

Assassin's 'Confession' Uncovers Hand Of GPU In Murder

TROTSKY'S LAST MARCH

The following account is an excerpt from a dispatch from Mexico to THE DAY, New York Jewish daily, on August 24, written by Jean Jaffe:

Fifty thousand people have said goodbye to Trotsky as he lies waiting for his last "journey" to eternity. A whole night, from Wednesday evening to Thursday morning, a giant procession of people, with heads bowed and downcast eyes, filed by the great revolutionary as he lay in a cold casket surrounded by a rainbow of flower wreaths.

And the mourners' procession was as varied and colored as the people and masses for whom Trotsky has fought his whole life. From the depths of the Mexican population they came: barefooted, dark-skinned, peasants and agricultural toilers, and young bespectacled students with revolutionary storm in their hearts; Indian women with infants in their arms and pale-faced intellectuals with refined appearances; urban workers and representatives of the Spanish middle class.

All of them passed and stopped for a moment and cast a sad glance upon his tortured and punctured face, which looked calm, peaceful and tranquil . . . tranquil after a great stormy life. Here and there one could notice a red blood stain on the white linen in which he was wrapped, but his face was calm, without a sign of struggle.

WREATHS FROM ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD

The flower wreaths have come from all corners of the world and from different personalities and groups. Here a flower wreath from the Mexican President, Cardenas, who had given Trotsky his last home in Mexico City after he was deported from Europe; here wreaths from a great number of workers' unions; wreaths from student groups, writers, intellectuals, thinkers, from all who have appreciated Trotsky's volcanic personality.

When I saw the giant mass go by the casket, I felt that the Mexican masses came, not to mourn after a great Russian revolutionary politician, but to have felt for all the oppressed and downtrodden—also for them, the Mexicans, who have now awakened to a new life. They mourned the martyr, the fighter, the idealist.

The walls of the funeral parlor were covered with red flags with the emblem of the Fourth International, the revolutionary organization which Trotsky has organized and to which he has devoted his writings and fiery manifestos. On a number of the flags were also the emblems of Mexican trade unions.

NATALIA SAYS HER LAST GOODBYES

Natalia Trotsky, the wife who accompanied him on all his wanderings, is shattered and forlorn. All day Thursday, the doctors had administered opiates to quiet her. Just before the funeral she came in dressed in black and supported on the arm of General Hidalgo, a Mexican diplomat, who was one of the closest friends of the Trotsky family.

Natalia Trotsky approached the casket slowly and looked on her dead husband through her black veil. It was a moment of deep anguish to all of us who wit-

nessed this scene. Every one remained breathless when the widow with trembling hand touched the casket and appeared to desire to jar it a bit as though she wanted to wake up her husband from his sleep.

For a half hour Natalia Trotsky stood over the body. Her lips did not move. She did not move at all. She spoke without words. The last words to her husband and comrade. From time to time she placed on his face her black-gloved hand.

As soon as she left the room, spontaneously the song of the International broke out and the people lifted their clenched fists in a revolutionary vow; immediately after thundered the cry: "Trotsky Lives On! Death to Stalinism!" The cry was repeated many times in unison.

Over the casket hangs the flag with Trotsky's last words before his death: "I AM SURE OF THE VICTORY OF THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL!"

The widow, outside, trembled, as she heard the voices of these Mexican men and women giving this last homage to the Trotsky they loved.

MEXICAN PEOPLE WANT HIS LAST RESTING PLACE HERE

I gained the general impression that Trotsky remained a stranger in the land. The average man in the street knew quite little of his role in history, his rich political career, and his writings. Trotsky could not come closer and acquaint himself with the Mexicans because he had to lead a confined life as in a prison. First of all, because he was allowed into Mexico on the one condition that he would not participate in the political life of Mexico. Secondly, he was always in danger of assassination by his political enemies.

The Mexicans, nevertheless, were terribly disappointed when rumors spread that Trotsky's body would be taken to New York and that the funeral would take place there. The Mexicans feel that the martyr has to find his resting place in the land that gave him asylum.

Mrs. Trotsky has calmed the Mexicans and issued a declaration

through Albert Goldman, Trotsky's representative, who came here by plane from Chicago, that the body will be finally interred in Mexico.

Many followers of Trotsky are assured with the greatest certainty that the day will come when the bones of Trotsky will be carried to the Kremlin in Moscow, from where he led the Russian Revolution and the Red Army. They say that Trotsky has to be near Lenin together with whom he made the revolution.

Among those who came to pay their last respects to Trotsky were a group of Jewish anarchists and revolutionists who were in Russia in 1917 and who saw Trotsky in Moscow, Khar'kov, Petrograd and other Russian centers. Some of them had gone to Russia from the United States to participate in the revolution.

They still remember the heroic period, when legends spread throughout Russia about Trotsky's personality, when his lion's voice aroused the masses, when his countenance was like a torch during the great civil war and when his writings awakened millions of minds.

FUNERAL PROCESSION WAS GIANTIC

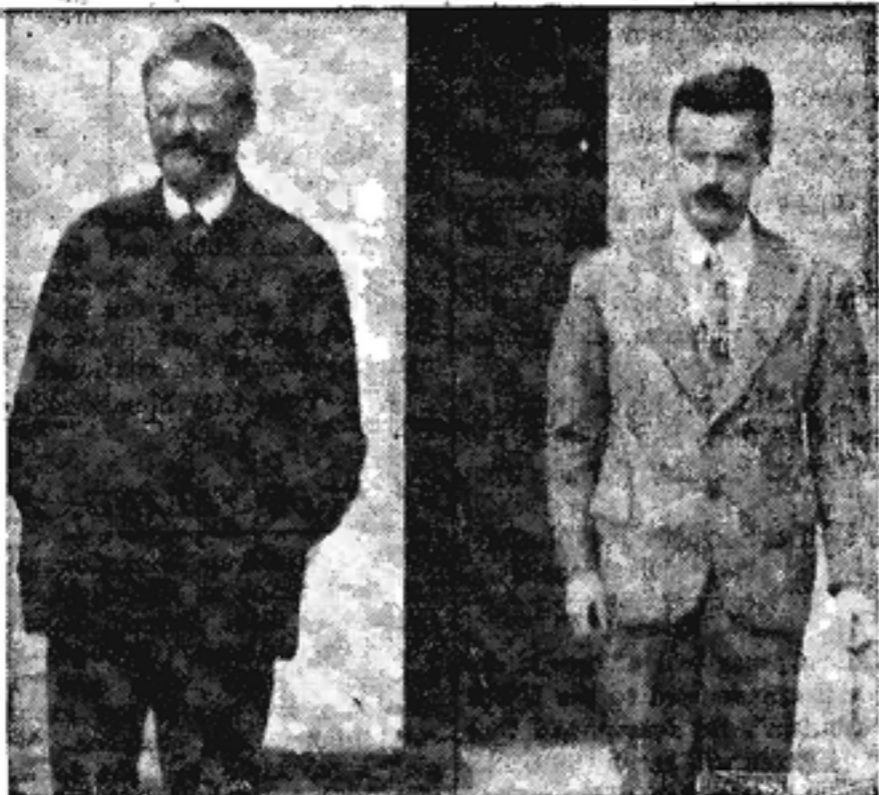
The funeral procession was gigantic. When the flower-bedecked casket slowly passed through the streets, the roofs and windows were black with people.

On the way to the cemetery, from time to time the cry was echoed: "TROTSKY LIVES, DOWN WITH STALIN, DOWN WITH THE GPU!"

About 200 people were permitted to pass through the gate to the government-owned cemetery. Hundreds remained outside.

Mrs. Trotsky stood near the casket during the eulogies. The speakers were: Albert Goldman, of the United States, and three Mexicans, among them Trotsky's Spanish secretary.

The Mexicans at the cemetery were still. They are used to heroic deaths of revolutionary martyrs and each death is a sign for them that the struggle goes on from generation to generation, from man to man . . .



Trotsky and his son Lyova - Leon Sedov - who died in a Paris hospital in 1938 under the shadow of GPU assassins.

Klement 'Letter' Also Pointed to the GPU's Guilt in Murder

The "confession" found on the person of "Frank Jackson", the assassin, was similar to the document which the GPU fabricated after it murdered Rudolf Klement, secretary of the Fourth International.

Klement, a young German revolutionary, disappeared from Paris on July 13, 1938. Six weeks later his headless and legless body was fished from the Seine and was positively identified by two leading representatives of the Workers' International Party, French section of the Fourth International.

Two days after Klement's disappearance, one of the leading French comrades had received a carbon copy of a letter purportedly sent by Klement to Leon Trotsky. It was postmarked Perpignan, on the Franco-Spanish frontier.

The "letter" from Klement reached Trotsky on August 1, 1938 after travelling circuitously via New York. This document, which Trotsky analyzed exhaustively (see Socialist Appeal, August 20, 1938), bore all the familiar pattern-marks so clearly dis-

cernible in the Jackson "confession."

Klement was presented therein, like Jackson, and like almost all the defendants in the Moscow trials, as an ex-follower of Trot-

sky who had become "disgusted" upon learning of Trotsky's supposed nefarious plots against Stalin and his supposed trafficking with foreign powers against the Soviet Union. Back in 1938, of course, this enemy power was still Nazi Germany and the GPU had Klement accusing Trotsky of being in league with the Gestapo.

Klement, totally unlike Jackson, was in reality a veteran worker in the ranks of the Fourth International who had given years of devoted service both to Trotsky and the Fourth Internationalist movement. The letter sent in his name was clearly established as a forgery by handwriting experts in Paris. But even without this expert testimony, the letter gave full internal evidence of its origin in its use and juxtaposition of names, and in the nature of the charges suddenly "discovered" by Klement.

In the case of Klement, the "accusation," echoing that of the Moscow trials, that Trotsky was in league with Hitler, came as a preposterous sequel to the strenuous months Klement himself had spent in helping to expose the Moscow charges as fraudulent lies.

RUDOLF KLEMENT

Uses Pattern Of Moscow Trials

(Continued from Page 1)

went fully into the accusation that Trotsky sent emissaries to Russia for the purpose of assassinating Stalin and other leaders of the Kremlin bureaucracy. In its findings the Commission clearly established that Trotsky was unalterably opposed to assassination and demonstrated with factual evidence the falsity of the "defendants' accusations.

REPEATS STALINISTS' MEXICAN SLANDERS

3. Absolutely conclusive in identifying the Jackson "confession" as a GPU fabrication are its references to the attitude of Trotsky to Mexico, its people and its government; in these Jackson repeats the identical slanders found previously in the press of Stalin's agents in Mexico and the United States.

Jackson—making the same crude effort as the other Stalin agents to prejudice the Mexican people against Trotsky—writes that Trotsky spoke with contempt of the Mexican revolution and of everything that was Mexican. The truth, known to everybody, is that Trotsky repeatedly expressed himself in terms of the greatest admiration for the Mexican people and of his gratitude to President Cardenas and the government of the Mexican republic for extending hospitality and refuge to him. Trotsky defended Mexico in the press of the entire world when the world bourgeoisie denounced Cardenas' oil expropriations.

The "confession" also repeats the slander, so frequently found previously in the press of Stalin's agents, that Trotsky intervened in Mexico politics and in favor of Almazan. No honest man could possibly make such an accusation because the truth is that throughout his entire stay in Mexico, Trotsky abided with the utmost loyalty by the pledge he made to refrain from such intervention. President Cardenas last year personally answered these charges against Trotsky, who, he affirmed, had honorably and scrupulously observed this pledge.

The official participation of the Mexican government in Trotsky's funeral, President Cardenas' kind offer to have the government bear the costs of the funeral—are in themselves sufficient refutation of the crude lies concocted in the "confession."

LEGATION DISPROVES ASSASSIN'S "FACTS"

4. Many of the assassin's statements about his Belgian background, his connections with the Trotskyist movement in Paris, etc., are undoubtedly made with the assurance that it will be impossible to refute them, thanks to the fact that Stalin's partner, Hitler, has occupied Belgium and Paris.

5. However, the Belgian Legation in Mexico City, after sending an official who closely questioned the assassin, has announced that his story about his Belgian background is false. A summary of the flaws in his story appears in a cable in the New York Times, August 27:

"He (the Belgian Legation official) said Jackson does not speak with a Belgian but rather with a Swiss accent; that the address he gave in Brussels is false; that no one connected with him lives at the address where he says his mother lives; that it is untrue that he studied at the Loyola Jesuit College in Brussels, since of two Jesuit colleges in that city neither bears that name, and, finally, that all investigations had failed to confirm that he is a son of a Belgian diplomat."

6. The assassin was never at any time a member of the Fourth International, either of the French or any other section. As a matter of fact, it will easily be established, by the testimony not merely of Trotskyists but also of non-Trotskyists, that Jackson's game was to pose as one little versed in politics. At no time did he claim to be a member. He presented himself as one in general sympathy with the movement, but with interests and business affairs which occupied his time. The picture he now presents of himself, as a "devoted disciple" devoting "all my energy" is of a piece with the rest—a crude fabrication.

During the two years that he was planning the murder he had good reason to avoid the status of a member and to present himself as one extremely busy with other matters. Thereby, for example, he avoided contact with the Trotskyist organization and the burden of daily work, which would have been placed on him—avoided all conditions under which he might have let slip something which would have led to suspicion of him. His pose as the sweetheart of a girl through whom he came to have some general sympathies for Trotsky—this was the necessary pose to facilitate his horrible task.

7. The vague generalities, lack of definiteness in designating places, names and dates, also testify to the false character of the "confession." When did Jackson join the Fourth International? Who was the member of the Bureau of the Fourth International who proposed that he make a trip to see Trotsky? Who told him to remain at some distance from the Coyoacan house? All these questions and many others are conveniently left unanswered.

THE GPU'S CLOVEN HOOF!

8. Jackson tries to picture himself as an honest man. Why, then, when he was disillusioned with Trotsky, did he not openly make public that fact? Why did he not expose Trotsky? The fact is, that up to the very last he assured everybody who knew him of his great personal admiration for Trotsky. When his friend Sylvia Ageloff took a position on a political question contrary to that of Trotsky, Jackson claimed to be in agreement with Trotsky.

9. The cloven hoof of the GPU comes out with utter crudity when the "confession" states: "I came to the conclusion that perhaps the Stalinists were not so far from the truth. . . ." The sycophantic servants of Stalin did the same thing in the Moscow Trials, when every "defendant" and witness was made to "see the light" at the end and say that Stalin had been right. Here we see the police mind at work: murderous toward those whom they are instructed to pursue, slavish in their servility toward their masters.

This particular morsel was so crude that the editors of Stalin's U. S. organ, the Daily Worker, a little more politically-minded than the GPU assassin gang, while quoting the sentence in which the bow to Stalin appeared, cut this reference out entirely, as if it had not been in the original "confession!" (Daily Worker, August 26).

10. The reference to money which "the consul of a great foreign nation" could account for is still another repetition of the Moscow trials pattern. Every penny of the costs of our efforts to preserve Trotsky's life was secured from the comrades and sympathizers of the party who were ready to give not only

TEXT OF JACKSON 'CONFESSION'

Gentlemen:

In writing this letter I have no other object in the event an accident comes to me than to explain to public opinion the motives which induce me to execute the act of justice which I propose.

I am of an old Belgian family. In Paris where I made my studies of journalism I made the acquaintance with boys of my age who fought in different left organizations and little by little they won me to their ideas. I was content to have found in journalism a means of livelihood since this permitted me to struggle more effectively against the present system of social injustice. It was then when I began to meet the Trotskyites who convinced me of the justice of their ideology and wholeheartedly I joined their organization. From then on I carried into the revolutionary cause all my energy and all my faith. I was a devoted disciple of L. T. and I would have given the last drop of my blood for the needs of the cause. I began to study all that had been written on the different revolutionary movements in order to better instruct myself and develop myself, and in this way I became more useful to the cause.

At this time I became acquainted with a member of the Bureau of the Fourth International, who, after various conversations proposed that I make a trip to Mexico in order to meet L. Trotsky. As is natural, this trip filled me with enthusiasm, since it was a thing for which I had not even dreamed, and I accepted with all my heart. This comrade supplied me with all the means, expenses of the trip, papers, etc. It must not be forgotten that with my own papers, it would have been impossible for me to go because of mobilization.

Before going, with the many conversations which I had with this comrade, he made me understand very well that they expected from me something more than a simple militant of the party, but he did not make anything precise to me. I made the trip, first to the United States, and then to Mexico.

Recently arrived here, they told me that I must remain some distance from the house in Coyoacan in order to call no attention upon

We publish below the complete text of the "confession" found on the assassin by the Mexican police. The text we publish is a literal translation of the original Spanish text.

The police mentality of the GPU was skillful in all technical measures required to murder Trotsky. But the police mind could not plausibly paint a perverted picture of Trotsky's ideas. They could mangle Trotsky; they could not mangle Trotsky's ideas!

That is why the crude "confession" we print below, instead of covering up Stalin's tracks, reveals the GPU-signature of Stalin, the organizer of the assassination.

me and only some months afterwards did I begin to visit the said house more or less on the indication of Leon Trotsky who commenced to give me, little by little, some indications of what was expected of me.

For me it was a great disillusionment since in place of finding myself face to face with a political chief who was directing the struggle for the liberation of the working class I found myself before a man who desired nothing more than to satisfy his needs and desires of vengeance and of hate and who did not utilize the workers' struggle for anything more than a means of hiding his own patriotism and despicable calculations.

From that moment I remained chilled by his skill in sowing discord in our own party, setting some against others, the leaders of yesterday against those of today, which brought into our own ranks a tangle and confusion, so that the majority of the members of the party lost their time in discussing among themselves questions of a personal and secondary order relegating to a secondary plane all the problems of the working class, which ended by disanimating many of the members who, like me, had come to the movement in order to consecrate themselves entirely to the cause.

After various conversations it was at last plain to me what they expected of me. It was then that there was sown in me the most profound disillusionment, and the greatest contempt for this man in whom I had formerly believed.

It was proposed to me that I go to Russia in order to organize there a series of attempts against different persons and in the first place against Stalin. This was against all the principles of a struggle that until then I had considered open and loyal, and contrary to all my principles.

Nevertheless I did nothing to prevent full clarity since I wished to know to what limits the baseness and hate of this man would go.

I began to ask, among other things, the means to employ in order to be able to enter Russia. I was answered that I did not have to be disturbed since any means would be good in order to arrive at a result, he expected to count not only on the support of a great nation but also on the support of a certain foreign parliamentary committee.

This, for me, was the drop of water which filled the glass too full and from this moment no doubt existed in my mind that Trotsky had no other object in his life than to utilize his followers in order to satisfy his personal ends and patriotism. Above all, I was shocked by the wide contacts which he had with certain leaders of the capitalist countries and I came to the conclusion that perhaps the Stalinists were not so far from the truth when they accused Trotsky with preoccupied himself with the working class as if it were a dirty sock.

After my conversations with him I was astonished to see with what contempt he spoke of the Mexican Revolution and of everything that was Mexican. Naturally all his sympathies are in favor of Almazan, but aside from him and some of his followers he threw everything into the same sack, criticizing the politics of Cardenas, the Mexican police, who he said were completely corrupted; and I will not say anything about what he said about Lombardo Toledano and Avila Camacho, who he expected would be very soon assassinated, in order to leave a free field to Almazan (and in such a way that I am sure there was under way some plot in this sense, that otherwise he would not have spoken thus, since he liked very much to give himself the importance of a prophet. It would not be prudent to confide thus).

This is not astonishing when one recalls that he has the same hate towards the members of his party who are not absolutely in accord with him. It is for this that when he is speaking of the Minority of the party, he insinuates the possibility of a struggle of another order than political. When he says that the Minorities wish to attack him one of these days, this means that he is going to begin among them a bloody war.

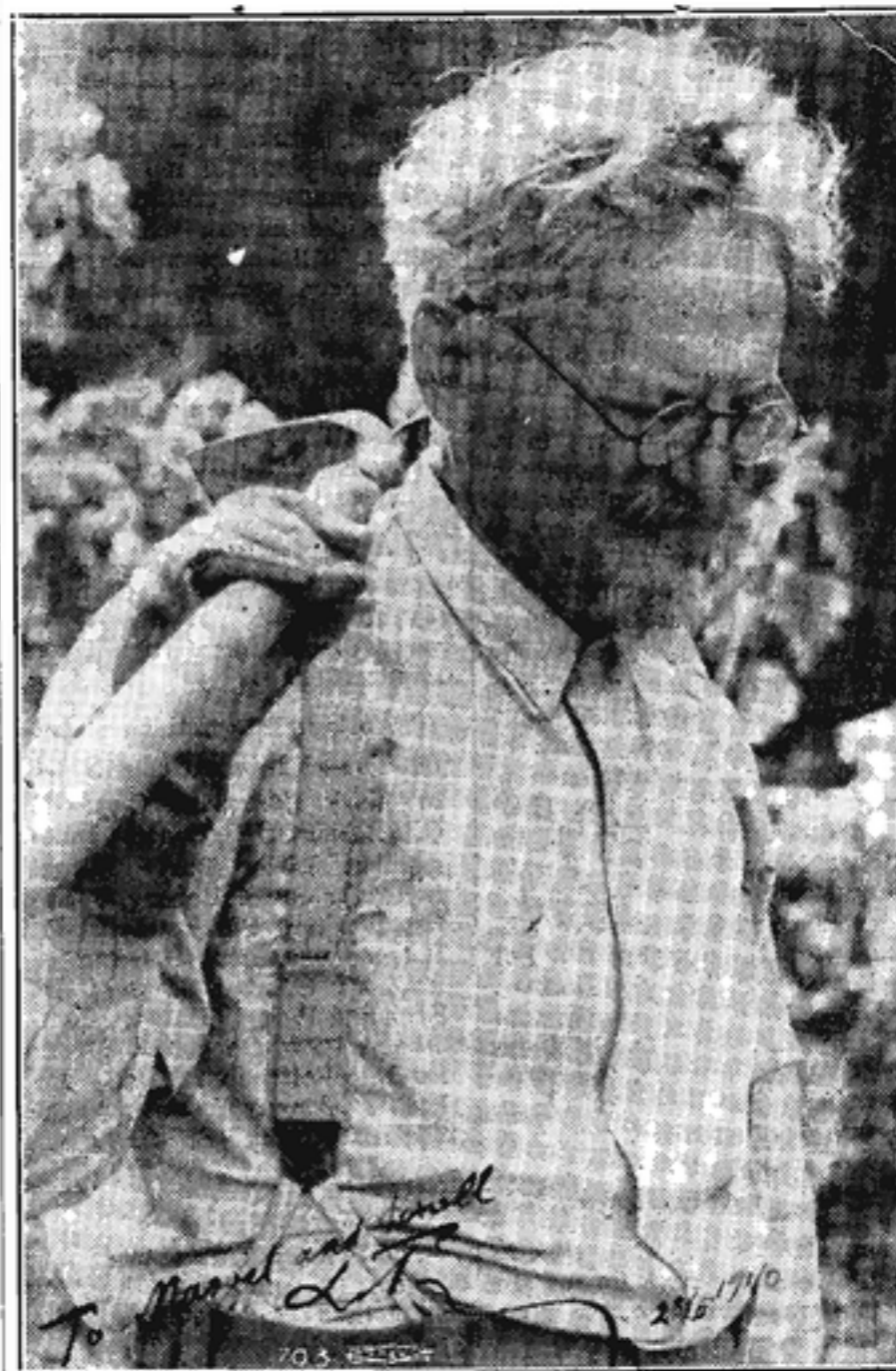
One day, speaking of the fortress which his house had become, he said "it is not only to defend myself against the Stalinists, but also against the Minorities," which meant that he desired the expulsion of various members of the party. Precisely in connection with this house, which he said very well had been converted into a fortress, I asked myself very often, from where had come the money for such work, since in reality the party is very poor and in many countries do not have the possibility of bringing out a daily paper, an indispensable means for the struggle. Where did this money come from? Perhaps the consul of a great foreign nation who often visited him could answer this question for us.

In order to demonstrate the slight interest which he has for everything not connected with himself, I add that I was promised to a certain young girl whom I love with all my soul, because she is good and loyal. When I told him that I could not go to Russia because I wished to get married first, and I would not go without my wife he became very nervous, and told me that I had to finish with her. I could not marry a person such as she, "who seconded the Minority rabble." It is probable that after my act she may not wish to know me any more, nevertheless it was also for her sake that I decided to sacrifice myself entirely, removing the chief of the workers' movement who caused only damage to it, and I am sure that later, not only the party, but also history will know how to see me in the right light, when they will see that the bloody enemy of the working class is gone.

In case anything unfortunate occurs to me I ask the publication of this letter.

JAC.

August 20, 1940.



Trotsky Gardening At Coyoacan

money but their lives—as did Robert Sheldon Harte, murdered by the May 24th attackers. And his was but one name on a long roll of our honored dead, murdered by Stalin.

11. Sylvia Ageloff's denunciation of Jackson as a "dirty GPU agent" is sufficient characterization of the assassin's concluding paragraph that it was "also for her sake" that he murdered Trotsky. Far from Trotsky interfering in their marriage, it was Jackson's appearance on the scene as her husband which enabled the assassin to get into the house.

We make these observations immediately after reading the "confession" and before it has been submitted to detailed analysis and investigation. But the first reading is sufficient to see what it is. Albert Goldman declared in Mexico City as soon as the "confession" was translated to him:

"If anything was necessary to convince every intelligent person that the murderer of Leon Trotsky was an agent of Stalin's GPU, it is this letter which was obviously prepared by the GPU in advance for just such an emergency."