

# GPU TRYING TO 'LIQUIDATE' KILLER OF TROTSKY TO KEEP HIM FROM TALKING

## NEW YORK WORKERS HONOR TROTSKY



## Clenched Fists Bid Farewell To Trotsky

### More Than 1,500 At Memorial Meeting

Denied the opportunity to honor Leon Trotsky with a great funeral demonstration, advanced workers of New York flocked through rain-swept streets to the New York Memorial Meeting of August 28th. For those who came, this last good-bye to Trotsky was as poignant an occasion as the funeral itself would have been.

The Roosevelt administration successfully prevented a repatriation of Mexico City's mass procession and workers' guards of honor at the bier of the martyred Bolshevik leader. But it could not prevent Trotsky's closeness to the minds and hearts of the fifteen hundred who crowded the impressively decorated main hall of the Hotel Diplomat, in mid-town New York for the meeting of tribute that Wednesday evening.

One by one outstanding members of the American movement took the platform and addressed the audience, drawing from their pain-filled hearts the words with which they sought to express fitting farewell to so great and so noble a leader.

The same aching sense of inestimable loss which choked the voices of the speakers visibly stirred the audience as well. Many wept as the strains of the Workers Memorial Song filled the hall, and as Trotsky's comrades spoke of him.

Never, despite the absence of his body, was the presence of a man more deeply felt by an assemblage than was Leon Trotsky's presence at that meeting to honor his memory. "All of us feel that he is here in this hall tonight," said Comrade Cannon, "not only in his great ideas, but also, especially tonight, in our memory of him as a man."

This feeling, sharp and alive, was heightened as Trotsky's own words were heard—in the Old Man's last recorded address, made in Mexico in 1938 on the occasion of the Founding Conference of the Fourth International, and the tenth anniversary of the American movement. His firm, patient voice inspired mourning listeners. All strained their ears to catch each word as he explained: "Dear friends, we are not a party as other parties..."

Thus the Old Man himself sounded the keynote of the evening: rededication to the revolutionary tasks ahead.

James P. Cannon, National Secretary of the Socialist Workers

The text of the telegrams sent by the New York memorial meeting to Natalia Trotsky and President Cardenas, and the reply of Cardenas, follow below:

August 29, 1940

NATALIA TROTSKY  
AVENIDA VIENA 19  
COYOACAN, D. F.  
MEXICO

From this gathering to honor his memory, we, comrades and friends of Leon Trotsky, send to you, his devoted companion in triumph as in adversity, our most heartfelt sympathy at his untimely death. Your loss is our loss—humanity's loss. We rededicate ourselves at his grave to the achievement of the great task for which he lived and died.

FARRELL DOBBS, Chairman

August 29, 1940

PRESIDENT LAZARO CARDENAS  
MEXICO, D. F.

The comrades and friends of Leon Trotsky assembled in a memorial mass meeting in honor of his memory express their gratitude and thanks to the Mexican people and their courageous President for the generous hospitality accorded the great persecuted exile during the last years of his life. This honorable deed will forever remain to the credit of your country and to you its President.

FARRELL DOBBS, Chairman

Sept. 2, 1940

FARRELL DOBBS  
116 UNIVERSITY PLACE  
NEW YORK CITY

I have received your courteous message of the 29th. I thank you for your thoughts on the hospitality that Mexico sought to extend to Senor Leon Trotsky. Greetings

PRESIDENT CARDENAS

Party stated, "Ours is not the grief of prostration, the grief that saps the will. It is tempered by rage and hatred and determination. We say farewell like good soldiers of Trotsky's army... with clenched fists!" (Full text of Cannon's address appears on page 2 of this issue.)

Antoinette Konikow Speaks  
Though her voice was broken with pain, Dr. Antoinette Konikow, who has devoted 51 of her more than seventy years to service in the vanguard of the labor movement, yet could say, "What a fool Stalin is to think that by this act he has killed Trotsky! To us Trotsky is alive and will never die!"

Farrell Dobbs, S. W. P. National Labor Secretary declared "Trotsky was last in the United States in 1917, yet he clearly understood our problems. He gave us his advice... In fact he gave us a complete program. We mourn him with grim determination to carry on!"

Albert Gates of the Workers Party, a representative of which had been invited to speak, stated: "Trotsky taught us how to fight Stalinism. In fact he taught us all we know. He was the Marxist theoretician of our era."

## Goldman Warns GPU Is Now After Its Own Agent To Prevent "Break" At Trial

MEXICO CITY, Sept. 1—The Mexican Communist Party is already conceding the likelihood that Stalinist members were involved in both the assassination of Trotsky and the earlier assassination attempt of May 24.

In a statement issued last night, attempting to answer President Cardenas' denunciation, the Communist Party stated:

"If investigations prove that one or more members or sympathizers intervened in the preparation or execution of the attacks, violating our fundamental principles, they will be expelled from the Party as elements very dangerous to the working class."

(This and other sections of the Mexican C. P. statement were published in the Daily Worker, Sept. 2).

Already the Communist Party has conceded that David Alfaro Siqueiros was involved in the May 24 attack but denies that he has any connections with the C. P.

However, Mike Gold, in the Aug. 31 Daily Worker, says: "Siqueiros, I understand, was not a member of the Communist Party, but he accepted its leadership, the outstanding Mexican intellectual who did so."

David Serrano, member of the Political Bureau of the Communist

Party, is among those awaiting trial for the assassination attempt of May 24. The Communist Party up until recently defended his innocence, but last night's statement may be preparation to repudiate him.

But no amount of repudiation of individuals will save the Stalinist apparatus from full responsibility for the murder of Trotsky. The enormous scope of the preparations for that murder, the great expenses incurred, etc., cannot possibly be explained away by the Stalinists as the work of a few individuals. It was carried out directly on orders from Stalin and the GPU.

## Assassin's Story Falters Under Examination

MEXICO CITY, August 31—With each session of questioning of the assassin of Trotsky, his original "explanation" of the crime is being systematically torn to shreds.

When Trotsky cried out, "Let him live!" as the assassin was seized by the guards, Trotsky dealt an annihilating blow to the GPU's scheme to cover up its responsibility for the crime. Unquestionably the GPU had assumed that its agent, the assassin, would either escape or would be dead.

The "statement" he carried on his person was written to be found only if he were dead.

(The full text of the statement was published in last week's APPEAL.)

To anyone acquainted with the GPU's methods, that statement—following line by line the pattern of the Moscow trials—was sufficient evidence of the GPU's responsibility for the murder. The average reader, however, unacquainted with the GPU's methods, might be puzzled and confused by it—if that was all he had to go by. And the GPU's plans were based on the idea that nothing else would be available to the public except the "statement."

The assassin, Jackson, it was planned, would be dead. He is still alive, however, although it is certain that the central concern of the GPU now is to kill him to prevent him from talking.

But he has already talked. He has attempted to play the role assigned him by the GPU, but he has had to answer the searching questions put to him. And the result has been the complete discrediting of the carefully-worded generalities of the "statement."

1. Jackson sought to picture himself in the statement as a hard-working journalist. "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," said the statement. But under questioning he is unable to name a single job on which he worked as a journalist! Or, for that matter, any other employment. This is natural enough—he cannot name the one employer he has always worked for—the GPU.

Never a Trotskyist  
2. He pictured himself in the statement as a full-time activist member of the Fourth International: The Trotskyites "convincing me of the justice of their ideology and wholeheartedly joined their organization. From then on I carried into the revolutionary cause all my energy and 'all my faith,' etc. etc. But under questioning he has admitted that he has never been a member of any section of the Fourth Inter-

national! As for the "energy" he had expended, when asked by the judge what work he had ever done for the Fourth International prior to coming to Mexico, where he claims to have been sent by the Fourth International, the assassin could only admit: "None."

To these contradictions even more significant ones were added last night, when the assassin was examined by the investigating judge.

Burned His Papers  
3. Jackson had burned all of his personal papers. Last night, through the examining judge, Albert Goldman, Trotsky's attorney, put the question whether these personal papers would have corroborated the story he was telling, and the assassin answered in the affirmative.

Goldman then asked, if that were so, why he had not saved those papers in order to be able to corroborate the story. The assassin would not answer that question, evading it continually.

4. The questioning of the assassin with the reference to his "statement" that a member of the Bureau of the Fourth International had instructed him to go to Mexico to see Trotsky was particularly illuminating. Asked (Continued on Page 3)

MEXICO CITY, August 31—Albert Goldman, Trotsky's attorney, issued a warning here today that Stalin's GPU is attempting to murder the assassin of Trotsky in order to prevent further investigation of the GPU's responsibility for the murder of Trotsky.

Goldman told the press and the authorities:

From a source that I consider absolutely trustworthy, I have received information to the effect that a determined attempt will be made by the GPU to kill 'Jackson', the GPU murderer of Trotsky.

"The reason for the GPU's decision is quite clear. So long as the assassin is alive, the possibility remains that he may reveal the workings of the sinister GPU in Mexico, in the United States and in other countries, and thus endanger all of its agents."

"From the circumstances of the murder of the great revolutionist by the GPU agent, it is clear that the GPU expected that the murderer would either escape or meet death at the hands of the guards. Jackson had \$890 in his pocket, thus conclusively indicating that he hoped to escape. The fact that he struck Trotsky on the head with an alpine stock indicates that he had hoped to kill him with one blow and casually walk out of the Trotsky house."

"On the other hand, the letter found in his pocket giving the Stalinist reasons for the murder of Trotsky shows that the GPU was prepared for the death of their agent."

"The GPU does not want any of its agents committing an actual crime to live in a penitentiary. While those agents who are designated for important missions, such as the murder of Trotsky, are generally men who can be trusted to the last not to reveal their identity, there is always the possibility that they will do so, especially if they are jailed for a long period. Hence any agent who is apprehended by the police after committing a murder at the instigation of the GPU and is thus available for questioning, is doomed to die at the hands of his master."

## Cardenas Points At Stalinists As Killers

MEXICO CITY, August 30—A statement was issued last night by President Cardenas, denouncing the murder of Trotsky and pointing the finger of accusation at the Stalinists as those responsible for the murder.

Cardenas' lengthy statement caused a profound sensation. Never in history has the chief executive of a government thus denounced a political party which supports him.

In his lengthy statement, Cardenas began by addressing it directly to the workers of the country, to tell them the standpoint of the government concerning "the latest events which have culminated with the assassination of a political refugee, and the active involvement in the same, of organizations opposed, if not by their program then by their actions, to the postulates (on the right of asylum) that the revolutionary regime (of Mexico) has supported."

Cardenas then continued with a firm reiteration of the government's support of the right of asylum, naming in particular refugees from Italy, Germany and Russia, who have been welcomed to the country.

"Unfortunately," he went on, "there arose a demagogic and irreconcilable agitation, one certainly worthy of condemnation, tending to endanger some of the most distinguished refugees..."

These attacks on the refugees, he declared, "were nothing else than surreptitious moves of certain foreign powers set in motion to fight their

opponents outside their own territories," for the purpose "of satisfying a low passion and to wreak an inglorious vengeance."

"The 'first hostile moves having failed,' said Cardenas, and 'the passion and totalitarian hate growing ever greater, they openly went on to the commission of criminal acts.'"

Then Cardenas went on pointedly to remind the Communist Party of the freedom under which it has hitherto operated.

"The Communist Party, equally with all political groups, has had under our government liberty and respect for its members and for the doctrines, which it has expounded in all tones and various forms, without there being a single act until now which might be said to show that the authorities impede in any manner, not to speak of prohibit, the propaganda of that party. What is more, on many occasions capacious criticism and the enemies of the government have censured the government for what they call the communist tendency of this regime or, at least, an excess of liberty favorable to communist doctrines."

Cardenas then solemnly warned the Stalinists: that, "in the case of the Communists we desire to say concretely that if they have considered it useful to their interests to abandon cooperation with the Mexican workers' organizations for betterment of workers' conditions, and have allied themselves with a foreign power that is responsible for an aggression against the sovereignty of the country, organizing armed assaults jointly with Mexican and foreign elements and carrying out murders that dishonor civilization and that cast doubt upon the capacity of the government

## TROTSKY HONORED HIS PLEDGE OF ASYLUM, CARDENAS AFFIRMED

President Cardenas also defended Trotsky against Stalinist slanders while Trotsky was alive. When the Stalinist lynch campaign against Trotsky had been going on for nearly two years, President Cardenas felt it necessary to take the extraordinary step of making a public statement in defense of Trotsky.

That was November 12, 1938. In an interview of that date with the press, President Cardenas stated:

"It is not true that Trotsky is mixing in the politics of our Country. This man, since the time he came seeking our country as an asylum and to whom we opened our doors in virtue of a firm declaration which he made not to mix in our poli-

tics, is honorable and knows how to keep his promises. "In interviews, books, etc., always he has referred only to the situation in his own country, or to themes of world politics; he lives retired in voluntary seclusion, and all that he asks is that Mexico let him work in peace." (LA PRENSA, Mexico City, Nov. 12, 1938)

This strong statement by Cardenas was in answer to a vicious speech by Lombardo Toledano, Stalinist "front," on November 8, 1938, in which Toledano had attempted to link Trotsky with various anti-Cardenas reactionary politicians of Mexico. Toledano had recently returned from Europe, bringing with him a slanderous film against Trotsky.

A secret trip to New York

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