

# Leon Trotsky Lives On In Our Program; Ours Is Now The Task To Fight For Its Realization

## Death Follows Brutal Attack

**Assassin Says "They" Had Threatened To Kill His Mother If He Failed**

(Continued from Page 1)

After reporting Monrod's first alibi, that the attack came in the midst of a political quarrel. Nunez dismissed it by saying: "He premeditated the attack on Trotsky, for he went to Trotsky's home with the pick concealed under his raincoat and also carrying a revolver and a poniard (dagger)."

### Other Methods Failed

Stalin's GPU undoubtedly resorted to the desperate device of compelling one of its creatures to kill Trotsky without much chance of the assailant escaping, when it became clear that a repetition of the May 24 attempt could not succeed. All weak chinks in the fortifications of the house had been taken care of since May 24. Even an army could succeed only by laying long siege. Hence the method used by Monrod.

The limitless power of the GPU over its creatures was indicated when the assassin cried out, as the guards seized him after the attack:

"They made me do it. Otherwise they would have killed my mother."

No amount of questioning afterward would get him to reveal the whereabouts of his mother. He had recovered his poise and proceeded to act out the part assigned him by the GPU.

To justify Stalin's crime, he had been instructed to say that he "broke with Trotsky" when the latter asked him to go to Russia to commit "acts of sabotage." A thoroughly preposterous alibi, for every person with the slightest understanding of Marxist politics knows that such methods are alien to Trotsky and the Fourth International. But Stalin's arsenal is reduced to such flimsy arguments—and to the assassin's weapon.

### Was Long Prepared

Undoubtedly but one of many plots simultaneously being carried forward by the GPU against Trotsky's life, this one had been even longer in preparation than the May 24 attempt. In the latter, participants confessed, direct preparations began some five months before the attempt. In the final attempt, preparations began as long as two years ago.

It was then that Jacques Monrod managed an introduction in Paris to some Americans visiting there who had connections with the Trotskyist movement. He played the oldest game of all: pretended attachment to a girl. He followed her to the United States, arriving here shortly after the outbreak of the war. He himself was careful not to come in direct contact in the United States with the organized Trotskyist movement. He reserved all his chances of escaping detection for one try in Mexico.

There, through his American wife, he secured the opportunity to become acquainted with the Trotsky household by occasional visits. Undoubtedly the information he gathered made easier the work of the assassins' band of May 24. When that failed Monrod was compelled by his superiors in the GPU to do the job himself.

### Came With Weapons

With his weapons concealed under his clothes, he went to the house Tuesday at about 5:30 p.m. He met Trotsky in the patio near the chicken yard, where he told Trotsky he had written an article on which he wished advice.

Trotsky then invited Jackson into his study but without previously notifying his secretaries. The first indication of something wrong was the sound of terrible cries and a violent struggle in Trotsky's study. The two secretary-guardians who were closest immediately left their posts and rushed to the dining room next to Trotsky's study.

Here they met Trotsky coming from his study with blood streaming from his face. One of the guards—Joe Hansen—immediately overpowered the assassin, felling him with a blow. The other, Harold Robbins, helped Trotsky to recline on the floor of the dining room.

Apparently the assassin had hoped that Trotsky would drop unconscious under the first blow from behind with the pick-axe. Instead Trotsky had struggled as he received repeated blows on his head and throat.

Trotsky thought that first blow had been a bullet. As he lay on the floor he told Joe Hansen: "Jackson shot me with a revolver. I am seriously wounded. I feel that this time it is the end."

Joe Hansen tried to convince him that it was only a surface wound and that it could not have been a revolver. Trotsky would not be convinced. "No," he told Joe. "I feel here (pointing to his heart) that this time they succeeded."

### His Final Concern

But not on that fact did Trotsky dwell in those last minutes of consciousness left to him. Not on Stalin's success in murdering him, but on what must now be done by those whom he called upon to carry on the banner of the Fourth International.

At the hospital he asked Joe Hansen if he had a notebook so that he could jot down precisely a declaration. Two things were in it. The indictment: "I am close to death from the blow of a political assassin." And the conclusion: "Please say to our friends—I am sure of the victory of the Fourth International. Go forward!"

That was just before he lost consciousness. When he did, he never regained it. Thereby his declaration became his last words.

We can be sure that he would have wished it that way. If there were to be no more words, then let the last ones be the words of a fighter exhorting those who come after to continue the fight. For that was Leon Trotsky.

## Farewell, Leon Trotsky

*There are no words in which we can say our farewell to Leon Trotsky, man and revolutionist.*

*But we reproduce here the words Trotsky found to say on the day he learned of the death of Lenin in 1924, a day of loss equalled in irreplaceability only by the day the terrible words: "Trotsky is dead" crashed in their turn upon us.*

*The names of Lenin and Trotsky are inseparably associated in the history of the great October Revolution. Today the words of farewell penned by the one are the words of our farewell to the other.*

"Lenin is no more." These words crashed upon our intelligence like a gigantic rock falling into the sea. How can we believe it, how can we admit it? The mind of the workers of the whole world will refuse to accept this fact, for their enemies are powerful and dangerous, the road before them long and painful, the task they have undertaken immense—the greatest that history has ever known, and not yet completed. Lenin is necessary to the working classes of the world as perhaps never in the history of humanity has a man been necessary.

The second phase of his illness, more serious than the first, had lasted for ten months. In the bitter expression of the doctors, the organs of circulation were "playing" all the time. It was a terrible game, with the life of Ilyich as plaything. We had reason to expect an improvement, and even complete restoration, as such as we could expect a catastrophe. All of us were expecting recovery, but it was the catastrophe which supervened. The nerve centers controlling his respiration refused to serve any longer and extinguished the flame of that titanic thought.

And now Ilyich is no more. The party is an orphan. The working class is an orphan. That is what one feels before everything else, on learning of the death of him who was our teacher and our guide. How can we go forward along our path, com-

rades? Shall we not wander now that Lenin is no longer with us? No. Leninism remains. Lenin is immortal in his doctrine, his work, his method, his example which live in us, which live in the party he created, and in the first workers state of which he was the head and the helmsman.

Our grief is as immense as our loss; but let us lend a thanks to history for allowing us to be born as contemporaries of Lenin and permitting us to work by his side and be his disciples. Our party is Leninism in action; our party is the collective guide of the workers; everyone of us contains something in him of Lenin. How shall we march forward in our path? With the light of Leninism in our hand. Shall we find the true road? By collective thought and the collective will we shall find it.

Tomorrow, the day after tomorrow, next week, in a month's time, we shall still be saying to ourselves that it is impossible that Lenin is no more. Yes, his death will for long still seem to us unbelievable, inadmissible, monstrous, arbitrary, unnatural. Let the wound which opened in the heart of everyone of us, at the memory of the great man who has disappeared, recall constantly to us that our responsibility has been doubled, let us be worthy of him who taught us. In our mourning let us close our ranks and hearts for new combats. Comrades, Lenin is no longer with us. Farewell, Ilyich, farewell, leader.

## The Biography Of Trotsky Is Part Of World History

The life of Leon Trotsky is written into the history of nearly 50 years filled with world-transforming events. The story of his life is part and parcel of the story of the three Russian revolutions in 1905 and 1917 and of the tremendous events that have since taken place.

Around the life of this titanic figure in the history of man's struggle for liberation, Stalin and his journalistic and professional hacks tried with total lack of success to weave a web of lies and falsifications. The living Trotsky towered ever far above his miserable would-be traducers. The Trotsky who has now entered into memory as well as into history will tower still higher as the heavy pressure of events bring home to greater and greater masses everywhere the revolutionary lessons of which he was so great a teacher.

**Lenin's Summary**  
A succinct summary of Trotsky's political biography appeared as a note to the first edition of Lenin's *Collected Works*, in Volume XIV, part 2, pp. 481-482, published by the State Publishing House in Moscow in 1921. Here in these few lines, edited under the sharp eye of Lenin himself, were the answers to all the lies and falsifications concocted in later years by the usurpers and betrayers of the revolution.

"L. D. Trotsky, born 1881 (1879), active in the workers' circles in the city of Nikolayev; in 1898 exiled to Siberia; soon after escaped abroad and participated in the Iskra. Delegate from the Siberian League at the Second Congress of the Party. After the

split in the Party, adhered to the Mensheviks. Even prior to the revolution, in 1905, he advanced his own and today particularly noteworthy theory of the permanent revolution, in which he asserted that the bourgeois revolution of 1905 must pass directly into the socialist revolution, being the first of the national revolutions; he defended his theory in the newspaper *Nachalo*, the central organ of the Menshevik faction published during November-December, 1905, in Petersburg. After the arrest of Khrustalov-Nussar, he was elected Chairman of the First Petersburg Soviet of Workers' Deputies. Arrested together with the Executive Committee on December 3, 1905, he was sent into life exile to Odorsk, but escaped en route and emigrated abroad.

**Joins Bolsheviks**

"Trotsky chose Vienna to live in, and there he issued a popular labor newspaper, *Pravda*, to be circulated in Russia. He broke with the Mensheviks and attempted to form a group outside of all factions; however, during the factional struggle abroad he made a block with the Mensheviks and the Vyperod group against the block between Lenin and Plekhanov who fought the liquidators. From the very beginning of the imperialist war he took a clear-cut internationalist position, participated in the publication of *Nasho Slovo*, in Paris, and adhered to Zimmerwald.

"Deported from France, he went to the United States. On his return from there after the February Revolution, he was arrested by the government of Ker-

ensky and indicted for 'leading the insurrection', but was shortly freed through pressure from the Petersburg proletariat. After the Petersburg Soviet went over to the Bolsheviks, he was elected Chairman and in this capacity he organized and led the insurrection of October 25. Standing member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union since 1917; member of the Council of People's Commissars; Commissar of Foreign Affairs up to the signing of the Brest Treaty, then People's Commissar of War."

As Commissar of War, Trotsky organized and led the Red Army to victory in the Civil War, 1918-22. He formed the Left Opposition to fight Stalin in 1923. He was expelled from the party by Stalin in 1927 and exiled to Alma Ata in 1928 and to Turkey in 1929. Then his odyssey led him to France in 1933, to Norway in 1935, and to Mexico in 1940. Stalin's assassin's finally took his life.

**Trotsky's Last Work**  
**MANIFESTO OF THE**  
**FOURTH INTERNATIONAL**  
on the  
**IMPERIALIST WAR**  
and the  
**PROLETARIAN REVOLUTION**  
48 pages 5 cents per copy  
Order from  
**PIONEER PUBLISHERS**  
116 University Place  
New York City



Leon Trotsky and his lifelong comrade and companion, Natalia Sedov Trotsky

## Stalin's Murders Form Long Roll Now

With the murder of Trotsky, Joseph Stalin has completed his program for the systematic extermination of the entire group of leading figures who, with and around Lenin, stood at the head of the Bolshevik Party at the time of the 1917 revolution in Russia.

Trotsky was the last survivor, except for Stalin, of the Central Committee of the Bolshevik Party elected in the year of the revolution. All the others were either murdered or otherwise put out of the way by Stalin and the monstrous machine of the G.P.U.—secret police—upon which he built his power.

### Murder Trials

In a series of fantastic trials staged in August 1936, January 1937, and March 1938, Stalin "legalized" his murder of the most prominent of Lenin's collaborators, among them Gregory Zinoviev, Nikolai Bukharin, L. B. Kamenev, Rykov, Pyatakov, and Christian Rakovsky. Simultaneously in continuous purges the details of which were rarely made public, Stalin disposed of scores of thousands of the best militants of the revolutionary generation of the Bolshevik Party. In addition unknown thousands of his own minions whom he feared were added to the list of those struck down. The entire general staff of the Red Army and Navy, the entire industrial and trade administration of the Soviet State, the governments of the various Soviet Republics, and literally thousands of officers and officials were swept into the darkness of GPU dungeons, never again to emerge.

Stalin had made the "mistake" of permitting Trotsky himself to leave the country in 1928. In the years before Stalin's assassins finally reached the exiled leader, Stalin satisfied his vengeful lust by hounding the members of Trotsky's family to their deaths, one after another.

### Family Destroyed

Trotsky's daughter, Nina, denied medical care, died of tuberculosis in Moscow in June, 1928. Her sister Zinaida was driven by persecution of her father and herself to take her own life in Berlin in January, 1933. Their brother Sergei, who shunned politics and contented himself with the life of a scientific worker, was arrested by Stalin in 1937, accused of poisoning workers wholesale,



LEON SEDOV

and disappeared. Trotsky's last son, Leon Sedov, his friend and co-worker, died suddenly in a Paris hospital on Feb. 15, 1938, under suspicious circumstances which pointed to the GPU. The French police, under GPU pressure, refused to investigate.

Trotsky himself was hounded out of refuge in France and again out of Norway under the open and public pressure of the Kremlin on those two countries. In Mexico, Stalin's political hirelings tried to force his expulsion again but failed. His gunmen therefore took up the pursuit. On May 24 this year a band of Stalin's gunmen stormed the Trotsky home and sprayed his bedroom with machine gun bullets. He and his companion Nathalia escaped as by a miracle.

Trotsky predicted a new attempt would soon come and despite all the precautions it did come with the fatal results we know. Only Nathalia is left now for Stalin's assassins to seek out.

### Other Murders

Stalin's use of hired assassins has not been by any means confined to Trotsky alone. Outside of the Soviet Union during the last four years Stalin's GPU has carried out a whole series of political murders and kidnappings of revolutionary militants of the Fourth International and of other sections of the labor movement which opposed the designs of Stalin. In Spain Stalin's GPU gunmen fastened themselves like leeches to the struggling body of the Spanish revolution and drew the blood

of its best militants.

The names of Berneri and Barbieri, anarchists, Andres Nin, of the POUM, Marc Rein, son of the Second International leader Abramovich, Kurt Landau, Austrian militant, adorn this roster. Moulin, leader of the Spanish Fourth Internationalists, was done away with in 1937. Irwin Wolf, former secretary to Trotsky, was kidnapped in Barcelona in September, that same year, and has never been heard from since.

### Reiss and Klement

In 1937 Ignace Reiss, a GPU foreign agent, broke with Stalin, reaffirmed his devotion to the workers' revolution, and solidarized with the Fourth International. On Sept. 4, 1937, his bullet-riddled body was thrown from a car near Lausanne, Switzerland. Swiss and French police later established the guilt of known GPU assassins, one of whom, Rossi, later went to Mexico.

August Klement, secretary of the Fourth International, was kidnapped in Paris on July 13, 1938. Two weeks later his headless and legless body was fished from the Seine.

To this list Stalin in May this year added the name of Sheldon Harte, the young guard brutally murdered at the time of the unsuccessful assault on Trotsky's home. And now, his crowning achievement, the name of Trotsky himself.

But all the blood shed by this super-Mafia has not succeeded and will not succeed in exorcising the specter that still haunts the Kremlin and the cowering dictator who lives there. He has done away with Trotsky. He cannot do away with Trotskyism.

## DRAFTED MEN KEEP SENIORITY UNDER NEW CONTRACT

ST. PAUL, Minn.—Warehouse Employees Union members will retain their seniority standing and receive leaves of absence from their jobs for the duration of their military service, it was established in a rider which the union insisted on adding to the general contract just signed with the employers' committee.

The union, an affiliate of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, recognized that during the last war the returning soldiers were thrown into the streets jobless, and this time they are determined that they will have jobs when they get back.

The union has gone on record several times against the war, calling it a commercial and economic one, and calling on the workers everywhere to fight against the war because it does not benefit the workers. By adding this rider to the contract, the union does not sanction the war. It simply recognizes that the war may soon involve the American workers, and the workers should be protected as best possible.

### Advertisement

WANTED—Living room, bedroom furniture. See J. Lerner, N. Y. City office.

**Join the Socialist Workers Party**



Trotsky with Lenin and Kamenev in the Days of the Civil War



Trotsky addressing the Third Congress of the Comintern