

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF LABOUR

TRANSPORT HOUSE, SMITH SQUARE, LONDON, S.W.1

TRADES UNION CONGRESS
Secretary: SIR WALTER M. CITRINE
(Victoria 9820)

THE LABOUR PARTY
Secretary: J. S. MIDDLETON
(Victoria 8016)

PARLIAMENTARY LABOUR PARTY
Secretary: H. SCOTT LINDSAY
(Whitehall 6240)

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3rd December, 1936.

In reply please quote:
CIRCULAR NO. 29 (1936-37).

TO THE SECRETARIES OF AFFILIATED UNIONS AND
CERTAIN TRADES COUNCILS.

Dear Sir (Madam),

"THE WITCHCRAFT TRIAL IN MOSCOW".

Enclosed is copy of a new twopenny Pamphlet which has been prepared by Dr. Friedrich Adler, Secretary of the Labour and Socialist International, and is issued by the Commission of Enquiry into the conditions of Political Prisoners.

In the pamphlet Dr. Adler examines the recent trial in Moscow of Zinoviev, Kamenev and the other defendants who were accused of moral responsibility for the assassination of Kiroff and of organising terrorist acts in the Soviet Union. He justifies the telegram of protest against the methods of the trial which was jointly sent by the International Federation of Trade Unions and the Labour and Socialist International; denounces the resort to forced confessions and fictitious "proof", demonstrates the falsity of some of the "evidence" relied upon in convicting the accused, and attacks the destruction of legal security which these methods represent. The pamphlet ends with a section dealing with the Author's personal conclusion, including his rejection of the resort to violence against the Soviet regime.

As the pamphlet asserts, the trial produced a wave of indignation throughout public opinion in Europe and America. The Labour and Socialist Movements in all the democratic countries were deeply stirred. Standing firmly, as they do, for the just treatment of political prisoners, whoever and wherever they may be, they support the demand made by Dr. Adler in his pamphlet that "these judicial atrocities must cease."

The views and criticisms expressed by this distinguished Socialist leader endow the pamphlet with special interest and authority, and deserve attentive study by members of the Labour and Trade Union Movement in this country. It is hoped therefore that organisations will actively assist in securing the widest possible sale.

Yours sincerely,

WALTER CITRINE,)
J. S. MIDDLETON.) Joint Secretaries.