

Smash Fascism In Mexico!

GPU Stages Frame-Up Trial In Barcelona Workers Must

Charge Seven Militants With Assassination

Stalin-Yezhov Methods Applied In Spain Against Revolutionists Who Have Been In Front Ranks Against Franco

BOLSHEVIK-LENINISTS ACCUSED

PARIS.—Under the direct auspices of Joseph Stalin's G.P.U. a new "Moscow trial" is being staged in Barcelona where seven proletarian militants, fighters in the anti-Fascist ranks since the outbreak of the civil war, have been accused of the actual murder of a militia officer named Leon Narvitch and with plotting the assassination of heads of the Loyalist government.

The trial is an attempt to "prove" by "legal" methods that the Spanish Bolshevik-Leninists, heroic defenders of a revolutionary program for the working class of Spain, are "Fascist agents." The proceedings are not public and the "evidence" consists exclusively of the dossier provided by the Stalinist secret police.

Although the indictment in this case was dated March 10, news of the trial reached here only on May 2. The Parti Ouvrier Internationaliste (Workers Internationalist Party), French Section of the Fourth International, has issued a call to the Anarchist Union, the expelled Socialist Federation of the Seine, and other organizations, as well as the International Aid, for a united front action in defense of the accused militants.

Accused Militants

The accused men are: Manuel Fernandez Grandizo Munis, militant Bolshevik-Leninist, known to the revolutionary movement as one of the founders, along with Andres Nin and Andrade, of the "Communist Left." Long active in the Madrid labor movement, Munis went to Mexico before the Spanish revolution of 1931 and there became secretary of the Communist League of Mexico. When the Fascist rebellion broke out, he returned at once to Madrid and there took his place at the front in the ranks of the Young Socialist militia. He saw months of service on the Madrid front. He was forced underground when the Negrin-Stalin terror began against all revolutionary militants.

Adolfo Carlini, Italian comrade, member of the Italian Socialist Party, fighter in the anti-Fascist militia from the first on the Aragon front. Known in Marseille, in particular, as an honest militant, Carlini won public recognition for his heroism at Estrecho-Quinto and Monte-Aragon.

One Escaped

Aage Kielso, Bolshevik militant, who was arrested but succeeded in escaping his G. P. U. captors.

Jaime Fernandez Rodriguez, Teodoro Sanz Hernandez, Bolshevik-Leninist militants.

Louis Zanon, youth comrade who entered the movement after July 19, 1936, former translator on "La Batalla," organ of the P. O. U. M., and "L'Editorial Marxista." Young and frail, Zanon was broken by weeks of torture and signed a confession of non-existent crimes. He subsequently repudiated this "confession" and demanded a new hearing.

Victor Offdik, Czechoslovak worker, militiaman.

In Barcelona Prison

The indictment also mentioned a mysterious "Max" or "Joan" who is vaguely identified as a "political commissar" whose whereabouts are unknown. He had stated previously that he was German. His precise role in the (Continued on page 3)

The Memorial Day Massacre



If the Martyrs Could Speak For Workers Defense!

Memorial Day marks the first anniversary of the police-murder of ten workers and the wounding of many others in South Chicago during the strike against the Republic Steel Company.

The dramatic newsreel of the events, which was finally flashed on the theatre screens, gave a shocking and all-too-familiar picture of a peaceful picketing demonstration of striking workers being attacked with guns and tear gas bombs by a bestial police force. Into the defenseless ranks of workers, who asked only that the union of their choice be recognized by the steel barons, was poured a running fire of rifle and pistol slugs.

Ten workers, part of that vast army of toilers out of whose blood and sinews and nerves has been coined the fabulous wealth of American capitalism, fell as martyrs in the great cause of labor.

In death, they joined the hundreds of other martyrs who fell under the clubs and pistols and revolvers and machine guns of "democratic" American capitalism in the massacres of Homestead, of Coeur d'Alene, of Cripple Creek, of Ludlow, of Everett, of scores of other battlefields where the organized murder bands of the ruling class mowed down the workers fighting against industrial serfdom.

The blood of these heroes cries out for vengeance. But it cries out also a lesson and a warning.

The private and public thugs of capital, those in civilian clothes and those in uniform, are a direct and brutal threat not only to the rights of the workers, but to their very lives.

(Continued on page 4)

War Menace Looming In Czech Crisis

Britain, France Act To Forestall Forceful Hitler Coup

The menacing shadow of imperialist war hung darkly over Europe last week-end as the Czechoslovakian government mobilized army reserves and closed all roads leading into Germany as precautionary measures against a possible attempt at a coup d'etat by the fascist Sudetan German party of Konrad Henlein during the Czech municipal elections.

Intervention by the British and French governments apparently deterred Hitler from military action against Czechoslovakia, for which election incidents to be created by his tool, Henlein, were to have been the official pretext.

Anglo-French Action

Imperialist Britain, desperately anxious to delay as long as possible the world war explosion which would be set in train by a European conflict, warned Hitler against taking military action. France bluntly threatened to come to the aid of Czechoslovakia if German troops attempted to move across the Czech frontier.

The tense situation in eastern Europe forced into the background the Italo-French conflict of the previous week. Faced with the possibility of a fresh Hitler coup, and nervous because of the presence of German troops at Brenner Pass, Mussolini deemed it wise not to fan the flames of his dispute with the government of Daladier. The latter, fearful that Hitler might attempt a coup in Czechoslovakia and thus compel France to redeem its pledge to aid in that country's defense against aggression, saw fit to soft-pedal the dispute with Mussolini, which arose over the question of ending foreign intervention in the Spanish civil war.

By no means can it be said (Continued on page 4)

Workers Must Mobilize To Fight Cedillo

Fascist General, Aspiring to Role of Mexican Franco, Has Backing Of British and American Oil Companies

BREAK WASHINGTON'S BLOCKADE

General Saturnino Cedillo, long groomed by British and American oil interests to be the Franco of Mexico, revolted last week against the government of President Lazaro Cardenas.

After concentrating 20,000 Federal troops, equipped with the most modern arms and supported by a fleet of airplanes, in the state of San Luis Potosi, Cedillo's stronghold, Cardenas launched an audacious preventive attack in the very heart of the Fascist general's stronghold just as preparations for open revolt were coming to a head.

The moment chosen by Cardenas had its advantages. The economic blockade instituted against the Mexican people by the British and American imperialists has not yet been able to overcome the enthusiasm of the masses over the hard blows struck at the foreign tyrants in the last few months.

Moreover, even if there are generals in the army who might not be unwilling to take their chances against Cardenas in hopes of securing foreign patronage, any act of rebellion now would fail completely to gain any popular support from any important section of the population and would have little chance of success. Preparations for reactionary revolt against Cardenas had not yet achieved national dimensions.

If Cardenas and the Mexican masses succeed now in smashing the armed bands of the Fascist Cedillo, he will not only have decapitated and disoriented the reaction, but will have disappointed for a long time to come the hopes of the "peace angels" of the London and New York oil companies.

Cedillo will not be a push-over. He participated in the civil wars of the past and fought with Pancho Villa, the peasant leader. He is one of the extremely few generals who have managed up

Fights Revolt



PRESIDENT CARDENAS.

to now to retain their own private armies. He has a force of about 10,000 men equipped with modern arms.

Cedillo was minister of agriculture in Cardenas' cabinet. Himself a big landowner, he refused to go along with Cardenas' land reform policies and used his position to strengthen his own armed bands. Nearly a year ago he was forced to resign.

While Cedillo retired to his retreat in San Luis Potosi and there prepared for rebellion, Cardenas did not remain inactive. The Federal army in the northern provinces was systematically reinforced.

It is impossible at this point to predict the scope the struggle will take. Even should Cedillo be defeated, his bands could carry on guerrilla warfare for a long time in the mountains of northern Mexico. But the very fact that Cardenas has grasped the initiative has reduced the chances of Cedillo becoming a rallying point for Mexico reaction and of the foreign capitalists.

In this struggle the adherents of the Fourth International support the left bourgeois nationalist Cardenas against the counter-revolutionary imperialist lackey Cedillo. In Mexico it is their task to give all national support to the military struggle led by Cardenas—as in recent times they have supported his anti-imperialist measures—at the same time propagating the methods of the independent struggle of the Mexican working class in its own interest.

For cessation of the economic and political sanctions against the Mexican government!

Vigilance against any attempt to support the Fascist rebels of Mexico!

RELIEF CRISIS IN CLEVELAND STILL UNSOLVED

City, State Authorities Pass The Buck While Jobless Starve

CLEVELAND.—The suffering inflicted on hundreds of thousands in the City of Cleveland and throughout the industrial state of Ohio has become the object of a political football game between Republican Mayor Burton of Cleveland and Democratic Governor Davey of Ohio.

Cleveland is a city of basic industries such as auto and auto parts, steel, and electrical supplies. It has probably the widest diversity of heavy industry of any city in the United States. In the present crisis it has become the hardest hit city in the country.

One in Three on Relief Unemployment is so wide (Continued on page 2)

AN OPEN LETTER

To Members of the Communist Party

You look to your Tenth party convention for policies defending the interests and needs of the working class. You still believe it is a party of class struggle and socialism, whose policies are determined by the membership.

In reality, the Communist Party is communist in name alone; your leadership has trampled underfoot the most elementary working class principles; has abandoned any pretense of revolutionary struggle against American imperialism and for socialism. The convention is only a rubber stamp to set a formal seal of approval on policies already imposed upon you.

In face of the current crisis that is convulsing the world, the party spreads the fatal illusion that capitalism can assure peace and provide jobs and plenty for all—if only "democracy" is preserved. In its support of Roosevelt "against reaction," the party has not raised a finger against the huge armament and naval program of American imperialism. Thus it gives support to American war plans. It has attacked those who demand the withdrawal of American troops from China as agents Japanese imperialism. It has become known throughout the country as the most vigorous pro-war party.

The Communist parties, formed in the struggle against those who in 1914-1918 rallied the workers around their own capitalist governments under the slogan "make the world safe for democracy," now brazenly repeat this treachery. The banner of Lenin and Liebknecht has been discarded for the banner of Wilson and Roosevelt!

In the struggle for "democracy against reaction" the new party constitution binds the members to act as

agents of the capitalist government in suppressing all revolutionary workers' movements against capitalism and its wars.

Thereby the Communist Party is pledged to destroy working class democracy. Whose democracy will it defend? The right of the exploiters to rule through democratic forms. For the democratic rights of the masses can be defended only by independent workers' action and not by alliance with so-called "democratic" sections of the ruling class. Not a "democratic union," but the united working class front can defeat reaction!

Learn from the experiences of post-war Europe: Social democracy, when faced with the crisis of capitalism, could offer the desperate masses nothing but the program of the "lesser evil"—a plan of stabilizing capitalism by supporting the "democratic" regimes which paved the way for Fascist victories. By destroying the independence of the labor organizations, by making them mere appendages to the parties of the ruling class, they drove the workers into passivity and the middle classes into the camp of Fascism. In Spain and in France, the People's Front "governments of victory" are in fact the governments of defeat!

Your leaders also promised to achieve collective security and provide the surest defense of the Soviet Union through the People's Front. This, above all, has been the apology for the abandonment of revolutionary policies. What has been achieved? The myth of collective security has been exploded. The "democratic" powers seek only to arrive at an agreement with the Fascists as to how to divide the world and how to reconcile their differences at the expense of the Soviet

Union. Never before has the Soviet Union been in such an isolated and precarious position.

The Stalin regime has sapped the Soviet Union internally by destroying Bolshevism and the Bolsheviks. The greatest blows have been dealt to the Red Army. The Moscow frame-ups have demoralized and repelled broad sections of the world working class, thus further weakening the only reliable defenders of the Soviet Union. Only a break with the policy of People's Frontism, national unity, and frame-ups will make possible the defeat of reaction on all fronts, further the working class movement toward socialism, defend the Soviet Union and assure its development toward a classless society.

Not vestige remains today of the program on which the Communist Party was founded. Having betrayed the principles they originally professed, your leaders hate and fear above all those who remain true to those principles. They have written into the new constitution an unprecedented clause forbidding any member to have "any personal or political relationship with Trotskyites, Lovestoneites or other known enemies of the people." It is in this way that they seek to terrorize the party membership and keep them from any possible contact with the ideas of revolutionary Marxism. They will not succeed.

Your own experiences with the disastrous policies of the Communist Party will compel you to break down this barrier which your leaders seek to erect. It is your duty seriously to review the past and present policies of the party. It is your duty to familiarize yourselves with the program of the Socialist Workers Party, the banner-bearer and continuator of the principles, program and traditions of Lenin and the Bolsheviks.