

NEWS BULLETIN

AMERICAN COMMITTEE FOR THE DEFENSE OF LEON TROTSKY

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

BULLETIN No. 2.

357

JANUARY 27, 1937

For an Impartial Commission of Inquiry!

For an Impartial Commission of Inquiry!

To the millions of workers and honest liberals all over the world bewildered, confused and demoralized by the succession of trials in Moscow, this is the one demand that holds forth some hope of clarification and release from the doubts and questions these trials have aroused everywhere.

Let a group of prominent figures, drawn from liberal and labor ranks, of unimpeachable integrity, weigh all the evidence, hear the testimony of those witnesses who have not yet been heard, and come to a conclusion that the whole world will be able to comprehend.

Leon Trotsky, the chief defendant in these trials, has repeatedly offered to appear before such a commission, to lay before it the documentary record of his whole political career. Only in this way will he get the day in court to which he is entitled.

In support of this demand committees have come into existence in Europe, similar in composition and purpose to the American Committee for the Defense of Leon Trotsky. The demand for a commission has been issued independently or supported by such organizations as the Socialist Party U.S.A., Independent Labor Party of Great Britain, the C.N.T. and P.O.U.M. of Spain, the Queensland Federation of Iron Workers (Australia), the Seine Socialist Youth of France, The Bund and the Central Trades Union Committee of Poland, the Socialist Workers Party of Germany and others.

In England the Committee for the Defense of Leon Trotsky includes H. N. Brailsford, J. F. Horrabin, of the Socialist League, Rowland Hill, chairman of the Bradford Trades Council, Conrad Noel, Stuart Purkiss of the Railway Employes' Union, Irene Rathbone, and others.

In France the Committee of Inquiry into the Moscow Trial and For the Defense of Freedom of Opinion in the Revolution has issued a commission appeal signed by Andre Breton, Jules Romains, Felicien Challaye, Maurice Dommanget, Goudchaux-Brunschvigg, Marcel Martinet, Georges Michon, Pierre Monatte, Magdeleine Raz, Georges Pioch, Henri Pouaille, Alfred Rosmer, Victor-Serge, Georges Dumoulin, Leon Werth, Victor Marguerite, and more than a score of others with special statements issued by Gaston Bergery, Georges Izard, and others.

A Committee of nearly 100 leading intellectuals and labor figures has been organized in Czechoslovakia. Other committees exist in Canada, Australia, Denmark.

The American Committee, of which only a partial list appears at the top of this bulletin, is taking active steps to further the formation of the proposed Commission.

These committees call unitedly upon all liberals, progressives and labor militants to support the formation of this commission, morally and materially.

Send in your contribution to the American Committee for the Defense of Leon Trotsky, Room 511, 22 East 17 Street, New York City.

Let the truth be known! For a Commission of Inquiry!

CAPITAL NEWSMEN DEFEND ROMM

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26—Twelve leading Washington correspondents called on Soviet Ambassador Troyanovsky today and told him they could not believe in the guilt of their former colleague, Vladimir Romm, of Izvestia, who is supposed to have acted as intermediary between Leon Trotsky and Karl Radek, and upon whose testimony the whole "case" against Leon Trotsky depends.

Romm "confessed," but the Washington newspapermen refused to credit the "confession." "In view of our experience with him," they told Troyanovsky, "it will be extremely difficult for us to believe that he is guilty of any deliberate act of disloyalty to the Soviet government."

For a Day in Court

By LEON TROTSKY

(These telegraphed 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 myself and Radek. I have abundant documentary evidence to prove the impossibility of any meeting or personal relations between myself and the men who are now accused 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 terrorists, enemies of socialism, agents of the Gestapo, ready to dismember the U.S.S.R.?

Second, how is that these "criminals," who for nearly ten years have been committing terrible crimes 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, knew nothing about this grotesque plan to dismember the U.S.S.R. for the benefit of Hitler and the Mikado, while Radek, whom none of us ever took seriously, suddenly reveals himself 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 daring 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 Romm (ex-correspondent of Izvestia in Washington) 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 in the Soviet Union.

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