeking relief. The railroads have asked \$500,000,000 worth of "relief," twice as much as was given the 4,500,000 workers who were thrown into unemployment by the first five months of the current depression. Roosevelt proposes to loan them \$300,000,000. The banks, too, are looking for "relief." There were more bank failures in '37 than in 1934 and the financial pages report that "Bonds Worry Small Banks; if there is not a change in valuation methods there is a possibility that such banks might again resort to the Reconstruction Finance Corporation for capital funds, as they did a few years ago." (N. Y. Sun, April 2, 1938.)

**C.I.O. Step Still Leaves Doors Open To Unity**

(Continued from page 1) not yet constituted their own council, provides the most graphic picture of internal contradiction expressed by indecision and paralysis. The Stalinists, who control a whole flock of C.I.O. unions in New York, real and more or less imaginary, are hellbent for the constitution of a C.I.O. council to romp around in. But the Amalgamated Clothing Workers and the I.L.G.W.U. are holding back; they don't want to play. They would rather, like Hamlet, bear the ills they have than fly to others that they know not of.

The abstention of the I.L.G.W.U. delegates on the vote to call a convention and set up a definite organization, and the increasing indications that the executive board of this union will vote definitely at its May meeting against the proposition, is bound to cast a shadow over the whole project and to strengthen the forces in the C.I.O. which favor a conciliatory unity approach.

Insofar as the unity movement does not trade away the basic principles of industrial unionism and autonomy for the organizations in the mass production industries, it is progressive and should continue to receive the support of the militant elements of the rank-and-file.

The move of the C.I.O. toward a constitutional convention does not eliminate the question of unity in the next period, but only makes it more acute.

**CHINA FUND NEARS ITS GOAL OF \$200**

The fund being raised by the Socialist Workers Party to aid the Communist League of China (Fourth Internationalists) has taken further strides forward to the goal of \$200 set as the minimum to be collected. The fund now stands as follows:

Previously acknowledged	\$151.53
Herbert Weinberger	.55
Allentown Branch	2.50
Lavanburg Corner House	
Boys	3.50
A Friend	5.50
A. Dane	5.00
TOTAL	\$168.58

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