

Emergency Conference Is Held

The Emergency Conference of the Fourth International, attended by mandated delegates of ten national sections, has been successfully concluded!

Called on the initiative of its United States, Mexican and Canadian sections, the Conference addressed the working class of the world in a resounding manifesto urging the toilers of all lands to make an end of the imperialist war by initiating the world socialist revolution.

The mandated delegates to the Conference represented sections of the Fourth International in the United States, Germany, Belgium, Canada, Mexico, Spain, Cuba, the Argentine, Porto Rico, and Chile. Fraternal delegates were seated from the Australian and Chinese sections and from the editorial board of the Bulletin of the Russian Bolshevik-Leninists Opposition. Organizations affiliated with the Fourth International in England, France, China, Switzerland, and Bulgaria, unable to send representatives or mandates because of conditions of illegality and other adverse factors, sent declarations of solidarity. The ravages of war and of ruthless internal suppression made it impossible for the affiliates of the Fourth International in Holland, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Scandinavia, Palestine, Lithuania, Rumania, Indo-China, South Africa, and Brazil to be contacted in time to obtain representation.

The World Emergency Conference met in strictest secrecy, due to the conditions engendered by the war, "somewhere in the Western Hemisphere" on May 19-26. Gathering in the tense atmosphere of the engulfing war, the Conference constituted the genuine voice of proletarian internationalism.

Only We Speak Out Neither the decrepit Second International nor the perfidious Third International, nor the international federation of centrist squeezed lemons known as "International Workers Order" have made themselves heard by as much as a whisper in this gravest hour in the history of the world (Continued on Page 7)

Socialist Appeal

Official Weekly Organ of the Socialist Workers Party, Section of the Fourth International

See Your Friends for the Twice-a-Week Appeal

Vol. IV, No. 26

NEW YORK, N. Y., SATURDAY, JUNE 29, 1940

107

FIVE (5) CENTS

BOSS PARTIES AGREE ON CONSCRIPTION

Stalinists Confess Attempt to Kill Trotsky

Mexican Police Announce Confessions From Band of GPU Assassins

Body of Sheldon Harte, Trotsky Secretary, Is Found, Spiking Stalinist Attempt To Implicate Him As Accomplice

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)

MEXICO CITY, June 25—The body of Robert Sheldon Harte, Leon Trotsky's secretary-guard who had been kidnapped by the Stalinist GPU attackers when they attempted to assassinate Trotsky, was found today. Friends positively identified the dead boy.

The Stalinist slander that Bob had been in league with them in the attack on Trotsky is now exposed as an attempt to discourage a search for the boy and thus to save the arrested GPU agents from being tried for his murder.

The Trotsky household sent the following telegram to Jesse S. Harte, father of the slain young man, in New York City:

"My wife, my collaborators, I, bow in deep mourning before the grief of the mother and father of our dear Bob. Only consolation in these bitter hours is that the wild slander against Bob through which the assassins tried to conceal the assassination is now unmasked. As a hero, Bob perished for ideas he believed in. Natalia and Leon Trotsky, Joe Hansen, Harold Robins, Charles Cornell, Jake Cooper, Otto Schuessler, Walter O'Rourke."

THE S.W.P. SALUTES SHELDON HARTE

A STATEMENT BY THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE, SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

To the many thousands of devoted revolutionists slain by Stalin's GPU must now be added Robert Sheldon Harte, the secretary-guard who was kidnapped by the GPU gangsters when they attempted to assassinate Leon Trotsky.

Robert Sheldon Harte was a member of the Socialist Workers Party. He came from a wealthy family, but his hatred of a world where cruelty, war, exploitation and hate reign supreme led him to search for a solution. He found the solution in the program of the Fourth International.

No sooner did he join the party than he threw himself wholeheartedly into its work. He was completely devoted to the revolutionary movement, never hesitating to do even the menial tasks required.

Robert's appearance, his modesty, all of his actions, bespoke a character of exceptional sincerity and idealism. The agents of the GPU at first tried to cast suspicion upon Harte, intimating that he was connected with the gang of assassins who made the assault on Trotsky. That was only to throw the authorities off the track and to save themselves from a charge of murder.

Robert Sheldon Harte is not the first co-worker of Leon Trotsky who was murdered by the GPU. The list includes Erwin Wolf, Rudolph Klement, Trotsky's son, Ignace Reiss, Moulou and almost the entire cadres of the Fourth International in Spain and Russia.

But Stalin and his GPU cannot murder the ideas of their revolutionary victims. Thousands of others, young as Robert Sheldon Harte, idealistic and devoted as he, will enter our ranks. They will carry on the struggle in which our comrade has fallen.

MEXICO CITY, June 20—Four of the Stalinists who participated in the May 24 attempt to assassinate Leon Trotsky have admitted their complicity.

About thirty implicated in the attempt, most of them directly connected with the Communist party, are under arrest; four other Stalinists, identified by the confessions as the leaders of the armed band, are fugitives from justice and are being sought together with a number of foreigners, agents of the GPU, who also took part.

All the men involved had been in the Stalinist armed forces in Loyalist Spain. So complete was the case made by the Mexican police, and so damning the admissions of the five Stalinists, that even "El Popular," Lombardo Toledano's paper, yesterday was constrained to publish an account, covering most of a page, which conceded that the perpetrators of the crime have been found. Toledano, head of the CTM (Mexican Federation of Workers), has been the front for the Stalinist campaign against Trotsky and, until yesterday, had violently proclaimed Stalinist innocence of the crime.

David Alfaro Siqueiros, Mexican painter, a Stalinist for more than fifteen years, a "colonel" in the Stalinist forces in Loyalist Spain and president of the Union of Mexican ex-Combatants in Spain, has been identified as the leader of the armed attack.

Siqueiros has fled together with his brother, Jesus, Juan Zuniga Camacho and Antonio Pujol. These four, together with a number of foreign GPU agents, who are also being sought, have been described as the directors of the attempted assassination of Trotsky.

Story of the Attack The story told by the four who admitted their complicity provides the main outlines of the entire plot to assassinate Trotsky.

The declarations made to the police by these four were given to the press June 18 by General Jose Manuel Nunez, Chief of the Mexican police, when he called reporters in to announce that the case had been solved.

Louis Mateos Martinez, a 26-year-old teacher and member of the Communist party, admitted

that David Serrano, a Stalinist leader, had assigned him to get hold of some police uniforms. He conceded that Serrano was undoubtedly implicated in the attempted assassination, but denied that the Communist party was responsible for the attempt. Martinez added that he knew Serrano to be a "man capable of any enterprise of the type of the attack against Trotsky." The other leaders of the Communist party, Dionisio Encinas, general secretary, Rafael Carrillo, editor of the Stalinist organ, "La Voz de Mexico," and Andres Garcia Saigado, had left Mexico, said Martinez, on May 26, two days after the attempt on Trotsky, to take part in a conference with leaders of the Communist party of the U.S., and had returned on June 2.

Plotter Attempts Suicide Martinez attempted to commit suicide when arrested. Asked to explain why, Martinez said he had been depressed because his wife was pregnant and in ill-health and would now find herself uncared for. At Serrano's house when he was told to get the uniforms, Martinez said he met an engineer named Graves, who was the one assigned to make the bombs for the attack.

Women Corrupted Police Julia Barradas de Serrano, former Communist party employee, and former wife of David Serrano, by whom she has a daughter named Sovietina, said she had been assigned by Juan Zunigo Camacho to act as a spy on the Trotsky household. Ana Maria Lopez, formerly a stenographer in the Communist party district headquarters, at the direction of Antonio Pujol joined Julia in this work. They began this work in January. Pujol got them a house

in Coyoacan, near the Trotsky household, and the two women reported to Pujol, to Camacho and to David Alfaro Siqueiros, Camacho paying them 25 pesos a day.

On a number of occasions they reported to Siqueiros at the headquarters of the Stalinist-controlled Electrical Workers Union in Mexico City.

Julia made the direct statement that Siqueiros had told her the generous pay they were receiving was coming from the Communist party.

The women told the detailed story of their work over nearly five months. They had succeeded in becoming close friends with the small police guard stationed outside Trotsky's house; the police, also under arrest, admitted they had been intimate with the women. In this relationship the women had been able to pump from their friends complete details about the routine and layout of the Trotsky household. Among other things they had secured a photograph of all the five police stationed there, to be used by the attackers to make sure, the women said, that they had all the police.

Night of the Attack On the night of May 23 Camacho instructed Julia to go to the police house outside Trotsky's home and to stay there until 1:30 to make sure that the usual routine of the police and the Trotsky household was going on. She did so, reported afterward to Camacho, that everything was as usual, and at 4:00 a.m. the attack was carried out. Camacho had instructed the women that, as soon as they heard the shots, they should leave the house and make their way to a hiding-place, which they did.

Yesterday the women were (Continued on Page 8)

Enlistment Lag Forces Compulsion

Faced by the bald fact that voluntary enlistments are way below schedule—the recruiting sergeants got less than half the number they sought last month—both the Republicans and Democrats have openly come out for compulsory conscription for military service.

That fact alone blows to smithereens their hypocrisy about democracy! They've got to force the unwilling young men to undergo military training.

The young men of this country are not pacifists. They are not cowards. Most young men are interested in the military arts and would not be averse to learning them.

But the young men of this country don't trust the government's purpose in seeking to train them; they feel it would be training to be cannon-fodder for Wall Street's war and in no sense a war to defend their homes. That's why they don't enlist and that's why they will undoubtedly resent any conscription law passed by this government. And they're right. It's not just an accident that the man who has already introduced the bill for conscription is Democratic Senator Burke, who came back from Germany in 1938 singing the praises of Hitler.

That bill wasn't written by Burke. It was written by the Joint Army and Navy Selective Service Committee which was established in 1926 for the purpose of drawing up a draft act together with regulations to put it into effect when it becomes law. The act and the regulations have since been on file, held for the time the U.S. entered war. Now the act is taken out, adjusted for "peacetime" conscription, and introduced by Burke in the Senate and by the Republican, Wadsworth, in the House.

What they don't introduce and what the public doesn't know about, are the regulations for administering the bill if it becomes law, which were drawn up with the bill by the Joint Army and Navy Selective Service Committee. Those regulations are NOT AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC, and for good and sufficient reasons!

Here is one example of those regulations. They set up a Class II, of men considered irreplaceable in industry, agriculture, commerce and government, and whose conscription is therefore deferred. To enter a claim for occupational deferment, a worker will have to submit two affidavits, one by his immediate superior, another by the executive head of the company by which he is employed.

Just think how the bosses will use that! Militant trade unionists will get sent off to war, or in peacetime to the training camp, by the simple device of the bosses refusing to sign their affidavits. Finks will be rewarded with affidavits. It's the chance of a lifetime for union-busting bosses!

These secret regulations for applying the draft act, if the government were forced to publish them, would be sufficient answer to the propaganda that universal military training is the "democratic" way of training an army. It's no more democratic than the army itself, with its rigid hierarchy which puts officers and men in about the same relation to each other as existed between the nobility and their serfs in medieval times.

But make no mistake about it, our opposition is not that of pacifists. We've got nothing but contempt for the sniveling crew of pacifists, who tell the workers never to use force and even condemn a militant picket line as incompatible with pacifism—but these same pacifists practically always turn up yelling for the boys to enlist, when war starts.

No, we're not pacifists. We believe in the good strong arm of Labor and we want to see it used. We would like to see every worker become an expert in the use of arms so that he can best defend the interests of the working class.

Our opposition to the Roosevelt and Burke draft proposals is a class opposition.

We would have no objection whatever for the trade unions to undertake the military training of every member. In fact, we strongly advocate that method of military training.

Meanwhile let workers remember this: when they are conscripted, let them not waste the period they spend in the army. They must learn everything there is to be learned about military training, so that when the time comes, they can use that training for the interests of the labor movement.

French Abandon Allies

Believing Britain Is Doomed, They Take Hitler's "Peace"

By GEORGE STERN

The military phase of the war in continental Europe ended at 12:35 a.m. on June 25 with the total capitulation of the French to Hitler.

That the French ruling circles chose this road after the defeat of their armies showed that they had no hope whatever in Britain's ability to withstand the Nazi assault.

Nothing prevented them from abandoning France, setting up a government-in-exile like their many predecessors, and with their fleet and colonial armies continuing in the war.

Instead, to the angry dismay of the British, the French rulers decided to throw themselves wholly on the mercy of Hitler and his satellite in Rome, Mussolini.

Hitler exploited his advantage to the last drop of irony implicit in the reversal of historic roles. His choice of Compiègne, where the humiliated Germans signed the armistice in 1918, his use of the same railway car used by Foch to receive the German emissaries, and the extreme harshness of the terms imposed upon the conquered adversary, formed the mixture of a potion bitter indeed to the defeated French.

But along with the crow they have to eat, the French rulers have hopes of getting a few more edible morsels from the table of the new master of Europe. In the Hitlerite reorganization of Europe a potent section of the French capitalist class can hope to play a role, even if only a subordinate one. And France, of all countries, has no lack of venal politicians ready to scramble for the crumbs of office.

What Price Patriotism!

To the capitalist class, patriotism is like a spigot, to be turned on and off when needed. It called for patriotism from the masses it herded to the slaughter. It entered upon the conflict with a positively myopic disregard of the real relationship of armed strength. Now that hundreds of thousands of workers paid with their lives for this "error," the French bourgeoisie will be concerned mainly in seeing what it can save of its profits and its wealth. By capitulating to Hitler now, they hope for more of a share than they could expect if they waited until Hitler had (Continued on Page 7)

Behind the Lines

Withdrawal of U.S. Fleet From Pacific Heralds Abandonment of Asia

by GEORGE STERN

On June 25 hostilities came to an end in France. But even more significant news that day was the "casual," unexplained announcement that units of the main U.S. fleet had begun to leave Hawaii, heading apparently for the Panama Canal and the Atlantic.

Almost as though they had been waiting for the "full speed ahead" which sent the U.S. battle wagons returning eastward, the Japanese imperialists on the other side of the Pacific began the same day to put the real heat on the French and British.

Part of the South China fleet of the Japanese Navy was ordered to Haiphong in French Indo-China. Around Hongkong Japanese troops began a new drive deliberately designed to cut the rich British colony off entirely from the Chinese hinterland. Aggressive demands on Britain to stop the traffic to China through Burma were handed to the British ambassador.

In other words, although U.S. diplomatic policy vis-a-vis Japan remains formally unchanged, in practice the complete reversal of U.S. war strategy has already begun to take place. Hitler's victory in Europe—his imminent victory over Britain and the uncertainty as to the fate of the British fleet—forces the U.S. to put its full weight in the Atlantic. As far as Washington is concerned, the Western Pacific now is Japan's, to do with what it will or what it can.

Congress has put through bills authorizing the building of 1,250,000 more tons of naval shipping to form a two-ocean fleet at the astronomical cost of \$4,000,000,000. But it will take years to build and in those years events will not stand still.

Thus the process of formation of three great continental imperialist blocs begins to gain speed. Hitler has completed the crushing of France and stands poised for his assault on Bri-

tain. No serious observer has been willing to give British resistance more than twelve weeks. After Britain probably comes Stalin's turn.

On the other side of the world Japan is already in motion to pick up the spoils left free for grabbing by the development of the European war in Europe. From the defeated French, Japan last week extracted an "agreement" which amounts to the virtual establishment of a Japanese protectorate over Indo-China. Japanese army, navy, and civil officials are henceforth to "supervise" the trade routes leading from Indo-China into that section of China ruled by the Kuomintang. The Japanese navy is moving in to "observe" the exercise of this control. In Shanghai the French have likewise given way to the Japanese. Demands for similar "supervision" over the Burma route have been filed with the British and will no doubt be enforced as soon as Britain is reduced, like France, to a defenseless state.

When these two Chinese lifelines are choked off, the Japanese will hope to force a peace in China which it could not impose in three years of relentless attack—three years, incidentally, which come to a close on July 7. At the same time the East Indies, Malaya, and in due course the Philippines, will await the plucking.

Between Japan and Germany lies the United States and between Germany and Japan lies the Soviet Union. The transformation of the general relationship of forces is compelling revision, therefore of both American and Soviet strategy. This brings over the more or less immediate horizon the possibility of "parallel" policies in Washington and Moscow. Of the Soviet shift in this direction there have already been multiplying indications. Of the American shift with respect to Moscow signs will not be long in forthcoming.

FDR PICKED RIGHT MAN FOR THE JOB

Stacy May, assistant director of the Rockefeller Foundation, has been appointed by Roosevelt to be head of the statistics and economics department of the National Defense Council.

Mr. May was one of the thirty signers who issued a statement on June 10 favoring the immediate declaration of war against Germany.