

STATEMENT BY LEON TROTSKY IN REPLY TO THE CHARGES  
MADE AGAINST HIM BY THE "TASS" AGENCY

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At the moment when I am preparing this statement, I have not had available the original text of the sensational TASS report. I am familiar with it only through a secondary source. But the main features of it, which have been transmitted to me, are sufficient to brand this report immediately as one of the greatest falsifications in the history of politics.

The TASS Agency speaks of a conspiracy of the so-called Trotsky-Zinoviev group. The ruling bureaucracy calls every criticism directed against it a "conspiracy". I assume that criticism is spreading to wider and wider circles in the Soviet Union. This phenomenon I can only greet with joy. It is quite possible that many and quite diverse elements who represent this critical feeling have referred to my name, i.e. to my ideas and my writings. But the TASS report also declares that the charges are concerned with a <sup>terroristic</sup> plot against the leaders of the régime, and that this conspiracy is directed by me from Norway.

I herewith declare that this contention does not contain an iota of truth. To everyone who is acquainted with recent political history, it is indubitable that the report circulated by TASS stands in sharpest contradiction to my ideas, and to my entire activity, which at the present time is devoted exclusively to writing.

Ever since my entry into the revolutionary movement in 1897, I have been, as have all Russian Marxists, an uncompromising opponent of individual terror as a method of struggle, a method which in the final analysis can only serve the interests of absolutism and bonapartism.

I emphatically assert that since I have been in Norway I have had no connections with the Soviet Union - nor have I received a single letter from the Soviet Union, neither have I written a single letter to anybody there either directly or through other persons.

My sole activity in connection with the Soviet Union has been restricted to the writing of articles which were published in the world press and to a book which will be published in the near future in several countries. My wife and I have not been able even once to exchange a single line with our son, who has been employed in the Soviet Union in a scientific capacity and who has had no political connections whatsoever.

Because I am a man without a country and am now utilising the right of asylum in Norway, I believe that the accuracy of the contention that has been advanced that I have directed a terroristic conspiracy from Norway can be best determined by the appointment of a competent government commission which would investigate the charges contained in the documents. On my part, I am prepared to furnish such a commission a full accounting of my activities in Norway - day by day, and hour by hour. It is also my opinion that this measure could be made more complete by the nomination of an impartial international commission by the Labour organisations of the entire world, or better still of its international leaders, to investigate the charges made in the Soviet Union. This commission could make public a report of their investigation. I maintain that their report would expose the charges in all their falsity. I am also prepared to accept any other method of investigation that would give public opinion a better explanation of the principle motives which have prompted the charges against the others and myself. In this matter I have nothing to fear and nothing to hide. As for myself, I am only concerned with establishing the truth.

(Signed)

LEON TROTSKY

Kristiansand, Aug. 15, 1936.

# THE MOSCOW TRIAL

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The whole press throughout the world has been full for the past two weeks of the trial of sixteen individuals accused of plotting to assassinate Stalin. The accused were alleged to have been working with the German Nazis, through Trotsky, exiled from Russia in 1928, and at present in Norway.

The abject manner in which most of the accused gave their evidence, the fact that they refused counsel for their defence, that some of them had been in prison for the past twenty months, and finally that many of them were men who led the workers through the Russian Revolution in 1917, has caused misgiving and disquiet in the ranks of the workers and much unfavourable comment in the liberal press. The refusal of the Soviet leaders to allow the Labour Party to send counsel for the defence, and the arrest of many other prominent Bolshevik leaders, with the suicide of one, has not caused the workers to regain any confidence in the Soviet Government.

*Trotsky has denied emphatically* that he has any connection with this alleged terrorist plot, and has asked that the Norwegian Government investigate his activities in Norway. Is this the action of a guilty man?

The circumstances of this trial, and the danger in which many Bolshevik leaders are now placed, makes it necessary for the international working class to appoint a commission to investigate the whole matter with all the relevant documents. If the accused are guilty, the Soviet Government should welcome this opportunity of proving this to the working class. In 1921, at the trial of the Left Social Revolutionaries, a similar investigation was demanded. Lenin welcomed this as an opportunity of showing that Soviet justice was to be trusted. Dare Stalin do otherwise?

THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT HAS INTERNED TROTSKY AND THREATENED HIS EXPULSION WITHOUT ANY PUBLIC ENQUIRY.

DEMAND AN IMPARTIAL WORKING CLASS INVESTIGATION INTO THE TRIAL AND SUBSEQUENT ARRESTS.

## MASS MEETING

at the Essex Hall, Essex Street, Strand, W.C.2.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9th at 7.30 p.m.

*“The Facts of the Moscow Trial”*

Speakers from the Labour Party, the Independent Labour Party and other organisations: also prominent individual speakers