This Committee Exists (1) To Safeguard Trotsky's Right to Asylum and (2) to join in the Organization of an Impartial Commission of Inquiry.

For an Impartial Commission of Inquiry!

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For a Day in Court

By LEON TROTSKY

(These telegraphic statements appeared in the Manchester Guardian on Jan. 25 and 26)

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 25—It is unnecessary to state that since 1928 I have had no relations whatever with Radek and PIatakov, who have periodically insulted me in the official press. PIatakov never visited me in Oslo and I have never been to Oslo except in company with the Knudsen family and my own secretaries. I have never known Vladimir Romm, who is alleged to have played the part of intermediary between me and Trotsky. I have abundant documentary evidence to prove the impossibility of any meeting or personal relations between myself and the men who are agitating in Moscow.

I shall bring forth this evidence in a book I am at present writing on the crimes committed by the G.P.U. It is difficult to put my case to the public at a moment's notice but there are two or three fundamental questions which neither State Prosecutor Vishinsky nor his distinguished defender, D. N. Pritt, will be able to evade.

First, how can one accept the fact that all the men who carried through the revolution, with one exception, Stalin, have become the agents of a tsarist oligarchy, agents of the Gestapo, ready to dismember the U.S.S.R.?

Second, how is it possible to believe that a man who has invented nothing new can suddenly repent and after having demanded death for others, suddenly demand it for themselves?

Third, how is one to explain that Zinoviev, Kamenev, and other leaders of this alleged "Trotskyist" group, who have periodically insulted me in the official press, suddenly reveal themselves at the head of a world conspiracy?

If there is any conspiracy, it is the conspiracy of the G.P.U. If there is any leader, his name is Stalin. Stalin's totalitarian dictatorship has come into ever more serious conflict with the economic and cultural development of the country. He is the embodiment of the bureaucracy, the spirit of slavery which he learned in the school of the revolution is now applied only to maintain his own omnipotence and his own privileges by methods that are fantastic in criminal ingenuity.

This last trial shows that a terrible political crisis is approaching in Russia.

I am ready to denounce Stalin before any impartial and authoritative international commission. I make this appeal to all men of good will and to all that section of the press which is honest and independent and I know full well that the Manchester Guardian will be one of the first to serve the truth and humanity.

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 26—The charges in the present Moscow trial are framed with one object—that of exploiting international relations in order to suppress internal enemies. Stalin has invented nothing new. He is merely repeating several previous cases in an exaggerated form.

It is alleged, for instance, that in 1935 I wrote through Vladimir Malottik (correspondent of Izvestia in London) of whom I have never heard, to Radek, with whom I have had no relations since 1928, telling him it was necessary to restore the capitalist system.

But this is exactly what is now being done by the new aristocracy of which Stalin is the head. Stalin is therefore merely trying to attribute to me through the person of Radek the very policy which I publicly accuse him of putting into practice.

For a fuller statement of this see my last book, "The Revolution Betrayed," already published in France, and which will soon appear in English.

Then it is also alleged that I insisted in secret letters which cannot be seen, that German and Japanese capital should be admitted to Russia. In actual fact, I urged in the press at the
very moment when Hitler was stretching out his hands to seize power, that the Red Army should be mobilized on the western frontiers of the Soviet Union as a demonstration in order to support and encourage the Communists in Germany. In the international press I denounced Stalin, who began to seek Hitler's favor immediately after his triumph. In articles which I wrote in 1934 and 1935 in Germany and France, I published in several papers, I prophesied that Japan would come to grief in the plains of Eastern Siberia.

For the last several years, on the list in all those international associations I called against me to go to Moscow, where I have been noticed, in a country with one of the most vigilant police departments, it would have been impossible for such activities to go on, if I had not been made a monopolist of falsehood—only there could a trial so obviously staged as this one take place.

What could I hope to gain from an alliance with the Mikado and Hitler? Power? To what end? Why even the most stubborn White Russians exiled by the revolution have abandoned the idea of intervention. As a result of the defeat of the proletariat throughout the world, my views are represented only by a tiny minority in every country. Having been changed, either by assassinating the Soviet bureaucracy or forming an alliance with Japan and Germany.

In attributing the downfall of Soviet Russia to Stalin, among other things, to compromise me before public opinion in democratic countries, and in this way deprive me of finding asylum anywhere.

I reject all the statements concerning me made by the defendants. Not a single word is true. I consider that my political position is a deviation from the path which the Soviet bureaucracy has been following since the days of the revolution. We have before us a trial to determine whether the late Leon Trotsky was a traitor or a hero.

In speaking of Hitler, I see Stalin wishes, among other things, to compromise me before public opinion in democratic countries, and in this way deprive me of finding asylum anywhere.

I do not believe that I am a traitor, but I do know that his rule already has the imperial stamp. In his struggle to dominate the world, Stalin is crushing all progressive-thinking representatives and is exploiting the anti-Semitic prejudices which are one of his characteristics. In place of the generation of the revolution, he is putting civil servants ready to anything as political task.

If the Soviet bureaucracy has been allowed to become a monarch with unlimited power over an important country, one of the results of this is the downswing of Moscow.

DEMANDS PIATAKOV GIVE DETAILS

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 24—Alluding to the trip which Gregory Piatakov claims to have made to Oslo in Dec. 1935, Leon Trotsky here today demanded that the Moscow defendants give more precise details.

"How could a man like Piatakov journey to Oslo without being observed, and how he was able to go back to his family with whom I lived there?" the exile asked. He demanded that Piatakov describe how Trotsky looked, how he was dressed, if he had a beard or not, and to offer more convincing details.

"Stalin is using the trial to throw responsibility for all kinds of accidents in factories, excesses and crimes of his bureaucracy and other catastrophes on the Trotskyists," he said.

Citing the vastness of the alleged conspiracy, Trotsky asked how it would have been possible for such activities to go on, unnoticed, in a country with one of the most vigilant police organizations in the world.

The chief defendant rejected as inadequate those explanations of the "confessions" based upon purely psychological analyses or upon stereotyped formulas to demoralize the defendants.

"These men are not convinced terrorists," he said, "but terrorists by order of the G.P.U., who have been persuaded by various means to take the part of the/opportunity to compromise me before public opinion in democratic countries, and in this way deprive me of finding asylum anywhere."

"The Moscow trial is totally incomprehensible to the average Briton," said Rhyes Davies, prominent British labor leader. "First of all they confound the guilty with the innocent. Secondly, they rob the Soviet people of an important witness. Lastly, they rob the world of an accomplice of the truth.

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BRITONS DENOUNCE TRIALS

LONDON, Jan. 26—British labor and liberal circles today were unanimous in denouncing the trials in Moscow as a heavy blow to the world-wide labor movement.

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"The Moscow trial and execution of 16 prisoners, including some of Lenin's colleagues in the October, 1917, revolution, created dismay here among large sections of the working class and those who are interested in the future of Soviet Russia, such as the growing differentiation in incomes and the reintroduction of rights of inheritance, which are tending away from the classless society, rather than toward it."

HE MIGHT HAVE TALKED!

PARIS, Jan. 26—Dimitri Navachin, former chief Soviet bank representative in Paris, was murdered here today by an unknown assassin who stabbed him to death while he was walking on the street.

Navachin, formerly a subordinate of Gregory Piatakov, ex-Indian Bank head now on trial in Moscow, reportedly broke off relations with the Soviet Embassy here.

Police working on the case declared to newspapermen that Navachin evidently had documentary evidence which would have proved a serious threat to the interests of the Soviet Union.

The crime was linked to the same persons, believed to be in the employment of the G.P.U., who last Fall broke into the Paris office of the Institute of Historical Institute and stole several cases of letters and documents belonging to Leon Trotsky.

(According to an A.P. report from Mexico, Leon Trotsky expressed fear that his son, Leon Sedov, now in Paris, would be the next victim.)

"Navachin knew too much about the Moscow trial," said Trotsky, "I have fears for my son, who is considered enemy no. 2 and may be the next victim."

NO RECORD OF PLANE VISIT: OSLO REPORTS

OSLO, Jan. 25—The liberal newspaper Dagbladet today contradicted testimony given by Gregory Piatakov, one of the Moscow defendants, who claimed he had flown to Oslo in December, 1935, in a special plane from Berlin.

"This declaration is false," said the Dagbladet, which announced that it had investigated and found that "no airplane of this type arrived from Berlin during December, 1935."

STROILOV DECORATED WHILE "SABOTAGING"

NEW YORK, Jan. 26—M. S. Stroilov, chief engineer of the Kuzbas Coal Trust now on trial in Moscow on charges of industrial sabotage and espionage, was decorated for his services in raising coal production four months after he supposedly "sabotaged" the Red Labor Banner for over-fulfilling the plan. Four months later he was again decorated for his work in the Kuzbas line, according to the indictment the "sabotage" was already well underway.

Pravda of Oct. 8, 1935 published a picture of Stroilov together with a prominent Red Army commander and V. L. Rachkov, Russia's foremost artist, with whom he was publicly decorated at the session of the All-Russian Executive Committee in Moscow on Oct. 7.