

NUREMBERG AND THE MOSCOW TRIALS

Prosecution Asked:

TO PRODUCE EVIDENCE OF MOSCOW TRIALS TO GIVE REPRESENTATION TO NATALIA TROTSKY

The following statement has been sent to the War Crimes Commission at Nuremberg and the British Prosecutor, also to the Prime Minister, the Russian Ambassador, the Labour Party, the Communist Party, the Revolutionary Communist Party and the whole of the Press.

"During the Moscow political trials of 1936 and 1937, many references were made to an alleged association between Leon Trotsky and other of the accused on the one hand and the Nazi Government and Gestapo on the other. For example, the Indictment of the January (1937) trial states, inter alia:—

"The investigation has established that L. D. Trotsky entered into negotiations with one of the leaders of the German National Socialist Party with a view to waging a joint struggle against the Soviet Union.

"As testified by the accused Pyatakov, L. D. Trotsky in his conversation with the accused in December 1935, informed him that as a result of these negotiations he had concluded an agreement with the said leader of the National Socialist Party in the following terms:

(1) 'To guarantee a generally favourable attitude towards the German Government and the necessary collaboration with it in the most important questions of an international character.

(2) 'To agree to territorial concessions.

(3) 'To permit German industrialists, in the form of concessions (or some other forms) to exploit enterprises in the U.S.S.R. which are essential auxiliaries to German economy. . . .

(4) 'To create in the U.S.S.R. favourable conditions for the activities of German private enterprises

(5) 'In time of war to carry on extensive diversion-

ist activities in war industry enterprises and at the front. These diversionist activities are to be carried on under Trotsky's instructions, in agreement with the German General Staff.'

"The principles of this agreement, as Trotsky related, were finally elaborated and adopted during Trotsky's meeting with Hitler's deputy, Hess." (Verbatim report of the trial. Moscow, 1937.)

Following the Moscow trials a Commission of Enquiry, initiated by the American Committee for the Defence of Leon Trotsky and having the mandate of similar organisations in other countries, was set up. Meeting in America, it acted under the Chairmanship of Dr. John Dewey, eminent liberal publicist and educationalist was served as Secretary by Suzanne La-Follette, author and journalist, and as Counsel by John P. Finerty, famous as counsel for Sacco and Vanzetti and for Tom Mooney. The remainder of the commission was composed of well-known public figures—socialists, educationalists, editors, journalists, authors. In the voluminous Report subsequently issued by the Commission, the Commissioners describe themselves as ". . . holding widely divergent political and social opinions, and none of them being a political adherent of Leon Trotsky. . . ." Their findings in regard to the charges of collaboration with the Nazis were:—

"We find that Trotsky never instructed any of the accused

or witnesses in the Moscow Trials to enter into agreements with foreign powers against the Soviet Union. On the contrary, he has always uncompromisingly advocated the defence of the U.S.S.R. He has been a most forthright ideological opponent of the fascism represented by the foreign powers with which he is accused of having conspired.

"On the basis of all the evidence, we find that Trotsky never recommended, plotted or attempted the restoration of capitalism in the U.S.S.R. On the contrary, he has always uncompromisingly opposed the restoration of capitalism in the Soviet Union and its existence anywhere else."

In conclusion the Commission found ". . . the Moscow Trials to be frame-ups" and ". . . Trotsky . . . not guilty."

The conclusion reached by the Commission at the end of the section of their report dealing with "Agreements with Foreign Powers" is that: "We therefore hold the charge of conspiracy with foreign powers to be not only not proved but preposterous." (Report of Dewey Commission.)

In 1936 and 1937, when the trials in Moscow took place and in 1937 when the Commission of Enquiry was held, it was not, of course, possible for either side to check the allegations of collusion between Trotsky and the Nazis by reference to Nazi sources. Now, however, the position is different. The whole of the Gestapo records are in the hands of the Allied Powers and Hess—the only Nazi named in the Moscow indictment—is available at Nuremberg for public questioning. The opportunity thus presented for an investigation aimed at the establishment of historical truth and bearing upon the political integrity of figures and tendencies of international standing is invaluable.

We therefore suggest the following:—

1. That Hess be interrogated at Nuremberg in regard to his alleged meeting with Trotsky.

2. That an accredited representative of Natalia Sedov-Trotsky (Leon Trotsky's widow) be invited to attend this session of the Nuremberg trial with authority to cross-examine the accused and witnesses.

3. That the Allied experts examining Gestapo records be instructed to state whether there are any documents proving or disproving liaison between the Nazi party or state and Trotsky or the other old Bolsheviki leaders indicted at the Moscow trials and if so, to make them available for publication."

SIGNED :

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THE LEADERS OF THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION:



RYKOV
Executed



BUKHARIN
Executed



SVERDLOV
Dead



STALIN
Survivor



ZINOVIEV
Executed



KAMENEV
Executed



LOMOV
Disappeared



SHOMYAN
Dead



BERZIN
Disappeared



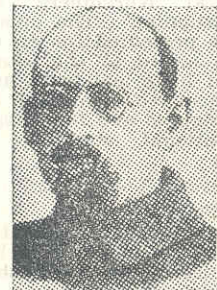
MURANOV
Disappeared



ARTEM
Dead



STASSOVA
Disappeared



KRESTINSKY
Executed



URITSKY
Dead



NOGIN
Dead



DZERZHINSKY
Dead



BUBNOV
Disappeared



SOKOLNIKOV
Imprisoned



KOLLONTAI
Sweden



SMILGA
Executed



TROTSKY
Assassinated



LENIN
Dead



MILIUTIN
Disappeared



JOFFE
Suicide

LENIN'S GENERAL STAFF — THE BOLSHEVIK CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF 1917.

These pictures are of the General Staff of the Bolshevik Party which, under the leadership of Lenin, led the victorious October Revolution of 1917. Lenin attached tremendous significance to the Old Guard of Bolshevism. He regarded these men—the living embodiment of the experience of three revolutions (1905, February 1917, October 1917), of the struggle against World War I, the Civil War, the post-war period of reconstruction, as the only guarantee of correct policies for the future. "If we do not close our eyes to reality, then it must be recognised" Lenin wrote in March 1922, "that at the present time the proletarian policy of our Party is determined not so much by its social composition but by the enormous and unlimited authority of that thin layer which may be called the Old Guard. Even a minor internal struggle within this layer would suffice, if not to undermine, then, in any case, to weaken its authority to such an extent that the decisions would thereafter no longer depend upon it." Almost the entire generation of the Old Guard was destroyed on the basis of the allegations made

at the Moscow Trials that they were agents of foreign powers hostile to the Soviet Union—Germany, Britain and Japan. Also decapitated were almost the entire leadership of the Red Army, the Trade Unions, the Youth organisations.

At the time of the Moscow Trials the Executive Committee of the Second International requested representation and observers, as well as the right of lawyers to interview the accused. This was refused. Trotsky's request for independent investigations was similarly refused. If there existed any evidence, every thinking worker will ask: why has such evidence not been produced at the Nuremberg Trial?

In view of the repercussions which the Moscow Trials and the allegations made in them against the Bolshevik Old Guard have had on the working class movement in every country, it is in the interest of historical truth that all sections of the Labour movement, support the statement printed on the other side of this leaflet, signed by well-known literary and Labour figures.