

Trotsky Foresaw His Assassins Would Use 'Trotskyist' Label

Leon Trotsky predicted that Stalin's GPU would arrange for the assassins to label themselves as "Trotskyists"—just as the GPU's agent who murdered Trotsky is now attempting to do.

For the express purpose of making this prediction, Trotsky invited the press to his home on August 6—just two weeks before he was murdered.

The two chief figures who organized the May 24 attempt to kill Trotsky were already known then: David Serrano, member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Mexico, seized and arrested by the police and now awaiting trial; and David Alfaro Siqueiros, a Stalinist of fifteen years standing, president of the Abraham Lincoln Battalion (Spanish Civil War veterans), for whom the Mexican police are seeking. In addition nine other Stalinists are awaiting trial, among them Serrano's wife; these nine have admitted their complicity.

Here is what Trotsky told the reporters August 6. We quote verbatim from EL UNIVERSAL, Mexico City daily, August 7:

"The object of my invitation to the press," said Trotsky, "is in order to point out to the

press the new myth that the GPU is concocting in Mexico. It will appear that the GPU desires to convince humanity that David Alfaro Siqueiros is my agent. And that by my initiative he organized the assault! What preoccupies me most is the attempt of the GPU to revive the theory of self-assault, a thing which is very difficult since the body of Robert Sheldon Harte (Trotsky's secretary, murdered by the May 24th assailants) has been found and since the confessions of those arrested.

"But the GPU has in its hands Siqueiros and, through the lawyer Pavon Flores, acting as intermediary, they have hold of David Serrano. Serrano was six years in Moscow, from where he was sent to Spain, and nobody goes out of Russia without the authorization of the GPU. Serrano participated in Spain as an agent of the GPU and came as a high agent of that body to Mexico. That is the reason why he entered the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Mexican Communist Party...

"It is very important for these gentlemen to throw all the blame on Siqueiros and for them to say that everything was organized by him."

Trotsky concluded the press interview of August 6 with the following predictions:

"Will not the GPU demand of Siqueiros, under pain of death, that tomorrow he declares himself to have been secretly a Trotskyist? Will not Siqueiros declare that he killed Bob Harte in the course of a 'self-assault' (i.e., a staged affair)? Will not David Serrano confess that he has been simply an agent of the Dies Committee for the organization of political assassinations? Isn't EL POPULAR (Toledano's organ) already preparing an editorial article on the same theme? We know in advance its style of patriotic indignation! Well, let them try it! Moscow has had for a long time its classical system for affairs of this kind. We await with serenity the new intrigue. We shall help the investigation to discover the logic of this masquerade."

This "classical system" is now being followed by the GPU assassin who murdered Trotsky. He, too, labels himself "Trotskyite". At what moment the blow would fall, Trotsky could not know. But the alibi of the assassin, he predicted in advance.

Trotsky's Last Word To Workers Of USSR

The following message to the Soviet workers was written by Trotsky at the end of April and sent by various means into the Soviet Union.

Only a few days before his death, Trotsky had the heartfelt satisfaction of learning that at least one of the means used had successfully carried his message to Soviet workers.

The message was first published in English in the SOCIALIST APPEAL, May 11, 1940.

Greetings to the Soviet workers, collective farmers, soldiers of the Red Army and sailors of the Red Navy!

Greetings from distant Mexico where I found refuge after the Stalinist clique had exiled me to Turkey and after the bourgeoisie had hounded me from country to country!

Dear Comrades! The lying Stalinist press has been maliciously deceiving you for a long time on all questions, including those which relate to myself and my political co-thinkers. You possess no workers' press; you read only the press of the bourgeoisie, which lies systematically so as to keep you in darkness and thus render secure the rule of a privileged parasitic caste.

Those who dare raise their voices against the universally hated bureaucracy are called "Trotskyists," agents of a foreign power; branded as spies—yesterday it was spies of Germany, today it is spies of England and France—and then sent to face the firing squad. Tens of thousands of revolutionary fighters have fallen before the muzzles of G.P.U. Mausers in the USSR and in countries abroad, especially in Spain. All of them were depicted as agents of Fascism. Do not believe this abominable slander! Their crime consisted of defending workers and peasants against the brutality and rapacity of the bureaucracy. The entire Old Guard of Bolshevism, all the collaborators and assistants of Lenin, all the fighters of the October revolution, all the heroes of the Civil War, have been murdered by Stalin. In the annals of history Stalin's name will forever be recorded with the infamous brand of Cain!

NOT MADE FOR BUREAUCRATS

The October revolution was accomplished for the sake of the toilers and not for the sake of new parasites. But due to the lag of the world revolution, due to the fatigue and, to a large measure, the backwardness of the Russian workers and especially the Russian peasants, there raised itself over the Soviet Republic and against its peoples a new oppressive and parasitic caste, whose leader is Stalin. The former Bolshevik party was turned into an apparatus of this caste. The world organization which the Communist International once was is today a pliant tool of the Moscow oligarchy. Soviets of Workers and Peasants have long perished. They have been replaced by degenerate Commissars, Secretaries and G.P.U. agents.

But, fortunately, among the surviving conquests of the October revolution are the nationalized industry and the collectivized Soviet economy. Upon this foundation Workers' Soviets can build a new and happier society. This foundation cannot be surrendered by us to the world bourgeoisie under any conditions. It is the duty of revolutionists to defend tooth and nail every position gained by the working class, whether it involves democratic rights, wage scales, or so colossal a conquest of mankind as the nationalization of the means of production and planned economy. Those who are incapable of defending conquests already gained can never fight for new ones. Against the imperialist foe we will defend the USSR with all our might. However, the conquests of the October revolution will serve the people only if they prove themselves capable of dealing with the Stalinist bureaucracy, as in their day they dealt with the Tsarist bureaucracy and the bourgeoisie.

If Soviet economic life had been conducted in

the interests of the people; if the bureaucracy had not devoured and vainly wasted the major portion of the national income; if the bureaucracy had not trampled underfoot the vital interests of the population, then the USSR would have been a great magnetic pole of attraction for the toilers of the world and the inviolability of the Soviet Union would have been assured. But the infamous oppressive regime of Stalin has deprived the USSR of its attractive power. During the war with Finland, not only the majority of the Finnish peasants, but also the majority of the Finnish workers, proved to be on the side of their bourgeoisie. This is hardly surprising since they know of the unprecedented oppression to which the Stalinist bureaucracy subjects the workers of near-by Leningrad and the whole of the USSR. The Stalinist bureaucracy, so blood-thirsty and ruthless at home and so cowardly before the imperialist enemies, has thus become the main source of war danger to the Soviet Union.

The old Bolshevik party and the Third International have disintegrated and decomposed. The honest and advanced revolutionists have organized abroad the Fourth International which has sections already established in most of the countries of the world. I am a member of this new International. In participating in this work I remain under the very same banner that I served together with you or your fathers and your older brothers in 1917 and throughout the years of the Civil War—the very same banner under which together with Lenin we built the Soviet state and the Red Army.

EXTEND REVOLUTION

The goal of the Fourth International is to extend the October revolution to the whole world and at the same time to regenerate the USSR by purging it of the parasitic bureaucracy. This can be achieved only in one way: By the workers, peasants, Red Army soldiers and Red Navy sailors rising against the new caste of oppressors and parasites. To prepare this uprising, a new party is needed—a bold and honest revolutionary organization of the advanced workers. The Fourth International sets as its task the building of such a party in the USSR.

Advanced workers! Be the first to rally to the banner of Marx and Lenin which is now the banner of the Fourth International! Learn how to create, in the conditions of Stalinist illegality, tightly fused, reliable revolutionary circles! Establish contacts between these circles! Learn how to establish contacts—through loyal and reliable people, especially the sailors—with your revolutionary co-thinkers in bourgeois lands! It is difficult, but it can be done.

The present war will spread more and more, piling ruins on ruins, breeding more and more sorrow, despair and protests, driving the whole world toward new revolutionary explosions. The world revolution shall re-invigorate the Soviet working masses with new courage and resoluteness and shall undermine the bureaucratic props of Stalin's caste. It is necessary to prepare for this hour by stubborn systematic revolutionary work. The fate of our country, the future of our people, the destiny of our children and grandchildren are at stake.

Down With Cain Stalin and his Camarilla!
Down With the Rapacious Bureaucracy!
Long Live the Soviet Union, the Fortress of the Toilers!
Long Live the World Socialist Revolution!
Fraternally
LEON TROTSKY

WARNING! Stalin's press will of course declare that this letter is transmitted to the USSR by "agents of imperialism". Be forewarned that this, too, is a lie. This letter will reach the USSR through reliable revolutionists who are prepared to risk their lives for the cause of socialism. Make copies of this letter and give it the widest possible circulation.—L. T.

FROM ALL CORNERS

We reproduce below some of the messages received through the offices of the Socialist Workers Party following the assassination of Leon Trotsky in Mexico City. Many others have gone direct to the home of the late Bolshevik leader in Cooyoacan but there has not been time enough for them to be forwarded here for publication.

"Natalia Trotsky, Cooyoacan: The Executive Committee of the Fourth International knows there is no consolation that can be offered you for the loss you have suffered. The gaping hole left in our ranks by the loss of Trotsky cannot be filled any more than the wound inflicted upon you can ever be healed. Trotsky's parting injunction to us was to go forward and these words are now fixed upon our banner. To you we pledge our solidarity, our friendship, our devotion.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Fourth International."

FROM CHILE

"Socialist Workers Party, New York: Condolences on the death of our venerated comrade Trotsky. We declare that we shall make a reality of his last words: Forward the Fourth International!

HENRIQUEZ AND SILVA
For the International
Workers Party of Chile."

FROM GREAT BRITAIN

"British workers horrified foul deed. Convey Natalie deepest sympathy. We pledge to revenge crime by carrying on struggle.

JACKSON
For the Militant Labor League
of Great Britain."

FROM CANADA

"With deep sense of personal loss, the Canadian section of the Fourth International extends profound sympathy to Comrade Natalia. In the midst of a wartime reaction our determination to press forward to victory is renewed by the last words of our great comrade and leader. The weapon of the assassin can never wipe out the heritage that Comrade Trotsky has left us.

RICHARD
For the Socialist Workers
League of Canada."

FROM CHINA

"In the name of our Chinese comrades in the front ranks of the struggle against the Japanese imperialist invader I send our sorrowing greetings in this hour to Comrade Natalia Trotsky and our pledge to the Fourth International that we shall continue the struggle for the workers' revolution in China and for the world revolution of which Trotsky was so valiant a symbol.

I LO SEN
For the Communist League of China."

FROM THE

Fourth International. Our triumph will be his monument.
D. Stevens, Chairman."

TWIN CITIES:

"Dear Comrade Natalia: The comrades of the Minneapolis and St. Paul branches of the Socialist Workers Party grieve with you in this hour. You have lost your dear and devoted companion. We have lost our noble and devoted companion. We shall honor his memory by carrying out his dying injunction to us: Go forward with the Fourth International.

Twin City Membership."

FROM CLEVELAND:

"Ohio Michigan Joint Committee Conference at Cleveland, representing Flint, Detroit, Toledo, Cleveland, Akron, Youngstown branches, joins with you in mourning the loss of our greatest thinker and teacher. We pledge ourselves to fight to the very end for the victory of the

Portland, Oregon, Branch."

To Understand the Methods of the GPU, Read these Analyses of the Moscow Trials:

THE CASE OF LEON TROTSKY:
Report of hearings on the charges made against him in the Moscow trials
Preliminary Commission of Inquiry
JOHN DEWEY, Chairman 617 pages

NOT GUILTY
Report of the Commission of Inquiry into the charges made against Leon Trotsky in the Moscow trials
JOHN DEWEY, Chairman 422 pages

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NEW YORK, N. Y.

SALUTES TO TROTSKY

From the Socialist Labor Party

The Socialist Labor Party published this week a statement on the death of Leon Trotsky in the editorial column of the party's organ, the Weekly People.

The text of the statement follows:

"In the Kremlin there is boundless jubilation. The one important Bolshevik enemy of Stalin to escape for a time the malevolent fury of the OGPU is dead. None but the gullible will believe that Leon Trotsky did not die at the celebrants' hands. It was the ruthless, vengeful enemy who pursued him from Istanbul to France, from France to Norway and from Norway to Mexico, whose hand plunged the deadly weapon in the exile's brain. The letter carried by the wretch who played the role of assassin declares that Trotsky

From the International Workers' Front

Marcen Pivert of the Workers and Peasants Party of France (PSOP) and Julian Gorkin of the Workers' Party of Marxist Unification of Spain (POUM) released the following resolution in Mexico City in the name of the International Workers' Front:

"The revolutionary socialist organizations which belong to the International Workers' Front Against War and to the International Marxist Revolutionary Center bow in sorrow before the great memory of Leon Trotsky, brutally assassinated by the Stalinist GPU.

It is for those whose political conceptions were sharply criticized by the former leader of the October revolution to stress the imperishable traits of the great deceased: indomitable energy, irrefutable doctrinal intransigence, unshakable confidence in the final victory of the revolutionary proletariat. Those who were in disagreement with Leon Trotsky and his organization will nonetheless never forget the magnificent example of his combativity, the depth and amplitude of his theoretical works, the exceptional contribution of the Marxist writer to the whole of the working class movement.

"Even his mistakes were progressive, because they compelled the revolutionary vanguard to liquidate certain inevitable method-

From the Independent Labor League

Jay Lovestone, on behalf of the Independent Labor League of America, on August 22 issued the following statement on the death of Leon Trotsky:

"We condemn the murder of Trotsky as a dastardly crime against the ranks of the international labor movement and all humanity. No matter how much one may differ with Trotsky's political conceptions—and our organization has continually and consistently been opposed to Trotskyism—yet it must be underlined that Leon Trotsky ranks amongst the outstanding historical figures in the revolutionary movement of all times.

"This murder is a crude job, perpetrated by Stalin through his OGPU which has been functioning more and more as an International Murder, Inc. It is a continuation of the purge policy in Russia, the murder of the POUM leader, Nin, in Spain, the assassination of the Spanish revolution, and the degeneration of what was once the international Communist

From the Socialist Union Party

The bloody arm of Stalin has at long last succeeded in striking down the co-leader and organizer of the October Revolution. The Socialist Union Party, despite its well-known basic differences with Leon Trotsky, joins with his comrades of the Socialist Workers Party in mourning the tragic and untimely passing of one of the greatest fighters for proletarian emancipation of our epoch. We condemn with loathing and revulsion his foul murderer, the butcher Stalin. Trotsky's memory will live in the hearts of workers everywhere long after his Stalinist traducers and defamers are forgotten. Trotsky is dead. The workers' struggle for emancipation to which he gave "The last full

measure of devotion" marches on. Its victory will be his greatest monument.

Trotsky's Last Work

MANIFESTO OF THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL on the IMPERIALIST WAR and the PROLETARIAN REVOLUTION 48 pages 5 cents per copy

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GOLDMAN'S FUNERAL ADDRESS

Friends, Comrades: In the first instance I want to comment upon some rumors to the effect that the body of Leon Trotsky will be taken away from Mexico to be kept away from Mexico. Representing the widow and those who have fought shoulder to shoulder with Trotsky for his ideas, I wish to assure the Mexican people and those who represent the Mexican people, that no matter where the body might go temporarily, it will ultimately remain here in Mexico, the country that he loved and with the people whom he loved. Justice demands that the country which gave him asylum at a time when every other country slammed its doors in his face, should be the country where the remains of Leon Trotsky will stay, as an honor to the Mexican people and to the government of President Cardenas, who gave him this asylum.

Throughout the world, at this moment, all the poor people, all the oppressed, all those who toil for a living, must weep. For they have lost their greatest champion; they have lost him when they need him the most.

In this, the darkest hour in the history of mankind, when tens of millions of human beings are being sacrificed upon the altar of a war which is not a war of the common people, the one individual who could penetrate the darkness was slain.

The great mind of Leon Trotsky, the mind that pushed aside everything inconsequential, the mind that went to the heart of things, is no more with us.

The voice that represented human progress has been silenced. The pen that wrote so convincingly for right and for justice will write no more.

But even as our grief is profound, so deep is our rage and our hatred—our hatred of the monster who, from his throne in the Kremlin, plotted and ordered the murder of Trotsky, a man whose character and ideas were diametrically opposed to the Kremlin despot.

We shall never forget, and the future generations will never forget that the betrayer of the great Russian October Revolution—the revolution that represents the beginning of the liberation of all mankind—is the murderer of Leon Trotsky.

Stalin and his fellow bureaucrats, yes, all the tyrants of the world are happy now. They can sleep more soundly tonight, for the man who was their mortal enemy has gone from this earth.

But let not Stalin be unrestrained in his joy. For the man whom he murdered has left ideas, and ideas cannot be murdered. These ideas will grow more and more powerful, for they are ideas representing the future of mankind. Millions of toiling masses—the peasants and the workers of the whole world—will ultimately embrace these ideas, and then Stalin, Hitler and all the tyrants will be helpless. For the millions of masses suffering the agonies of war and of poverty will one day destroy the world of Stalin and destroy the world of Hitler. They will build a new world—a world based upon the ideas of Marx, of Engels, of Lenin and of Trotsky. They will build a new world of peace, of true equality, of brotherhood, of real democracy—a world of Socialism.

We pledge our loyalty to the ideas of Trotsky—to fight for those ideas, no matter what the consequences may be. And in this fight against all tyrants, against all forms of oppression, the ideas of Trotsky will conquer.