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Trotsky, Leon

aka:  
Bronstein, Lev Davidovich

Bureau File 65-29162 (Section 9)

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : W. A. Branigan

DATE: 1/25/52

FROM :

J. P. LEE

SUBJECT:

RAMON MERRILL  
ESP-R

E. M. Gregg  
Room 1501

Captioned case has been reviewed and careful consideration given to the advisability of any reinterviews, interviews or other action which may now appear warranted. In the event such now appears desirable, necessary action is being initiated.

Bureau file: 65-29162

Espionage Section

841

October 20, 1966

REC 54  
ST-105

[Redacted]

*wait  
for  
Harris*

Dear [Redacted]:

Your letter of October 17th has been received.

With respect to your inquiry, the matter to which you referred was not a violation within the investigative jurisdiction of the FBI, and I am therefore unable to comment in the manner you desire. Inasmuch as the murder of Leon Trotsky occurred in Mexico, any prosecution of individuals involved would have to be initiated by the authorities of that country.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles. Isaac Don Levine is a professional anticommunist. Although we have not had close relations with him, we have accepted information he has furnished without comment and have never experienced any difficulty with him. His book, "Mind of an Assassin," concerns the death of Leon Trotsky.

DFC:sep  
(3) AJP

MAILED 11  
OCT 20 1966  
COMM-FBI

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Loach \_\_\_\_\_
- Walters \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_
- Casper \_\_\_\_\_
- Callahan \_\_\_\_\_
- Conrad \_\_\_\_\_
- Felt \_\_\_\_\_
- Gale \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_
- Tavel \_\_\_\_\_
- Trotter \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Holmes \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

*edm 256*

MAIL ROOM  TELETYPE UNIT

*842*

2810 Chamberlain Rd.  
Akron, Ohio 44313

October 17, 1966

Office of the Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

In the book "Mind Of An Assassin" by Isaac Don Levine, published in 1959 by Farrar, Straus, and Cudahy, N.Y., I read an account of the murder of Leon Trotsky in Mexico City in 1940.

Can you perhaps inform me why the two American girls who were instrumental in making it possible for the convicted murderer to gain entrance into the Leon Trotsky home in Mexico City were never requested by the Mexican government for extradition and trial in that country? The book makes no mention of this.

To what extent are these accessories to the murder liable at all, either here or in Mexico?

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely yours,



ACK  
10-20 66  
DRJ/sep

REC 54

843

Trotsky, Leon

aka:

Bronstein, Lev Davidovich

Returned referral (Portions of serial  
217 of 65-29162  
were previously  
released.)

Mr. A. H. Belmont

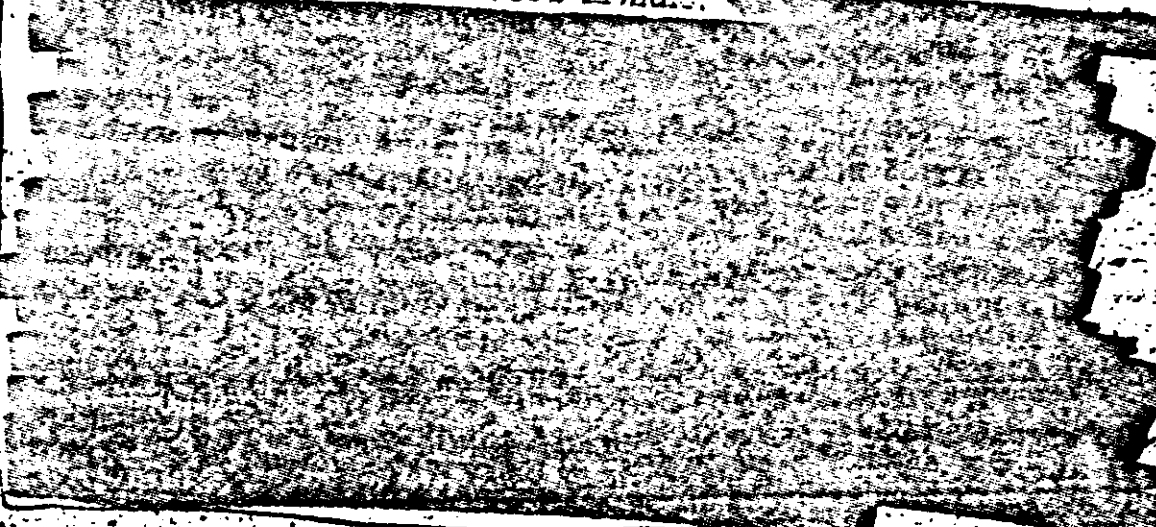
Mr. V. P. Keay

TO  
ESPIONAGE - R

195-  
February

11-3-1  
11-4-1  
11-7-1  
11-5-1

~~February 1953~~, James Angleton of CIA advised that officials of his agency are currently reviewing the case of Ramon Fernandez de Alarcón, also known as Frank Jackson, the Trotsky assassin who is serving a sentence in Mexico City. Angleton stated that Jackson may be paroled by the Mexican Government within the next few months.



The main purpose in submitting the above information is report CIA's interest in Jackson.

ACTION:

None. For your information.

05-43302

CJP:apm

cc: N. I. Ferris

65-29162

38775  
REC...DED  
26 MAR 10 1953

ENCLOSURE

63 MAR 20 1953

845

STED  
Memorandum

DATE: June 30, 1960

FROM: [REDACTED]

BI

SUBJECT: JAIME RAMON MERCADER, aka  
ESPIONAGE - R

ReBucab dated 5/9/60.

[REDACTED] advised that subject departed from Cuba via Russian ship approximately May 10 last.

RUC

- 2 - Bureau
- 1 - Havana
- JTH:lg
- (3)

EX 109  
REC-14

7

12 JUL 12 1960

REC-14  
JTH

846



DECODED COPY

Airgram

Cablegram

URGENT 5-12-60

TO DIRECTOR

[REDACTED]

**BI**

JAIME RAMON MERCADER, AKA, ESPIONAGE-R. RE-MYCABS MAY 6 AND LAST.

[REDACTED] REPORTED SUBJECT ARRIVED THERE MAY 6 LAST. HE DID NOT CHECK INTO HOTEL NACIONAL AS CONTEMPLATED AND HE HAD NOT BEEN LOCATED IN HAVANA.

[REDACTED] REPORTED SUBJECT MAY HAVE DEPARTED HAVANA MAY 7 ON SOVIET SHIP CHIKALOV WHICH HAD BEEN DELIVER SOVIET CRUDE AND PETROLEUM DERIVATIVES THERE [REDACTED] TWO OTHER SOVIET FREIGHTERS, THE KIROVSK AND LORKY WERE IN HAVANA SCHEDULED FOR EARLY DEPARTURE AND SUBJECT COULD BE ABOARD EITHER OF THESE VESSELS [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**BI**

JOHN F. DESMOND

*Copy  
Houston  
info. also*

RECEIVED: 5-12-60

9:17 PM

MLL

COPIES DESTROYED  
198 SEP 6 1960

EX-105

REC-35

MAY 17 1960

ORIG: MR. PARSONS FOR THE DIRECTOR  
CC: MR. BELMONT  
CC: MR. L'ALLIER

847

DECODED COPY

*Pm*

Airgram

Cablegram

URGENT 5-9-60

*by*

TO DIRECTOR

**BI**

*✓*



**BI**

RECEIVED  
REPORT JACQUES MONARD DEPARTED CUBA ON RUSSIAN SHIP THIS  
DATE.

JAMES T. HAVERTY

RECEIVED: 5-9-60 4:56 PM HL

*File cc in 65-29162*  
*JTH (S)*

NOT RECORDED  
140 MAY 10 1960

23 MAY 12 1960

✓ ORIG: MR. PARSONS FOR DIRECTOR  
CC : MR. BELMONT  
CC : MR. L'ALLIER

NAT. INT. SEC.

*848*

Date: September 7, 1956  
To: Director, FBI (65-29162)

**BI**

From: [REDACTED]  
Subject: JAIME RAMON MERCADER, was.  
ESPIONAGE - R

On September 3, 1956, the Mexico City daily newspaper "Zocalo," which often prints sensational type stories carried an article to the effect that the subject would soon be released from jail.

In regard to the above, [REDACTED] advised that it had no information in this regard and that probably the article of "Zocalo" was based on rumor.

[REDACTED]

The above is for the information of the Bureau.

JTG:lj  
(3)

226 18 11 35 AM '56

REC'D [REDACTED]

RECORDED-900 [REDACTED] 65-29162-21

REC'D- [REDACTED] 10 SEP 14 1956

61 SEP 19 1956

EX-116

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Trotsky, Leon

Bureau File 65-29162 (Sub A)

TRANSLATION

THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION IN THE U.S.S.R. IN THE LIGHT OF THE DEATH OF TROTSKY.

LEON TROTSKY, the last of the great leaders of the (universal) Proletariat, has fallen, assassinated, by the hands of Stalin, who, upon killing him through the vile and cowardly means wanted to consummate the definite annihilation of the (universal) Revolution, and make forever impossible the world revolution.

His (Trotsky's) wife, his grand-son, his children, his friends, all of whom placed their faith and entrustment in him who alone was able to inspire the great actions of the Revolution, make the notice of his death known to the workers of all Countries, with a sorrow the depth of which is the confidence that the last and greatest sacrifice was made by Trotsky for the Proletariat, that of giving his life, to carry further his (the Proletariat) to the end of their struggle for their own redemption, which is also the redemption of the specie (humanity). His last words were: "I am a member of the IV International". His friends and comrades will try how to realize (carry out) his words.

Mexico, D.F. August 11, 1940.

Condolences will be received today, at 10 a.m. at the home of the taking Paclor, Tacuba Street #4, and the body will be interred in the Modern Cemetery.

APC

August 22, 1940.

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# LEON TROTSKY

El último de los Grandes Líderes del Proletariado Universal, ha caído al fin asesinado por José Stalin, que quiso, al matarlo por la vil mano de un traidor, consumar el aniquilamiento definitivo de la Revolución de Octubre, y hacer para siempre imposible la revolución socialista mundial.

Su esposa, su nieto, sus discípulos y compañeros, sus amigos, todos los que en él depositaron la fe y el entusiasmo que sólo suscitan los grandes guías del pensamiento y de la acción, lo participan a la clase trabajadora de todos los países, con un dolor cuya profundidad apenas mitiga la confianza en que, el postrero y máximo sacrificio que hizo el camarada Trotsky por el proletariado, el de su vida, servirá para afirmar en éste la voluntad de luchar hasta el fin por su propia redención, que es también la de la especie humana. Sus últimas palabras fueron: "Estoy seguro del triunfo de la IV Internacional". Sus amigos y discípulos sabremos realizarlas.

México, D. F., a 22 de agosto de 1940.

El duelo se recibe hoy, a las 16 horas, en la Agencia Alcázar (Tacuba 4) y se despide en el Panteón Moderno.

AGENCIA ALCÁZAR HERMANOS

TACUBA 4

## U. S. Refuses to Admit Body Of Trotsky for Memorial Rites

By the Associated Press.

The United States refused yesterday to permit the body of Leon Trotsky, Stalin's exiled rival, to be brought into this country for memorial services at New York.

Albert Goldman, attorney for the old Bolshevist, had filed a request for such permission with the United States Consulate in Mexico City. Mr. Goldman said that if the request were granted Trotsky's body would be cremated and returned to Mexico after the services. Trotsky was killed in Mexico recently by an assassin wielding a pick-axe. Before he died, he expressed belief that Russian secret police had ordered the attack on him.

The refusal of Goldman's request was announced by the State Department in this statement:

"In response to an inquiry from the American Consul at Mexico City (George P. Shaw) the department has informed him that it perceives no reason for bringing Mr. Trotsky's body to the United States, and that it would not be appropriate to do so."

There was no elaboration in official circles. Speculation developed, however, that officials might have believed that memorial services over the body would lead to disorders.

The one-time Soviet Minister of Foreign Affairs and of War lived for a few months in 1917 in the Bronx, New York, after being expelled from France. He returned to Russia later that year, following the overthrow of the Czar and became Lenin's right-hand man. After Lenin's death he was overshadowed by Stalin and in 1929 was exiled.

NOT RECORDED

853

THE WASHINGTON EVENING STAR  
August 28, 1940

### **Body of Leon Trotsky Cremated in Meixco City**

By the Associated Press.

MEXICO CITY, Aug. 28.—The body of Leon Trotsky, victim of a pickax, which police said was wielded by Frank Jackson, who posed as a friend, was cremated yesterday.

Mrs. Trotsky, Albert Goldman of Chicago, the slain man's attorney, and several secretaries attended. The ashes will remain in custody of the widow.

During renewed questioning, Jackson was reported by officers to have held to his original story that he killed Trotsky because of "disillusionment" at the "egoism" of the exiled bolshevist. He denied any connections with any Russian organization.

NOT RECORDED

854



## Part in Trotsky Slaying Is Charged to Woman

By the Associated Press.

MEXICO CITY, Aug. 31.—Judge Raul Carranca y Trujillo tonight formally charged Frank Jackson with the slaying of Leon Trotsky, exiled Bolshevik, and ordered him held for trial.

The judge also formally charged Jackson's friend, Sylvia Ageloff of Brooklyn, N. Y., with complicity in the slaying and ordered her held for trial also.

The decision in Miss Ageloff's case came as a surprise as police privately had expressed the opinion she would be released.

Police said Jackson, a mysterious foreigner of still undetermined nationality, would be held in the station house instead of being transferred to the penitentiary as is customary. Unofficially, they said they were fearful of a plot against his life.

Miss Ageloff also will be confined in a precinct station cell when she has recovered sufficiently from her nervous condition to be removed from the hospital.

Trotsky died last week several hours after a blow from a pickax split his skull.

NOT RECORDED

855

## Woman in Case Sees Ogpu Responsible For Trotsky Slaying

**Knew Nothing of Plan  
To Kill Red Leader,  
She Tells Police**

By the Associated Press.

MEXICO CITY, Aug. 27.—Sylvia Ageloff, friend of Frank Jackson, who is held for the slaying of Leon Trotsky, declared early this morning that "only a member of the OGPU (Russian secret police) would be capable of such an act" as Trotsky's slaying.

Before Trotsky died last Thursday he blamed the OGPU.

Agents of the district attorney, after questioning the Brooklyn, N. Y., woman for several hours, made public a transcript of her

examination during which she also said that:

Her full name is Sylvia Ageloff Maslow. She is 32.

During 1925-36 she worked as propaganda director for James P. Cannon of New York, head of the Socialist Workers' Party in the United States.

She knew nothing about Jackson's plan to kill the exiled Bolshevik.

She met Jackson in Paris in 1938 while he was studying journalism at the Sorbonne. She described him as "kind and gentle in Paris, but very irritable" when she met him again in Mexico.

Jackson was transferred unexpectedly last night from a hospital room to a neighboring police station, shortly after a newspaper pub-

lished reports that Soviet agents had arrived in Mexico City and planned to liberate him.

Newspapers received a message purportedly from David Alfredo Siqueiros, painter sought for questioning in an unsuccessful machine-gun attack on Trotsky last May, stating he would surrender as soon as he was convinced that opponents of the administration were not plotting a revolution.

NOT RECORDED

856

THE WASHINGTON EVENING STAR  
August 28, 1940

## Harvard Obtained Letters Of Trotsky Before Death

By the Associated Press.

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., Aug. 27.—

Only two weeks before Leon Trotsky, Russian revolutionary leader, was slain in Mexico, the Harvard University Library received his collection of letters, manuscripts and writings, Keyes D. Metcalf, librarian, said today.

With a large part of the library staff on vacation, it was expected the collection would not be catalogued until fall, but Mr. Metcalf said a preliminary inspection indicated the library "received what it contracted for."

The price of the collection, purchased with a gift by an anonymous donor, was not disclosed. The contract for the collection was signed in May, Mr. Metcalf said.

Trotsky was bludgeoned to death with a pickax last week in Mexico City.

~~NOT RECORDED~~

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# Killer Says Trotsky Ordered Him to Assassinate Stalin

## Mexicans Are Skeptical Of Accusation in Note Written Before Attack

By the Associated Press.

MEXICO CITY, Aug. 24.—Accusations leveled at Leon Trotsky by his confessed slayer, who said Trotsky had ordered him to go to Russia and "organize the assassination of Josef Stalin and other Soviet leaders," drew expressions of skepticism today from Mexican officials.

Police said the accusation was contained in a note which Frank Jackson, mysterious foreigner, wrote before he attacked Trotsky with a pickax last Tuesday in the latter's closely-guarded Coyoacan home.

Trotsky's order, Jackson's note said, was the last act necessary to disillusion him concerning the famous exile's political philosophy and motives and impelled him to the assault on his former mentor.

### Attorney to Answer Note.

"For me it was a great disillusionment," the note said, "that, instead of encountering face to face a political chief who was directing the struggle for the working class, I met a man who desired only to satisfy his own necessities, his desires for vengeance and his hates."

Trotsky's attorney, Albert Goldman of Chicago, who characterized Jackson as an agent of the OGPU (Russian secret police), said he would issue a statement later "to disprove all the lying statements of fact" contained in the note.

Goldman awaited action by the United States consulate on a request to take Trotsky's body to New York for memorial services. The consulate said the request was being given "due consideration."

### Jackson Still Guarded.

Jackson, meanwhile, remained under close guard in a hospital here, where wan and haggard, he is recovering from head injuries inflicted by Trotsky's bodyguards.

To inquiries he murmured in French:

"I am sorry. Yes. I repent for all. I had no accomplices. Please leave me alone."

Also in custody in the same hospital was Jackson's friend, Sylvia Ageloff of Brooklyn, who Gen. Jose Manuel Nunez, chief of federal district police, said would be consigned for prosecution as "a probable accomplice."

Miss Ageloff protested her innocence.

### Own Follower Killed Trotsky, Soviet Says

MOSCOW, Aug. 24 (P).—The Soviet press, giving the Russian people their first word today of the death of Leon Trotsky in Mexico City last Wednesday night, proclaimed it the "inglorious end" of "a murdered traitor and international spy."

It was the first mention of the attack since a brief dispatch on Thursday reported that an attempt had been made on the life of the exiled Communist leader by one of his followers.

The Communist party organ Pravda charged Trotsky with sabotaging the Red Army during the civil war, plotting to kill Nicolai Lenin and Joseph Stalin in 1918, organizing the slaying of Sergel Kiroff and plotting to kill Maxim Gorky, and with having served in the secret service of Britain, France, Germany and Japan.

Assassination of Kiroff on December 1, 1934, by Leonid Nicolaieff brought swift reprisals and execution of Nicolaieff and 116 others within a month of Kiroff's death.

"Trotsky, having gone to the limits of human debasement, became entangled in his own net and was killed by one of his own disciples," said Pravda. "Thus a hated man came to his inglorious end, going to his grave with the stamp of murderer and international spy on his forehead."

T  
X

X

8

Ed  
de Armas on copy

INDEXED  
cf

NOT RECORDED

37  
858

rary disability of the breadwinner resembles that which results from temporary unemployment. It may, however, work an even greater hardship on the family because of the additional expenses which illness commonly brings. Because both temporary disability and temporary unemployment involve relatively brief periods of wage loss, temporary disability insurance might be geared into a national program for unemployment insurance, with similar provisions as to workers covered and as to amount and duration of benefits.

A program of cash benefits to replace earnings lost during a sickness or disability is only part of the solution to the problem of attaining health security. We also need a solution to the problem of paying for medical care—a solution which will remove the financial barrier now standing between families and the medical care they need. (There is no space here to outline this essential element in any real national social security program: health insurance for all.)

There are some who say we cannot afford so comprehensive a social security program. That

is economic nonsense; and I say that we cannot afford to be without it. We have always met these costs, whether through individual sacrifice to pay large doctor bills or to support dependent relatives, through taxation to finance relief programs, or otherwise. The contributions levied under social security represent, in the main, a method of distributing the burden of these already existing costs among all members of society through relatively small regular payments.

A social security program which enables all gainfully employed persons to pay for basic security for themselves and their families, purchasing or accumulating privately such additional security as they want or can afford, is democratic.

Our democracy can thrive only when it adequately respects and preserves the dignity of the common people. Ours is and will be a democracy of the common people, or it will be hard put to survive. Only by strengthening and upholding the economic freedom and self-respect of the individual and the family can we strengthen and uphold democracy against the world-wide challenge of communism and socialism.

## Trotsky and Kravchenko

Waldemar Gurian

**I**VERY ASTONISHING is the fact that Victor Kravchenko's book "I Chose Freedom" (Scribner, \$3.50) is regarded by many as a surprising revelation of the conditions prevailing in the Soviet Union, and bitterly attacked by others as an unreliable report by a disappointed Soviet official, full of exaggerations, slanders and resentment. Kravchenko is not the first member of the Russian Communist Party to turn against the Soviet Union, picturing it as a vast prison inhabited by unhappy masses, and dominated by dangerous and ruthless intriguers, interested exclusively in power politics and their own welfare. There was, for example, the book by Bazhanov, a member of Stalin's secretariat. There was the story of Agabekov, a leading official of the Cheka, which was supplemented by the volume of Dumbadse, a minor official of the Soviet Secret Police. There were the revelations of Bessedowski, the counselor of the Soviet Embassy in Paris, who saved himself from a purge by jumping over the wall of the embassy. And American readers have not yet forgotten the memoirs of Krivitsky, a leading Soviet "intelligence" agent, and of Barmine, who ended his Soviet career as Minister to Greece.

Has V. Kravchenko's book a particular value, resulting from a special, new and fresh approach? This volume is of some interest because it is written by a man who did not play a policy-making rôle, but who is representative of communist Soviet specialists. He joined the party manifestly in order to make his career as a specialist in engineering and to play a rôle in the Soviet planned economy. What Kravchenko tells is the story of the average party member, though he reached positions high above the average as head of important enterprises and as a technician working in the central government, having an office in the Kremlin. He pictures himself as the son of a revolutionary, rather well educated worker in the Ukraine. His father, surprisingly, never joined any political group or party, though he was jailed under the Czarist régime. He did not even join the Bolsheviks after they came into power, though he was hopeful that the younger Soviet generation might "succeed in bringing true freedom and a better life for the masses."

The circumstances under which young Kravchenko became, after some adventures as a member of the Red Army in Asia, a party member are not clearly stated. Kravchenko mentions a

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speech of Rakovsky, the friend of Trotsky, "early in 1929" which caused him to apply for membership in the party. "It was almost the last time that an enemy of Stalin would be permitted to talk to the people." It is impossible that Rakovsky, excluded from the party and exiled in 1927, would have been permitted to deliver speeches criticizing Stalin's régime in 1929. Somewhat surprising also are Kravchenko's stories about his relations, as an obscure student, with the wife of a leading communist and about his friendship with Ordschonikidse, member of the Polit Bureau, the highest board of the Communist Party, and the very influential Commissar of Heavy Industry. It is astonishing that Kravchenko did not achieve a more spectacular career, since he had the protection of one of the most intimate collaborators of Stalin. Ordschonikidse is, by the way, pictured in a much too favorable light; he may have opposed Stalin's purge of specialists during the last period of his life, but previously he had participated in most brutal and inhumane actions (e.g., in Georgia).

It must be noted, too, that the general political judgments of Kravchenko are not too revealing. For example, he attacks bitterly the catastrophic lack of preparation with which the leaders of the USSR entered the war after having been attacked by Hitler in 1941; but then he mentions that Russia won the Battle of Stalingrad before the effect of Lend-Lease could be felt. That the book cannot be regarded as an historical work is proved by the many conversations which are repeated word for word. It is obvious that these restatements cannot be correct; they can merely attempt to picture the general conditions under which the speakers met.

But despite all doubts evoked by some passages and also by Kravchenko's inclination to tell in a rather dull, sentimental way about his adventures with various women, it can be said that the picture of life in the USSR as presented by the former Soviet expert looks true. The moving description of the hunger in the Ukrainian villages produced by the imposed collectivization is an excellent illustration of the ruthless methods of a totalitarian régime. Kravchenko's detailed description of the purges inside the party and of his troubles with the GPU confirm many other descriptions of the Stalin régime. This régime has abolished the inviolability of party members—they were, during the great purge, even objects of particularly intense suspicion. So many examples of incompetence, illiteracy and inhumanity are presented by Kravchenko that the reader will ask the question: How can this régime work and last? Kravchenko's remarks on the leaders of the USSR are very disappointing. He describes, for example, how Stalin, Kaganovitch, Molotov,

etc., are masters in the art of "cussing," and then adds somewhat unexpectedly: "I can attest, however, that the great majority of the leaders with whom I came in contact were able men who knew their business; dynamic men deeply devoted to the work in hand."

Kravchenko's political analysis, for example, of the world revolutionary aims of Stalin's régime, will appear as particularly weak to those who have read books of such anti-Soviet students of the USSR as D. Dallin. It is a pity that the unnamed helper of Kravchenko who "edited the English text from an American vantage point" following "faithfully [the] original Russian manuscript," did not advise the author to concentrate exclusively on daily life in the Soviet Union. I think that the political conclusions might have been left to the readers themselves.

But even in its present form, the memoirs of Kravchenko contribute to the understanding of the Soviet régime as a totalitarian régime imposing industrialization from above, operating with an inefficient and inexperienced personnel, trying to correct its mistakes by ruthlessness and terror, dominated by men so convinced of the correctness of their political views and beliefs that they are willing to sacrifice everything to them. Particularly illuminating are Kravchenko's accounts of the brutal fights and conflicts inside the party, on the activities of the GPU against the specialists, even though they might be party members.

The positive political ideas of Kravchenko are as noble as they are vague; it is somewhat surprising that he, though himself a Ukrainian, is opposed to Ukrainian nationalism and sides rather with a Great Russian nationalism.

\*

Kravchenko remained, despite his party membership and his important technical jobs, outside the group which shaped the policy of the dictatorial sole party. During the first years of the Soviet régime, L. Trotsky was, after Lenin, the most important figure in this group. But he did not become Lenin's successor. Almost all the other lieutenants of the founder of the Bolshevik party were against Trotsky. Among these lieutenants, Stalin soon became the most powerful. Not only was Trotsky defeated, but likewise such men as Kamenev and Zinoviev, men who had first believed that they could use Stalin as a tool in order to undermine and eliminate the influence of the Commissar for War. When Trotsky was assassinated in 1941, he was working on a biography of his underestimated and despised but successful rival. This biography has been supplemented by some appendices, tables and indices by Charles Malameth; the book was ready in 1941,

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but thanks to the war, its publication has been delayed until now.

It must be said that Trotsky's book, "Stalin" (Harper, \$5.00) will not supersede B. Souvarine's "Stalin," whose French original was published in 1936 and which was translated in 1939. (Souvarine's most valuable bibliography is omitted in the American edition; a supplementary chapter is not as good as the other parts. It remains a mystery why Souvarine does not now publish a new edition of his biography, brought up to date.) Trotsky is not able to picture the life of Stalin against the background of Russian history; he is too much interested in the internal conflicts of the socialist movement, and he succeeds only rarely in showing the general importance of these fights and polemics (as, for example, in his own analysis of Lenin's defeatism.)

I doubt whether this fault, which makes the book difficult reading for those not too well acquainted with the history of the Russian revolutionary movement, arises from the fact that Trotsky lived to complete only the first seven chapters, covering Stalin's life up to the Bolshevik's rise to power (November, 1919). The other chapters describing his behavior under Lenin's régime and his becoming master of the party and thereby of the Soviet Union have been put in final form by the editor, who also added various other supplements using Trotsky's notes. But even if Trotsky had been able to complete the book, its fundamental deficiency would have remained.

Trotsky set out to try to prove that Stalin's career is incompatible with the principles of Bolshevism. Stalin is a skillful manipulator of the party machine "without association of the masses." "Stalin did not create the machine," as Lenin had done, "but took possession of it. For this, exceptional and special qualities were necessary." Trotsky attempts to show his objectivity by recognizing some virtues in Stalin, by rejecting some attempts to smear him without proofs, but, on the other hand, he is always eager to emphasize that Stalin understood neither the socialist movement nor Lenin, nor the real aims of the Soviet régime. That is a hopeless enterprise, as Trotsky's own restatement of some facts demonstrates. Young Stalin was taken very seriously by Lenin; Lenin supervised closely Stalin's study on the National Question; the little-known professional revolutionary, Stalin, was, despite previous disagreements, practically appointed by Lenin himself as member of the Central Committee in 1912.

★

The decisive argument of Trotsky against Stalin consists in the observation that Stalin was very little known before and after 1917, until he

became master of the party machine. But does that prove anything? It proves only that Stalin must be a particularly able organizer and politician. He succeeded, for instance, in making the position of Secretary General, which had previously been none too important, into a key position.

There were, of course, differences between Lenin and Stalin. Lenin was much better educated than Stalin; he had not suffered as much as Stalin from petty frustrations. His authority, though often challenged earlier, became definitely established in 1917-18, thanks to his having succeeded in bringing the Bolshevik Party, whose founder he was, into power. Stalin had been too long one of the lieutenants of Lenin; therefore other sub-leaders, particularly the externally more brilliant ones, could not and did not accept his authority without reluctance and grudgingly. But the fundamental conceptions and methods of Lenin were taken over by Stalin and hastily adapted to changing conditions. Lenin himself realized after 1917 that the hopes for an immediate world revolution were wrong and that the maintenance of the Soviet régime at all costs was the most important task. Lenin could overcome opposition in communistic ranks without too much trouble, whereas Stalin had, in order to maintain his power, to abolish the inviolability of communists. The same methods were now applied against them that had been applied from the beginning of the régime against all non-communists. The ruthlessness of the régime is not due to some exceptional trait of Stalin, corresponding to bureaucratic deviations among his supporters, but to its basic conceptions—the dictatorship of the proletariat, whose advance guard is the Bolshevik Communist Party, which may use all means in order to fulfil its world-historic mission. Trotsky himself became one of the victims of the same principles in the name of which he had exercised power. It is therefore a decisive weakness of his book that he attacks Stalin without realizing that his adversary had merely used more skillfully and with a better judgment of concrete situations the principles which Trotsky himself continued to hold until his death.

There are many interesting details in the book. Though it is not too well written—other books by Trotsky are much more brilliant—it contains some well-pointed formulations. "Indeed, it is easier to imagine him [Stalin] placing traps at night than firing a gun at a bird in flight." Some will be surprised to hear about the rôle which Stalin's first wife—as Trotsky scornfully remarks, a pious Christian woman—played in the development of his character. Trotsky is right in pointing out the many suppressions and falsifications which are to be found in the Soviet historiog-

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raphy. The defense of his rôle in the October revolution and the Civil War is in many ways convincing. His view of Stalin as a man who is neither a writer nor an orator but a slow-moving machine politician, respecting power and despising theories—though he would like to be a great Marxian theorist—is impressive but does not present the whole picture. He underestimates Stalin's gift of grasping the meaning of complicated trends. Stalin has even been able to control his own will to revenge and his own hates until it was politically safe to satisfy them. The whole characterization of Stalin suffers from Trotsky's incapacity even to raise the question: Were not certain of Stalin's traits nourished by the methods and political views of the party, views not created by him but intensifying his will to power, his inclination to disregard human lives and ethical considerations, his mechanistic concept of men and humanity? Was it not necessary that the totalitarian sole-party fall under the unlimited control of a boss, who would at the same time be cautious and daring, ruthless and apparently insignificant? Did not Trotsky, by his policy of creating and justifying terrorism against real and potential adversaries, create the basis for terror inside the party? Does he not overestimate his gifts as a writer and orator and underestimate Stalin?

Trotsky's book attacks Stalin's psychology; precisely here is its limitation. The basic policies remained unquestioned: the totalitarian character of Stalin's USSR is, for Trotsky, a "bureaucratic deviation" and a result of decay because wrong men came into power expressing the will of wrong groups (bureaucrats, party officials, etc.). But had this accident not taken place, the Soviet régime would be all right. Trotsky is, on the one hand, a determinist—everything is justified that helps development in the right direction—on the other hand, he believes in tragic accidents, such as the fact that Stalin, not he, became Lenin's heir. And he tries to show how this accident is the result of a combination of mediocrity and evil character. But even if Stalin remained during Lenin's whole life unknown to the masses, could he only by chance have advanced slowly but steadily in the ranks of the party? Trotsky's book does not prove that this career was an accident. After all, Stalin was an old Bolshevik, and it is a futile attempt to disassociate him from Lenin and the party which came into power in the October revolution of 1917. Stalin represents the average worker of the party, whereas Trotsky was its most brilliant outsider, overestimating his personal gifts and underestimating the importance of inconspicuous organizational work. It is wrong to see the issue between Trotsky and Stalin as having anything to do with more or less brutality and ruthlessness. Both Trotsky and Stalin never

hesitated to apply terror and to exterminate adversaries if they deemed it necessary for the maintenance and increase of their power. Stalin eliminated Trotsky because he had the masses of the party machinery behind him, and the party machinery had, with the effective help of Trotsky, supplanted the will of the people and concentrated in itself the whole life of society. Therefore, the duel between Stalin and Trotsky, in which the brilliant writer was killed and the dull organizer survived, is an internal Bolshevik affair. The terminological and tactical differences did not matter, only success mattered. And though Stalin is "neither a thinker, nor a writer, nor an orator," he knew how to achieve success in the field of power politics.

## Conference in Washington

HARRY LORIN BINSSE

AS A duly constituted delegate for an organization whose name is quite beside the point, I recently journeyed to Washington for a conference the purpose of which was to register protest and to suggest action with regard to our country's shipments of food to starving peoples in famine-stricken lands throughout the world. It began with an afternoon session intended to clarify the reasons for passing a number of resolutions with which we were all in agreement anyhow, and I cannot pretend that this session was particularly thrilling. Meetings the outcome of which is known beforehand are never as much fun—however worthy they may be—as meetings which promise and deliver a few good arguments. In this case none were promised and none arose—except when the representative of one religious body pointed out that his constituency would not wish to place any specific blame on the fertilizer industry or on the food processing industry, since to do so might be construed as radical.

But what was interesting was to analyze the natures of the various groups which had sent delegates to register their earnest protest at our defalcations and to urge policies—especially the restoration of rationing—which would make such failures less likely in the future. It should be added that during the evening of the same day a public session was held, at which not only delegates but also several hundred interested citizens were present. The inducement to attend this session consisted in an admirably managed radio program that brought it to a close. The star performers were bushy-eyebrowed, Independent Laborite Sir John Boyd Orr and our own dynamic bantam, the ex-Mayor of New York. After this

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# U.S. REFUSES TO ADMIT TROTSKY BODY FOR RITES

## State Department Says It Sees No Reason for Act; Disorders Believed Feared at Funeral

By The Associated Press.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 24.—The United States refused today to permit the body of Leon Trotsky, Stalin's exiled rival, to be brought into this country for memorial services at New York.

Albert Goldman, attorney for the old Bolshevik, had filed a request for such permission with the United States Consulate in Mexico City.

### DISORDERS FEARED.

The refusal was announced by the State Department in this statement:

In response to an inquiry from the American Consul at Mexico City, (George P. Shaw), The Department has informed him that it perceives no reason for bringing Mr. Trotsky's body to the United States and that it would not be appropriate to do so.

There was no elaboration in official circles. Speculation developed, however, that officials might have believed that memorial services over the famous Communist's body would lead to disorders.

### BLAMES SECRET POLICE.

Trotsky was killed in Mexico by an assailant who struck him with a pickaxe. On his deathbed, he expressed belief that the Russian Secret Police had ordered the attack.

The one time Soviet minister of foreign affairs and of war lived for a few months in 1917 in the Bronx, New York, after being expelled from France. He returned to Russia later that year following the overthrow of the Czar, and became Lenin's right hand man.

After Lenin's death in 1924, he was overshadowed by Stalin and in 1929 was exiled from his home land.

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. E. A. Tamm
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy

*Miss Galt*  
*Miss Galt*

*EL*

*J*

*M*  
**INDEXED**  
*from*

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SAN FRANCISCO TELETYPE

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# Trotsky's Slayer Tells Why He Hacked Leader to Death

MEXICO CITY, Aug. 25.—More light on the slaying of Leon Trotsky was shed today by a statement of Jacques Mornard-van den Driesch, the Trotsky follower who killed his former leader.

Driesch, or Frank Jackson, as he was known in Trotskyite circles, said that Trotsky had threatened to turn him over to the police as a deserter from the Belgian army if he did not commit acts of sabotage in the Soviet Union under Trotsky's direction.

He also claimed in his statement that Trotsky forbade him to marry

Sylvia Agaoff, sister of one of Trotsky's secretaries, held by police in connection with the killing.

(This official statement by the killer has been virtually suppressed by the American press, although ample space has been given to every type of wild allegation and charge by Trotsky's followers against the Soviet Government.)

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THE PEOPLES' WORLD

forwarded by  
San Francisco Division

August 26, 1940

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- Mr. E. J. Connelley
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- Mr. E. J. Connelley

### 1,000 Attend Memorial Here for Leon Trotsky

#### State Department Criticized for Refusal to Admit Body

One thousand persons attended memorial services last night at the Hotel Diplomat, 108 West Forty-third Street, for Leon Trotsky, slain Bolshevik leader, held under the auspices of the Socialist Workers party. The speakers eulogized the lead Russian revolutionary and expressed bitterness that the State Department refused to allow his body to be brought to the United States from Mexico, where he was killed on Aug. 21 by an assassin who used an Alpine pickax.

James P. Cannon, national secretary of the Socialist Workers party, said there was no doubt that the labors of Trotsky for forty-two years to emancipate "oppressed workers and transfer society from capitalism to socialism" would survive his death. Mr. Cannon said that all kinds of refugees, including monarchists and fascists, have been welcome in New York Harbor, "but not even the dead body of the friend of the oppressed" could be brought here.

"We shall," he said, "nourish that grievance close to our hearts and in good time will take our revenge."

As the speaker spoke of Trotsky many eyes became wet with tears. Stalin was blamed for his death and signs on the walls read: Down With Murderer Stalin, Defend the Soviet Union, "Trotsky Is Dead! But the Party of Trotskyism Will Live and Conquer" and "World Socialism Will Be Trotsky's Monument."

Trotsky's last recorded speech, made in Mexico in 1938 on the tenth anniversary of the founding of the workers party and the Trotskyist movement in the United States, was played at the services. All stood while "The Workers' Memorial Song" was played in his memory. Besides Mr. Cannon, other speakers were Farrell Dobbs, labor secretary of the party, who presided; Dr. Antoinette Konikow, of Boston, long active in the party, and Albert Gates.

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CLIPPING FROM THE N. Y. HERALD TRIBUNE

DATE **AUG 29 1940**

FORWARDED BY N. Y. DIVISION.

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# The Trotsky Murder

By Betty Kirk

## Some International Ramifications

THE INTERNATIONAL aspects of the assassination of Leon Trotsky led to the inevitable conclusion that Mexico City has become a New Paris—a beautiful and gracious city, whose smiling hospitality is abused by furtive criminals, transplanting here the methods and the spirit of Old World terrorism and power politics.

Little is known for certain of the two assaults upon Leon Trotsky, the unsuccessful one of May 24 and the successful one of August 20, but undeniable links with international crime are apparent. The pattern of the reign of terror in Spain after the outbreak of the civil war, methods and messages peculiar to Russia's "Reds" in Paris with roots in prewar Paris, the repeated suggestions that Hitler's Gestapo played its part, and the names of Sheldon Harte, and others, of complicity in the assassination of another Soviet citizen, Sylvia Brown, of Brooklyn, N. Y., in the Trotsky case, accordingly suggest a local crime, but an international one, shooting out from the Old Mexico City of Brooklyn with Moscow's Madrid, and offering a challenge to the Mexican government to decide and to ruthlessly and inexorably punish the guilty in the two assaults.

Important revelations by the Trotsky spokesmen are that their party is preparing an expose of the operations of the whole of America in the time of his death. His public denunciation during the investigation which was conducted into the May 24 assassination, and the party spokesmen's plans to release the "Trotskyite" secret police, and Trotskyites have already been present and operating in many G. P. U. areas.

The danger to the United States is known in Europe as the "Trotskyite" movement, and in Mexico as the "Trotskyite" movement.

The Trotskyites, also named present and operating here, the Russian, Manuflaky, the Italian, Abiatte, and George Mink, but it is known that Mink, a member of the United States Communist Party, left recently for Japan. David Alfaro Siqueiros and Antonio Pujol, named in the May 24 assault, both served with the Spanish Loyalists during the civil war.

Even the method employed in the first assault was similar to that used in Spain by some terrorist elements. This involves the donning of police or military uniforms in which the terrorists work and which serve to disarm the civilian being approached by what he believes are legitimate authorities. The 20 men who machinegunned and bombed the Trotsky house on May 24 were disguised in police and military uniforms which permitted them to approach and overcome the police guard maintained about the house.

The "confession" found upon the killer, Frank Jackson, after the murder of Trotsky, bears striking similarity to the letter received by Trotsky from Rudolf Klement after his disappearance in Paris in July, 1938. The dismembered body of Klement was found floating a few days later in the Seine and the Trotskyites attribute the murder to the G. P. U. Both the Klement and Jackson letters referred to disillusion with Trotsky for his refusal to accept supposedly providing the motive for his desertion from and antagonism to the Trotsky cause.

THE TROTSKYITES base the implication of the Gestapo and Jackson's alleged murdering of the Trotskyites. Speaking of the Trotskyites, they are reported brokenly, "They are in there. Although they are functionally dead, yet establish the conclusion that the Trotskyites are still active."

yet made in which he was caught on guard. The "confession" which he later made to the police in which he claimed to be a Belgian citizen and minutely described his home, youth and schooling, has been branded largely false by officials of the Belgian Legation here who found the statement filled with inaccuracies.

Trotsky openly branded the first attack as the work of the G. P. U. and ominously and accurately predicted that it would be repeated, during Germany's blitzkrieg over England. He also named the Communist magazine, Futuro, and its editor, Vicente Lombardo Toledano, as having participated in the moral preparation of the assault through publishing charges that Trotsky was operating as a Fascist agent in Mexico, and stirring up antagonism against him.

Of Lombardo Toledano Trotsky said, "He has much to say in this case. Trotsky repeated the same

*John L. ...*



THE LATE LEON TROTSKY  
Old world terrorist intrigue followed him to Mexico.

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with regard to Narciso and stirred up a veritable ornette nest in Mexican politics. Senor Bassols was former minister of the treasury, minister of education and Mexican Minister to St. James. He was Minister to France at the end of the Spanish civil war and was in personal charge of the selection of Spanish refugees sent to Mexico.

The insinuation that he was involved led to a hasty denial by Senor Bassols and to a statement by minister of the interior, Ignacio Garcia Telleria that Bassols was guileless. A long list of Mexican intellectuals including Jesus Silva Herzog, former head of the Distribuidora de Petroleos Mexicanos, also affirmed their faith in Senor Bassols. Following this official defense, no more mention was made of Bassols in the Trotsky case.

LINKS of the case with United States Communism are also apparent. There has been a constant interchange of fellow travelers between Mexico and the United States through the Mexico

City organization known as the American Friends of the Mexican People, and New York City organization known as the Mexican Friends of the American People. Both function principally as propaganda organizations, but they are the key through which the exchange travelers make contact. Simultaneous with the May 24 assault the American Friends of the Mexican People changed its name and became the Friends of Mexico.

Involvement of left wing art groups is also indicated. The first search for the stolen uniforms used in the May 24 assault was made at the Tallers Graficos, a workshop where left wing artists here produce propaganda posters and pamphlets for the Mexican government. Twenty-six of these artists were arrested and questioned in the case. New York artists, affiliated with the Mexican group, are reliably reported to be sheltering Luis and Leopoldo Arenal, the men named here as the last to be seen with Robert Sheldon Harte before his death.

David Alfaro Siqueiros, the brilliant, erratic and famous artist, who fought as a colonel in Spain and is named by many witnesses as the leader of the May 24 assault, has been seen recently in New York City, hobnobbing with members of the Artists' Union and visiting the World's Fair. He moves with the same immunity there that Carlos Contreras, alias Vidal, alias Sormenti, moves through the streets of Mexico.

Trotsky himself estimated that 50,000 pesos (\$10,000) was spent on the first attack and Gen. Jose Manuel Nunez, chief of Mexico City police, asserted that "money flowed from free hands." The source of these funds is as mysterious as the identity of the man or men who planned the two crimes.

Gen. Nunez, in an article in the current Estampa, a weekly magazine, declares that "Jackson received not only concrete orders from abroad but money and all aid which could fortify him for his criminal act. I am certain that in this case not only our police, but the police of many nations will have to act. I am still astounded by the magnitude of the crime, but I hope that luck will be with us to solve it and demonstrate to the world the capacity of the Mexican police."

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# Extended Strategy

By John J. Stonborough

## Its Threat To America

THE GREAT THREAT to the United States implicit in the possibility that Hitler and Mussolini may succeed in imposing a dictated peace upon the British Empire, has given sudden rise to much confused thinking.

The average American is beginning to realize that the biggest and richest democracy on earth may well ere long live in a world of revolutionary enemies. Nevertheless the precise nature of the danger or the form which future aggression is likely to take cannot be as readily foreseen. For even with the British navy gone, an invasion by land, sea or air would appear destined to fail because of the vastness of this island country and the width of its protecting oceans.

It is already speaking and general-ly admitted that the danger to this country is composed of four elements: (1) The strategic consequences of a totalitarian victory; (2) the economic consequences; (3) the foreign political consequences and (4) the effect on our national psychology and on our domestic institutions of a revolutionary imperialism which is victorious.

The danger to this country in a revolutionary victory abroad (the defeat of Britain) is thus not so simple, although it does not lie in any immediate possibility of an invasion by land, sea or air. It is in the new concept of an "extended strategy" that the dangers to this country which are already being classified under the headings, namely, military, political and economic, flow to their logical conclusion.

To analyze this statement is to analyze the revolutionary strategy which is being developed under the vigorous leadership of Germany, war, largely a military act but a mixture of propaganda, diplomacy, economic and military pressure, according to the new concept of an "extended strategy."



GEN. VON BRAUSCHITZ  
His men merely finished the job  
developed by Adolf Hitler, war is no longer the acid test. It formerly was, since military action itself should not be started before the other factors have succeeded in creating a revolutionary situation in the enemy's camp, under which he is bound to collapse.

**DIFFERENT THE INVASION**  
Norway, the cardinal feature of the present war became sharply discernible. It is that the army, formerly a warring nation's sole weapon of importance, today has become merely one among several weapons of equal rank and import. A large, well-trained and well-disciplined army is, of course, as essential today as it was in the past. But the army no longer represents the only decisive factor in winning a war.

In the present conflict the army is one of several vital parts of the war machine and has a more limited field of action and usefulness than in the past. Thus Germany did not fight France with its army alone as in 1870 and 1914, but fought the French (and is fighting the British) nation with new and until June not fully understood weapons, among them terror, confusion, propaganda and the lack of patriotism among the masses.

"Although," as Winston Churchill stated on August 30, "this war is, in fact, only a continuation of the last, very great differences in its character are apparent. It is a conflict of strategy, of organization, of technical operators, science, mechanics and morale."

In revolutionary Germany where these weapons were invented their implications are clearly appreciated, and where their use has been farthest perfected, the army today is one of several surgical instruments in the operation called total war.

One thing is certain: It is not merely because the Nazis have the best trained and best disciplined army that they have conquered the continent of Europe.

IT IS EASILY understood what the surrender of the British fleet would mean to us and what the consequences for our national economy of such a victory would be. The political consequences are equally visible. Nothing, as it has often been remarked, succeeds like success. The nations of Latin America, the peoples of the Orient, the whole group of "follower nations" which are anxiously looking for a sign and a portent on the troubled sky; can any man doubt what victory for the dictator bloc is doing to them? Let the dictatorships once prove conclusively that their way is better fitted for the struggle for existence than ours is, and there can be no question about the direction which all these nations will take.

Concerning the profound dislike Japan, Italy, Russia and Germany entertain for us, not much need be said at present. Our unpopularity in great parts of South and Central America, however, is even today not generally realized. Many important countries below the Rio Grande have for numerous reasons become strong anti-British, anti-French and anti-American. These are strongly pro-Franco and pro-Mussolini. They have no deep love for

*John J. Stonborough*

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*John J. Stonborough*

democracy even of their brand. If the totalitarian form of government on the basis of its economic and military success seems worthwhile emulating, they will let free government, which they copied during the last hundred years, go without a tear.

Indeed, south of the Rio Grande a fertile soil for German, Italian and Communist groups has long been in the making. Some of these countries are weaker than it is courteous to mention; are bogged down by divided counsel, caused by class struggle and internal frictions. Many of these peoples feel that they never made headway under a form of government which brought England, France and this nation to the leading positions in the world.

LASTLY, there is the effect which a final totalitarian victory would have on our own ideas and emotions. We have been through some very hard years, since the piping times of 1929. The shock of economic collapse has forced us to re-examine the articles of our faith. We do not take things for granted any more; our creed must meet the cruelest pragmatic tests.

So far, we have stuck by this creed—if for no better reason than that none of the available substitutes seems to offer anything better. But suppose that the average American, surveying the world, is forced to admit that the totalitarian way does seem to work—that it does, after all, "get things done," which for most of us is the supreme test. Need one be a complete pessimist to believe that in such case the strain on our institutions—wracked, continuously, as they would be, by dire problems of economics and social organization—would be greater than they could readily bear?

Furthermore, there is obviously more Fifth Column potential in the American melting pot than in any other country of the world. There are today millions—American citizens, not aliens—who though not organized are ready, given successful leadership and vigorous slogans, to be welded into strong groups of commu-Nazi allegiance.

It is the stated policy of the Third Reich to consider all citizens of German descent here and elsewhere as "Foreign Germans." A special government department under Herr von Bohle and a special institute in Stuttgart with its own special newspaper, is devoted to cataloguing, training, directing and watching over them. U. A. 1—the foreign section of the German state secret police, the Gestapo, employs about 5,000 people who keep track of "Foreign Germans" in the various countries of the world and organize the corruption and sabotage practiced by Fifth Columnists commu-Nazi sympathizers abroad.

It is asserted that there are present about 380 Gestapo agents in this country apart from the military and industrial spies under the command of the German secret service. Since the conquest of Europe seemed nearly completed, well-trained Nazis have been sent in increasing numbers to this and the Latin American countries. The Henchins, Quislings and Seyss-Inquarts of the Western Hemisphere are now being picked. The German Consul General in San Francisco, formerly the most trusted A. D. C. of Hitler and the consul general in Boston, formerly an active member of the original rubber hose gang, are, as everyone knows in this country for party purposes and not for the purpose of promoting or adjusting trade relations.

The German agents keep in covert touch with all bunds, anti-Semitic, anti-Negro, anti-Catholic, Irish anti-British, Communist and Fascist groups. Among the refugees from Nazi persecution in this country it is not unlikely that a handful of Gestapo agents are interspersed.

THE REVOLUTIONARY concept of extended strategy is one which affects us deeply and decisively. The attack on this hemisphere already seems under way with all the weapons at Germany's and perhaps Italy's command; but the military one. The preparation which we so far have taken are mainly in the sphere of direct military preparations, such as rearmament and a concerted attack upon military and industrial spies. We are preparing for a military invasion although that is probably the furthest off.

Prepare for a military slaughter first we must, for it will take five years of preparation to build up an adequate army and a second navy. Yet we must never lose sight of the fact that military invasion will, if and when it comes, only be the coup de grace administered after the other weapons of "extended strategy" have done their ruinous work.

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September 1, 1940

*W.H.M.*

# GPU Accused of Plot To Kill Trotsky Slayer

MEXICO CITY, Aug. 31 (U.P.). Albert Goldman, lawyer and executor of Leon Trotsky's estate, charged at a press conference today that the Russian secret police were plotting a "determined attempt" to murder Frank Jackson, slayer of Trotsky.

Goldman said an "absolutely trustworthy source" had told him of the plot.

"The reason is clear," he said. "As long as Jackson is alive the possibility remains he may reveal the workings of the sinister GPU in Mexico, the United States and other countries."

*Mr. Little*

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Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. E. A. Tamm	.....
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Mr. Ladd	.....
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Mr. Tracy	.....
Mr. Carson	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Gurnea	.....
Mr. Hendon	.....
Mr. Pennington	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Nease	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

*M. F. [unclear]*

**MRS. TROTSKY TESTIFIES**

**Charges Jackson Was Instigator of First Attack on Husband**

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK TIMES.  
**MEXICO CITY, Sept. 8**—Mrs. Natalia Trotsky, widow of Leon Trotsky, in her first public statement since her husband was slain, testified yesterday before the judge charged with the trial of Frank Jackson, who killed the former Soviet War Minister.

Mrs. Trotsky said Jackson admitted the men who attacked the Trotsky residence last May, causing Robert Sheldon Harte to open the door.

Mrs. Trotsky said she believed Jackson instigated the attack and after it kidnaped Harte and removed him to a hut on the outskirts of the city, where Harte was slain.

She declared she believed that Sylvia Ageloff, who Jackson said was his wife, was an innocent tool in the hands of the slayer.

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CLIPPING FROM

NEW YORK TIMES

DATE **SEP 9 - 1940**

FORWARDED BY NEW YORK DIVISION.

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# Trotsky Killer's U.S. Girl Friend Refuses Food

By the Associated Press  
 Mexico City, Aug. 24.—Silvia Ageloff, Brooklyn friend of Leon Trotsky's assassin, is on a hunger strike, hospital attendants reported tonight.

They said the young woman refused to take any nourishment and as early as four days ago accepted only bread and milk.

They said she was extremely nervous but expressed hope that arrival of her brother, Monte Ageloff, en route from New York by plane would prompt her to take food.

Meanwhile, the police chief's office announced that papers were ready for charging her friend, Frank Jackson, as Trotsky's killer. The district attorney's office was closed, however, so the papers cannot be presented before Monday.

The United States, meanwhile, refused to permit the body of Trotsky, Stalin's exiled rival, to be taken into the United States for memorial services at New York.

Albert Goldman, attorney for the old Bolshevik, had filed request for such permission with United States consulate here. Goldman said that if the request were granted, Trotsky's body would be cremated and returned to Mexico after the services.

**U. S. Sees No Reason**

The refusal was announced by the State Department in Washington in this statement:

"In response to an inquiry from the American consul at Mexico City (George P. Shaw), the Department has informed him that it perceives

no reason for bringing Mr. Trotsky's body to the United States and that it would not be appropriate to do so.

There was no elaboration in official circles. Speculation developed, however, that officials might have believed that memorial services over the famous Communist's body would lead to disorders.

Both Jackson and Miss Ageloff remained in a hospital, where they have been held since Jackson's fatal assault on Trotsky with a pickax Tuesday. She has denied any knowledge that Jackson intended to slay the old Bolshevik.

**Hunt Mysterious "Fred"**

The United Press said it was reported reliably that American authorities were investigating United States ramifications of the slaying. It was understood a cable was received from Rhode Island by Jackson, reading "congratulations" and signed "Fred." It was said that United States authorities were investigating to establish identity of the mysterious "Fred."

Accusations leveled at Trotsky by his confessed slayer, who said Trotsky had ordered him to go to Russia and "organize the assassination of Joseph Stalin and other Soviet leaders," drew expressions of skepticism from Mexican officials.

Police said the accusation was contained in a note which Jackson wrote before he attacked Trotsky.

Goldman, who characterized Jackson as an agent of the OGPU (Russian secret police), said he would issue a statement later, "to disprove all the lying statements of fact" contained in the note.

**Diego Rivera Guarded**

San Francisco, Aug. 24 (AP)—An armed bodyguard has been assigned to Diego Rivera, Mexican muralist, who once sheltered Trotsky. His painting on Treasure Island, it was disclosed today.

Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. E. A. Tamm	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Glavin	.....
Mr. Ladd	.....
Mr. Nichols	.....
Mr. Rosen	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Mr. Carson	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
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**Stopping for Few Minutes, Sylvia Ageloff,  
Who Was Duped Into Introducing Assassin  
To Russian Exile, 'Wants to Forget'**

In the haven of her family home a frail, blond Brooklyn, N. Y., girl began last night to pick up the threads of a life shattered when investigators of the assassination of Leon Trotsky wrongfully named her as an accomplice of the assassin.

The long journey from Mexico City brought her through Washington, where the scramble of reporters for interviews and of photographers for pictures made it doubtful for a while whether she or any of her fellow passengers from the South would make connections for New York.

Not one word did Sylvia Ageloff, the girl, have to say about the maze of international intrigue that dragged her, innocently, into events surrounding the murder of the co-father of Soviet Russia. No word did she have for Frank Jackson, the confessed assassin, with whom she was to have had dinner the day Trotsky was killed last August.

Her only message came from her sister and traveling companion, Hilda Ageloff, who said she had been well treated by Mexican authorities during the nearly four months of detention.

"All she wants now is to be left alone, to go back home and forget," Hilda said.

The sister said the girl, not yet fully recovered from a long illness, was "nervous and upset."

Asked if the Ageloff family contemplated any course of action concerning Jackson, Hilda replied:

"As far as we are concerned it's a closed case"

Mexican authorities decided weeks ago that Sylvia merely had been used by the slayer as a means of entrance to the Trotsky home. Sylvia introduced Jackson, who later became an intimate of the Trotskys, to the revolutionary exile and his wife.

Sylvia was released by Mexican authorities a week ago. She and her sister began the journey home by air, but their plane was grounded at New Orleans by bad weather.

At first, Sylvia refused to admit her identity to reporters at Union Station, but in a few moments she was paged by a messenger with a telegram, for which Hilda Ageloff signed. Hilda later identified herself and Sylvia.

The train from the South was an hour and 25 minutes late, and the New York train was delayed five minutes while passengers and porters tried to disentangle baggage from scurrying crewmen and reporters.

*Woman not today*

# Girl Victim of Intrigue Leading to Trotsky's Death Pauses Here

Post  
**MAKE CONNECTIONS**—Sylvia Ageloff (left) and her sister, Hilda, change trains at Union Station for New York.

## Stopping for Few Minutes, Sylvia Ageloff, Who Was Duped Into Introducing Assassin To Russian Exile, 'Wants to Forget'



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**MAKE CONNECTIONS**—Sylvia Ageloff (left) and her sister, Hilda, change trains at Union Station for New York.

Post Staff Photo

THE WASHINGTON POST  
December 28, 1940

NOT RECORDED

257-1-1-7

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*Leon Trotsky*

WASHINGTON CITY NEWS SERVICE

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. E. A. Tamm
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Carson
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Gurnea
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Hendon
- Mr. Jones
- Mr. Quinn
- Mr. Nease
- Miss Gandy

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COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

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MEXICO CITY--THE DISTRICT CRIMINAL COURT SENTENCED JACQUES MCFARLAND, ALIAS FRANK JACSON, TO 20 YEARS IMPRISONMENT FOR THE ASSASSINATION HERE MORE THAN TWO YEARS AGO OF LEON TROTSKY.

4/16--SPC:HF

Letter 515 #12  
4/22/43  
NNB

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# Book by Trotsky Poses Question Of Stalin Hand in Lenin's Death

By the Associated Press

NEW YORK, April 24.—Leon Trotsky in a posthumous biography of Joseph Stalin, published yesterday, posed a series of questions whether Joseph Stalin might have had a hand in the death in 1924 of Nikolai Lenin, honored in Russia as the founder of the Soviet Union.

The book asked these questions, and did not offer or supply a direct answer:

"What was Stalin's role at the time of Lenin's illness? Did not the disciple do something to expedite his master's death?" It is a monstrous suspicion, Trotsky says, "but that cannot be helped, when it follows from the circumstances, the facts and Stalin's very character."

The book, "Stalin, An Appraisal of the Man and His Influence," (Harper and Brothers) is published six years after Trotsky, Stalin's bitter political foe, was assassinated in exile in Mexico City. Trotsky had completed about two-thirds of the book at the time of his death but left an outline, copious notes, and memoranda and partly written pages from which the editor and translator, Charles Malamuth, completed the lengthy work. The chapter relating to Lenin's death is included in this latter section. The book's existence long has been known; it was ready for publication at the time of Pearl Harbor, a publisher's note says, but "its appearance was then postponed by the publisher until after the end of the war."

(The Associated Press has asked Moscow for comment on the book. No reply had been received.)

## Stalin "Chief Source of Worry."

Trotsky says that when Lenin was bedridden after a stroke in December, 1922, he was "afloat with alarm" and that "his chief source of worry was Stalin," then general secretary of the Communist party. Lenin proposed that a way be found to remove Stalin from his position because he had concentrated great power in his hands and Lenin wasn't sure he would use it properly.

"In those days," Trotsky says, "Stalin was morose \* \* \* his fate was at stake. He had made up his mind to overcome all obstacles."

Toward the end of 1923, Trotsky wrote, Stalin told him and others that the sick Lenin suddenly had called him in and asked for poison. Lenin saw another stroke approaching, he was suffering and he wanted the poison at hand if he became convinced his case was hopeless. Trotsky continues with an intricate array of suspicions, suggestions and charges until his climax.

marched hand in hand with vindictiveness."

"Stalin," Trotsky also observes, "has always been what he remains today—a politician of the golden mean who does not hesitate to resort to the most extreme measures. Strategically he is an opportunist; tactically he is a revolutionist." He is a kind of revolutionist with a bomb."

Frank S. MacGregor, president of Harper and Bros., said yesterday review copies of the book had been sent out to newspapers in December, 1941, but that the publishers decided to recall it after Pearl Harbor and that it did not go on sale at that time.

Mr. MacGregor said the company's decision to recall the review copies and hold up the sale of the book was "entirely voluntary," and made as a "contribution to Allied unity."

"The decision was made in the Harper offices," he said, "and we simply thought that since Russia was our ally that there was no point in publishing the book at that time."

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. E. A. Tamm
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Carson
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Gurnea
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Hendon
- Mr. Pennington
- Mr. Quinn Tamm
- Mr. Nease
- Miss Gandy

*Handwritten notes and signatures*

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27 JUL 12 1946

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57 JUL 22 1946 clipped from WASHINGTON EVENING STAR for 4-24-46

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"Whether Stalin sent the poison to Lenin with the hint that the physician had left no hope for his recovery or whether he resorted to more direct means I do not know. But I am firmly convinced that Stalin could not have waited passively when his fate hung by a thread and the decision depended on a small, very small motion of his hand."

The book, from the opening paragraph, is a violent attack which has to be accepted or rejected on its face value, for it is almost impossible to check the allegations. Yet, there is much of historical importance in the story of Bolshevism which forms the background for the Stalin biography and for what in its essence was a Stalin-Trotsky battle for leadership.

#### Not Thinker or Writer.

Trotsky didn't live to see Stalin's leadership of Russia in World War II. Whether he would have altered his appraisal in any way must remain a matter of speculation.

Trotsky writes in his introduction that Stalin "is neither a thinker, a writer nor an orator" and that he "took possession of power, not with the aid of personal qualities, but with the aid of an impersonal machine."

He tells of Stalin's birth as the son of a shoemaker in Georgia, and speculates on whether the Soviet chief has Mongolian blood in his veins. He cited details, largely by quoting others, to show that the boy Stalin became heartless and grim through frightful beatings by his father, sensed the humiliation of social inequality and finally while a student in theological school, deserted religion and God. At the age of 15 he got revolutionary ideas.

In summing up the Stalin of the order of professional revolutionists, Trotsky says:

"He saw the purpose of his life in overthrowing the powers that be. Hatred of them was immeasurably more active in his soul than love for the oppressed. Prison, exile, sacrifices, privations did not frighten him. He knew how to look danger straight in the eye. At the same time he was keenly sensitive about such of his traits as his slowness of intellect, lack of talent, the general colorlessness of his physical and moral countenance. His overweening ambition was tinged with envy and ill will. His pertinacity

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# Trial Stayed When Barsky Balks at Quiz

The District Court trial of Mrs. Ernestina G. Fleischman, charged with contempt of Congress, hit a snag yesterday when a Government witness refused to testify on the grounds that he might incriminate himself.

The witness was Dr. Edward K. Barsky of New York, chairman of the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee executive board, of which Mrs. Fleischman was a member. The House Committee on Un-American Activities has charged the Anti-Fascist group is Communist party-line follower.

Dr. Barsky last year was convicted along with 17 other board members on the contempt of Congress charge. However, at the time of trial, Mrs. Fleischman was in France and only now is being tried.

The case arose in April, 1946, when various members of the Anti-Fascist Refugee group refused to turn over various records to the House Committee.

Justice Richmond B. Keach upheld Dr. Barsky's claim to immunity on self-incrimination grounds yesterday.

The questions were asked Dr. Barsky by Assistant United States Attorney Charles B. Murray, the prosecutor, while the jury was excused from the courtroom, and were designed to link Mrs. Fleischman's scheduled appearance before the committee with that of other members of the refugee group.

Murray said he had prepared subpoenas for 15 other members of Dr. Barsky's committees but they had not been answered. The reason, according to Murray, probably was that the subpoenas may not have reached the members in time.

- Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Egan \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Gurnea \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Pennington \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

G. I. R. 9

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Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Pennington \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
 Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

## Prosecution Nears Close In Mrs. Fleischman Trial

The prosecution expects to rest its case today in the District Court trial of Mrs. Ernestina G. Fleischman who is being tried on a charge of contempt of Congress for failing to produce records in April, 1946, before the House Committee on Un-American Activities.

Mrs. Fleischman was indicted along with 16 other members of the Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee, who were tried and convicted. Mrs. Fleischman, however, was out of this country when the others were tried.

Mrs. Fleischman is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Charles B. Murray. Attorney G. John Rogge is chief defense counsel. Judge Richmond B. Keech is presiding at the trial.

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- Mr. Tolson ✓
- Mr. E. A. Tamm ✓
- Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Ladd ✓
- Mr. Nichols ✓
- Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Egan \_\_\_\_\_
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- Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Pennington \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

**U. S. Expects to Rest Contempt Case Today**

Assistant U. S. Attorney Murray said yesterday he expects to rest the government's case against Ernestina G. Fleischman, executive board member of the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee committee, some time today. Mrs. Fleischman was cited by the House committee on un-American activities for failure to produce records of the organization and is on trial for contempt in District court.

*file*

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59 MAY 20 1948

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- Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
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- Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

**Mrs. Fleischman Guilty  
Of Contempt of Congress**

A District Court jury last night found Mrs. Ernestina G. Fleischman, member of the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee, guilty of contempt of Congress for failing to produce records in 1946 before the House Committee on Un-American Activities.

Mrs. Fleischman was indicted with 16 other members of the anti-Fascist committee who were tried and convicted. She was out of this country, however, when the others were tried.

Assistant United States Attorney Charles B. Murray prosecuted the case, and Justice Richmond B. Keech presided at the trial.

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60 MAY 19 1948

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II

# Trial Stayed When Barsky Balks at Quiz

The District Court trial of Mrs. Ernestina G. Fleischman, charged with contempt of Congress, hit a snag yesterday when a Government witness refused to testify on the grounds that he might incriminate himself.

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This clipping is from  
Page 8 of the  
Washington Post 3/26/48

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Today the veil is lifted on one of the great assassinations of history - the murder of Trotsky in August, 1940. Trotsky helped Lenin to make the Russian Revolution. After Lenin's death he was driven from Russia, and Stalin's agents hunted him across the world until they murdered him in Mexico. Now the head of the Mexican Government's Secret Service reveals the full story.

# TROTSKY MURDERED TROTSKY

by REBECCA WEST

OFFICE OF THE LEGAL ATTACHE  
AMERICAN EMBASSY  
LONDON, ENGLAND

EVENING STANDARD  
MARCH 29, 1950  
LONDON, ENGLAND

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EX-125 MAY 4 1950

MAY 29 1950



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*884*

*MCS 18*

It happened in the Spanish Civil War that an airplane dropped bombs somewhere near Barcelona which blew to pieces the pupils of a girls' boarding-school, walking abroad in a neat crocodile.

The only person who saw a bright side to this horrid incident was the housekeeper of a friend of mine, who bade her employer not to grieve.

"Because, when you come to think of it," she explained, "what was there for the poor little things to look forward to, if they had lived? They would only have grown up into foreigners."

It is to be feared that Murder in Mexico\*, the first full account we have had of the murder of Trotsky by Stalinist agents in Mexico in 1940, will do much to confirm this way of thinking in those disposed to it. Few volumes have ever shown foreigners being so very foreign.

It is in essence a revolting story. In 1929, five years after Lenin's death, a long struggle between Stalin and Trotsky for domination of the Communist Party ended in Stalin's victory and Trotsky's deportation.

#### Murder after murder

FOR a time Trotsky wandered about Europe afraid of assassination, and unwelcome everywhere because it was generally known that his fears were well-grounded.

In a short space of time his two daughters and two sons and seven of his secretaries were all dead, and the police of a number of nations found themselves dealing with murders about which nothing was certain except that the corpse had been a Trotskyist.

Considerable energy has been expended in attempts to prove that not all Trotsky's bereavements were due to unnatural death, but if those deaths were natural, there was an unusual amount of natural death about in Trotsky's neighbourhood, and there could be no doubt about such cases as the secretary Klement, who was found headless in a French river.

Leon Trotsky's expectation of life seemed very limited indeed, until the Left Wing Government of Mexico gave him asylum in 1937.

There, in Coyoacan, a suburb of Mexico City, he and his wife,

\* MURDER IN MEXICO. By General Sanchez Salazar, with the collaboration of Julius Kofin, Secker and Warburg. 9s. 6d.

Natalie Sedova, took a small house and turned it into a fortress by surrounding it with a high concrete wall surmounted with machine-gun towers manned by their faithful supporters.

The only entrance was by a steel door, which could be opened only by the agreement of two armed guards after they had inspected the visitor through a barred space under a strong electric light; and both the house and the garden were covered with a network of electric wires which at the slightest touch set a number of alarms going in the house and outside in the street, where a police squad was perpetually on guard.

#### Waiting for death

HERE the old revolutionary and his wife lived courageously but apprehensively. She tells us, in the chapter she contributes to this volume, that he used to say to her when he woke up in the morning: "They didn't kill us during the night, and still you aren't happy."

In the early morning of May 24, 1940, a number of men suddenly appeared in the middle of the fortress, raked the Trotskys' bedroom with machine-gun fire, and tried to set the house on fire with incendiary bombs.

They left, having inflicted no injuries on anybody except Trotsky's little grandson, his only surviving relative, who was grazed by a bullet.

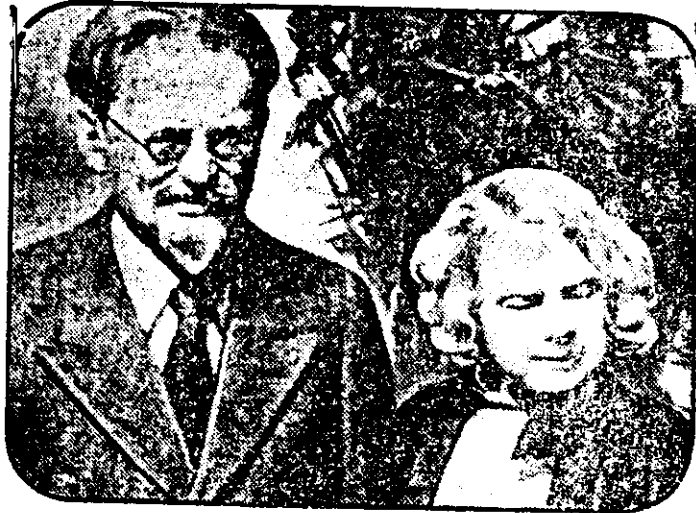
The behaviour of the assailants was so imbecile, and the behaviour of the Trotskyist defenders of the house so much more imbecile, that the author of this book, General Sanchez Salazar, who was chief of the Mexican Secret Service and had to investigate the case, believed that it was a put-up job staged by Trotsky himself.

#### The magistrate said—

IT will give some indication of the extreme foreignness of these foreigners that General Salazar was disabused of this notion and put on the right track by overhearing a tram-conductor repeat in a bar some information which he had heard let drop by an intoxicated magistrate.

All General Salazar's descriptions of his official activities are exquisite, and should make this volume an acceptable birthday or Christmas present for anybody connected with Scotland Yard, and perhaps the finest of all is his interview with this magis-

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TROTSKY AND HIS WIFE IN MEXICO.

rate. "I had him sent to my private room, next door to the official office, so that no one should disturb us," he explains, and to win the fallen beak's confidence he began by saying, "I know that you are the breadwinner for a large family."

He promised him that he would hear no more about it, and reminded him that he would be serving the cause of justice (and if that plea did not appeal to a magistrate, what would?) if he gave the name of the person to whom he had handed over two police uniforms in order that they might be used in the attack on Trotsky's house.

#### A girl named Sovietina

THE magistrate responded by proving that he was doubly innocent. He had never thought of lending the uniforms for the purpose of an attack on Trotsky's house, but only in order to oblige a friend who, though unconnected with the law, wanted to make a search for arms in a house belonging to a general who was standing as a candidate for the Presidency.

And though at first he had consented — "everything," he said, "seemed above board" — he had later suspected that this plan might be illegal and had therefore withdrawn. The name of his friend, however, enabled General Salazar to trace a crime far more picturesque if less probable than most detective novels.

There had been treachery behind this raid, though it was a genuine one. The police had had their minds distracted from their job by the wiles of female Com-

munists. One, named Julia, had, according to General Salazar, seduced one of the senior police officers; that she was incapable of making this sacrifice except on purely political grounds can be deduced from the fact that her little daughter was called Sovietina. That child should go far.

Also, it appears certain that the steel door of Trotsky's house was opened to his assailants by one of his secretaries, a red-haired young American, who then disappeared.

He was seen to go off with the assailants without putting up any resistance; and afterwards evidence was given that he went to a house in the country and lived there with some Stalinists, behaving as if they were his friends rather than his captors. But a month and a day after the attack General Salazar found his body buried under the kitchen floor of this house.

He had been shot while he was sleeping, probably because he was an inconvenient witness.

#### The ice-axe

TROTSKY would not believe that this secretary had betrayed him, and considerably embarrassed General Salazar by issuing statements blaming him for working on a false hypothesis.

It is odd to note how every fragment of Trotsky's sayings or writings recorded in this volume has its own special plausibility and brilliance, recalling that he was one of the greatest journalists of all time.

Trotsky adhered even with bitterness to his belief in his

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household's loyalty, but three months after the attack he was brutally murdered by another of his secretaries, who smashed in the old man's head with an ice-axe.

They were sitting in his study, and he was correcting an article brought him by the young man. As Natalie Sedova tells in gentle and restrained terms, her husband made a good end, behaving with fortitude during the painful hours which elapsed between the attack and the moment when it proved fatal.

### Brought up to kill

It is disturbing that the sympathy one must feel for Trotsky is not logical. This is a case of those that take the sword perishing by the sword.

He had been as guilty as anyone of making Russian Communism use murder lightly; and his murderer was the son of a woman who had brought him up in that murderous tradition.

There was not a halfpenny-worth of moral difference between the victim and the criminal, in spite of the vast intellectual difference between them.

As well as giving a clear-cut account of an event which is to most English readers cloudy, for the reason that it happened in the first month of the blitz, the book throws much light on the forces which make our modern and uncomfortable world.

It should do much to destroy the ill-founded legend that the Communist party owes its effectiveness to the special intelligence of its members. Its pages abound in such revelations as that the first attack on Trotsky's house was superintended by a GPU agent of international fame, whose idea of dispersing the gang so as to avoid arousing suspicion was to drive them into the centre of Mexico City and order them to take off their borrowed police uniforms and get out of the car.

As one of them says, very sensibly, "I categorically refused, so as not to be left wearing only my underpants."

### The Communist asset

THE real advantage enjoyed by the Communists is not intelligence or any other virtue, but the very considerable advantage which belongs to anyone who is willing to commit murder.

The reliability of this book is higher than its superficial sensationalism would suggest. A great deal of corroborative material will be found in books written by trusted members of the ex-Communist Party, and there is a certificate of veracity latent in the characters of the authors. General Salazar, who resembles



The headline that recorded Trotsky's last words

Cyrano de Bergerac, Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson ad roiled into one, is a cheerful extrovert unable to conceal anything.

Had he possessed the power to preserve silence he might have suppressed the accounts of Mexican police routine, and he might have omitted (which would have been a pity) the delightful scene in which, disguised by a beard, dark glasses, and civilian clothes, he was noticed by an insensitive person who insisted on recognising him and addressing him by name, and could hardly bear to admit who he was, although it was to find this very person that he had assumed his disguise.

### Expert on violence

His collaborator, Mr. Gorkin, is a Catalonian Socialist, is also a credible witness, though a violent one. He lives a proud and evidently not unhappy life in one of those odd pockets of semi-secret political activity where idealists continually try to bump each other off.

So many of his enemies have tried to bump him off, and so many of his friends have been bumped off, that he takes a trade interest in Trotsky's assassination, and treats it with real technical expertise.

He also makes, in the most matter-of-fact manner, one of the most astonishing statements contained in this astonishing book. He mentions that "a very curious situation arose" during the trial at which Trotsky's assassin was sentenced to twenty years' imprisonment. All the documents disappeared.

Well, Mr. Gorkin owes that they are in his possession. He just thought they would be safer if he had them, so he got them, and he has put them somewhere where nobody can take them.

Imagine quietly abstracting all the exhibits of a trial of historical importance, and, what is more, being able to keep them. It must be fun to be forcing sometimes.

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Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
 Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
 Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
 Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

**Names Killer**

**Budenz Tells  
Of Slaying  
Of Trotsky**

NEW YORK, Nov. 16 (AP).—The New York World-Telegram and Sun said today that it had learned from Louis F. Budenz, former editor of the Communist Daily Worker, that the assassination of Leon Trotsky in 1940 in Mexico City was plotted by an agent of the Soviet Red Cross in America. After examining hundreds of photographs during the past five years, Budenz identified the man as Dr. Gregory Rabinowitch, who served as a representative of the Russian Red Cross in New York City from 1937 to 1939.

Budenz, who renounced communism in 1945 and rejoined the Catholic Church, said he knew Rabinowitch as "Mr. Roberts."

He said he introduced one Ruby Vell, a Red plant in the Trotskyite movement and a Stalinist follower, to Sylvia Ageloff, whose sister, Ruth, had worked as Trotsky's secretary. He said the women went to Paris where Miss Ageloff fell in love with A. Frank Jacson.

Budenz said Jacson was aided by Miss Ageloff in getting to Mexico where he attacked Trotsky with a pickaxe.

Budenz said he worked with "Mr. Roberts" for two years and aided him in getting information on the identity of Trotsky couriers and the location of mail drops used by Trotsky followers.

"It was not until 1941 that I learned that this quiet-voiced, grave-faced, intelligent man had arranged the preliminaries for one of the greatest political assassinations in recent years," Budenz was quoted as saying.

Rabinowitch is believed to have left the United States in 1939.

In Washington, a House Un-American Activities Committee spokesman said the committee has been investigating various phases of the Trotsky case, including activities in this country that led up to the assassination.

He said Budenz and others have been questioned about it and a report is being prepared. The nature of the evidence turned over by Budenz, the spokesman said, cannot be divulged until the committee completes its current inquiry and approves a report.

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Famous Crimes

# Trotsky Killer Near Freedom, But Death May Be as Close

By Laurance F. Stuntz

Associated Press Foreign Correspondent

MEXICO CITY, Sept. 20.—The murderer of Leon Trotsky, whoever he is, may walk out of jail some day soon a free man.

It has been 13 years since he killed Trotsky with an alpenstock. Today the slaying is as mysterious as it was then. So is the slayer.

He is eligible for parole this

This is another in the series of famous crimes—a story to which the ending still must be written.

year, but he may not ask it. He lives in relative luxury, with an income that may total \$350 a month. He can buy whatever he needs. His cell is an apartment. His girl friend visits him often.

More important, there have been many changes on the outside. Will he be welcomed into the web of political intrigue? Stalin—the man who expelled Trotsky and hounded him across two continents—is dead. Beria, who headed his dread secret police, is out of power. The slayer claims he bludgeoned Trotsky for personal reasons, but his statements never quieted the talk that this was a political killing.

### May Face Death.

Trotsky's widow said recently he is sure to be murdered if he leaves prison, to keep him from talking — something he has shown no inclination to do in confinement.

If he asks for parole—as he can after December 20—he probably will get it. His record had been one of perfect behavior. Is the present Russian government interested in the man who settled Stalin's quarrel with Trotsky? How much help could his mother—once a close friend of Beria—give him now?

On the answers may hang another life. On the other hand, the mystery may never be solved.

Kremlin files of the secret police might—or might not—throw some light on it, in the unlikely event of their being opened. Trotsky himself blamed Stalin and the secret police for the fatal attack, but there was never any concrete confirmation.

The killer swore he was not acting for the GPU (Russian secret police).

He has been identified as five different men. He may be Frank Jacson of Canada, Jacques Mornard of Belgium, Salvador Torkoff of Russia or Jacques Vandendreschd of Iran. Many Spaniards here know him as Ramon del Rio Mercader of Catalonia, Spain.

Whoever he is, his jail sentence will be up in 1960. He is eligible for parole this year by serving two-thirds of his sentence. But being a foreigner complicates his situation.

### May Escape Deportation.

Mornard—that is his name in the national penitentiary—normally would be deported after completing his sentence. But if he is paroled, the court might bar immigration authorities from deporting him.

Whenever he gets out, he will find a vastly changed world. When he killed Trotsky, Russia was ready to co-operate with anybody, even Hitler. She was generally respectful of public opinion in other countries.

Now he would find a Russia victorious in World War II and allied with Red China. She has swallowed Eastern Europe and is trying to digest Germany. She pays lip service to the United Nations, sometimes, but does not co-operate with the West.

If Mornard is Mercader, the fall of Beria should have interested him. Caridad Mercader, mother of Ramon and a Communist stalwart, was a protegee of Beria. At the time of the Trotsky killing, she was in Moscow, which may or may not be significant. Since the war she has left Russia and is now in Paris, living with a daughter married to a leading French Communist.

Trotsky was, with Lenin, the leading spirit in the Russian revolution. He improvised the armies which turned back the counterrevolutionary threat.

When Lenin died and Stalin began to grab for power, Trotsky

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resisted and was expelled. From exile he spotlighted every crack in the Soviet armor, put his caustic pen to work blasting at Stalin's departures from Marx's classical communism.

He so irritated the Russian ruler that Stalin prevailed on the Norwegian government to ask him to leave that country. Mexico offered asylum. He came here early in 1937 and continued his attacks. The sheaf of pronouncements from him in the files of the Associated Press bureau here is nearly 2 inches thick.

#### Easy Life in Mexico.

Trotsky's first three years in Mexico were easy. True, a police guard at his house was shot in the leg one night, but it happened several blocks away. Trotsky wrote, directed his fourth Internationale—the anti-Stalin Communists—and set out cactus in his walled garden.

In 1940 Mornard appeared on the scene. His appearance coincided with Trotsky's announcement that he was writing a biography of Stalin. It would not have been a friendly book.

Shortly after Mornard arrived there was an armed attack on the Trotsky house. About 20 men, some in rented military uniforms, entered by a gate in the wall. They fired about 300 shots and set off a few bombs. Trotsky and his wife escaped death by hiding under a bed as machine guns raked the room.

When the attackers left, one of the guards, a New Yorker named Sheldon Harte, went with them. Trotsky was convinced he went unwillingly. A month later Harte was found dead in a Mexico City suburb, shot in the back of the head.

Dozens of suspects were arrested but all except one were released for lack of evidence. This was David Alfaro Siqueiros, one of Mexico's famed mural painters. He had also been a colonel in the Loyalist Army during the Spanish Civil War. Siqueiros was released on bond of 25,000 pesos, then about \$5,000, and left the country.

#### Too Late to Prosecute.

He spent several years in Cuba and Chile, returning to Mexico after the war. Charges against him were not pressed. When Mrs. Trotsky demanded his trial, in a letter to newspapers in 1946, Siqueiros reported that she was mixing in Mexico's internal affairs. The statute of limitations now bars prosecution.

Mornard, meanwhile, had met Trotsky through a mutual friend and occasionally visited the latter.

The official police report on the investigation said that Mornard's car was used in the May attack on the Trotsky house. It also said that heavy trunks which Mornard brought to Mexico apparently contained the arms used in this assault.

On a rainy August 20, 1940, Mornard went to Trotsky's barricaded house. Since he was known, the guards let him enter without question. Over his arm he carried a tan raincoat.

Mornard found Trotsky feeding his pet rabbits in the courtyard. The two men talked briefly. Trotsky said wet grass was bad for rabbits. Then they went into the house so Trotsky could read the draft of an article written by Mornard.

After five minutes, the guards heard Trotsky cry out. They rushed in and found Trotsky, bleeding from a head wound, lying on the floor. Mornard stood over him. The alpenstock, a mountainer's ice ax, was in his hand. One guard started to slug Mornard with the barrel of his pistol but Trotsky said:

"Don't kill him boys; tie him up and make him talk."

A guard asked:

"It's the GPU which sent you, isn't it?"

"No, it's not the GPU," Mornard replied. "It's them . . ."

"Who? Come on, quickly."

"It's a man. I don't know who he is, but he made me do it."

"How did he make you?"

"They've got something on me. They are keeping my mother a prisoner."

Mrs. Mercader, remember, was in Moscow.

#### Died Next Day.

Trotsky was taken to a hospital where Mexico's best doc-

tors operated on him. Their efforts were fruitless. The ax point had damaged his brain. He died the next day.

Mornard told police he brought the alpenstock into the house under his raincoat. The handle had been cut down so it would fit. Police also found a 14-inch dagger in a sheath sewn into the pocket of the coat. Mornard also had a pistol tucked into the waistband of his trousers.

In his pocket police found a letter, dated that day, explaining his reasons for the kill. He said he had been a faithful Trotskyite but became "profoundly disillusioned" with Trotsky after meeting him. He said the reason was that Trotsky "proposed I should go to Russia to organize a series of attempts, the first one against Stalin."

Later, under questioning, he dropped his plea and said he had become angry when Trotsky criticized his article. He said he struck the old man once on the head and planned to commit suicide with the pistol.

During the trial he changed his story again. He said Trotsky called him "a military idiot" and he insulted Trotsky in return. The old Bolshevik, he said, reached for a pistol and in self-defense he struck him with an ax.

Trotsky's body was cremated and the ashes buried in the courtyard of his suburban house. His grave is still there, tended by his widow, who lives there in seclusion with a young grandson.

#### 20-Year Sentence.

Mornard's trial ground on for three years. Finally, in 1943, he was sentenced to 10½ years for the killing and six months more for carrying concealed weapons. The sentence dates from the formal charges against him, three days after Trotsky's death.

Mornard has had his ups and downs in the federal penitentiary, where he is the No. 1 prisoner. For a while, when Communist sympathizers held power in the prison administration, he had almost the stature of a deputy warden, able to issue orders in the vast, rambling, stone structure.

Later, when the administration changed, he lost his special powers. But his perfect behavior there is not a mark against him in his prison record—brought other privileges. He now owns and operates the prison radio shop, repairing receivers for prisoners and outside clients.

He still lives in the maximum security section—cell 27 in cell block No. 1. His quarters include a sleeping room, a living room and an open patio. There is only one sign of extra precautions in this block, where foreigners are usually lodged. The bars over his patio are only two inches apart, close enough to keep out a hand grenade. Some others have bars three inches apart, most have none at all.

Mornard is free to move around the prison, usually accompanied by two other prisoners, apparently bodyguards.

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Rebuffs Reporters.

He steadfastly has refused to talk to reporters, Mexican or foreign. To the latter he says shortly:

"I have nothing to say to the press."

To Mexican newsmen he is even more pointed:

"Go away, Mexican pigs."

His life in the prison is not uncomfortable. He eats in a commercial restaurant, run by prisoners. He has ample money to buy books, most of them on radio techniques.

Twice a week a Mexican girl visits him, under lenient Mexican prison rules permitting "conjugal visits" by wives or recognized sweethearts. His money, his lawyer says, comes from an account he opened when he first came to Mexico City. A disgruntled employe in the radio shop, a released prisoner, said recently Mornard receives 3,000 pesos (\$350) a month. If this is so, he has had \$42,000 since he was jailed, which points to a big bank account. The lawyer has refused to give any details.

Thirteen years of prison has changed Mornard only a little. He said he was 36 at the time of his arrest, which would make him 49 now. He looks about 40. He has gained a little weight and a great deal of self-assurance. During his trial he seemed either sullen or dazed. Now he has become arrogant and appears not the least worried.

Not even when he considers what may be awaiting him outside.



## Trotsky Assassin May Leave Prison

Mornard, who killed Stalinism's arch foe with a pick ax, has served 13 years of his 20-year term and may soon leave on parole, tho there is a speculation he may stay rather than face Trotskyite vengeance. He teaches machine work and radio repair—and did teach communism until stopped.

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Barefoot and stripped to the waist, Jacques Mornard, assassin of Leon Trotsky, scrubbed his cell at the "Black Castle of Lecumberri," Mexico's federal penitentiary. This picture was made several years ago, when Jacques was considerably thinner. He is not required to wear prison uniform. —United Press Photos

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# TROTSKY KILLER STILL REFUSES TO EXPLAIN ACT

## Mystery Man Believed Agent of Red Police

MEXICO CITY, Nov. 28 (INS). Leon Trotsky, dying from the wound of an ice ax plunged into his brain, cried out:

"Let him live. He must talk." That was 13 years ago.

The killer still has not talked.

They usually call him Jacques Mornard. He won't say who he is, where he came from, or why he killed the exiled Soviet leader.

And those who question him are rudely, sometimes violently, rebuffed.

Close-mouthed, Mornard works and studies relentlessly to drown the 20 years at the black palace of Lecumberri, Mexico City's federal penitentiary.

### Leads Comfortable Life

For a convict he leads a comfortable life. He has a private cell where his "wife" visits him twice a week. Special meals are sent to him from the outside. He often dresses in sports clothes. And he has achieved respect and privileges as boss of the prison's radio workshop.

Prison authorities say he no longer preaches Marxism and is no longer enraged by the "immorality" and "dishonesty" of other convicts. His manner is polite and he occasionally cracks a joke. Only the curious disturb him.

Six miles from Lecumberri, in the suburb of Coyoacan, lives Natalia Sedoff, Trotsky's frail widow, shut off from the world in the same house where her husband was attacked on the sunny afternoon of Aug. 20, 1940.

Mornard is believed to have begun his plot two years earlier in Paris, when he ingratiated himself with Sylvia Angoff, sister of Trotsky's former secretary. Sylvia became Mornard's mistress.

### Welcomed by Trotsky

Two years later she innocently introduced the two men and Mornard, professing to admire Trotsky, was welcomed in the Trotsky home. An inside job was the only way.

The house was barricaded and protected by police and armed guards. An all-out assault by 25 men on March 24, 1940, had failed. Trotsky and his wife escaped the machine-gun bullets which raked their room by jumping under the bed.

Mornard's task was easy. The two were alone in Trotsky's office. Trotsky, unsuspecting, sat down to read a manuscript Mornard had brought for comment and the author stood behind. He took the ice ax from the lining of his raincoat and drove it into Trotsky's brain.

The founder of the Red army died the next day.

Mornard was captured on the spot and would have been killed by Trotsky's followers had not the dying old man ordered:

"Let him live. He must talk."

Mornard gave police two names—Jacques Mornard Vandendresen and Frank Jackson. He said he was a Belgian newspaperman and was 36. That would make him 49 now.

### Gave Different Reasons

Then the confusion began. Mornard gave different reasons for the killing.

Gen. Leonardo Sanchez Salazar, chief investigator and then head of Mexico's secret police, is convinced Mornard was an agent of the GPU, the Soviet political police.

Mexican secret police announced this August they believe they have definitely identified Mornard. His fingerprints matched those of Ramon Mercader, Del Rio Hernandez, a Spanish Communist arrested in Barcelona in 1935.

The puzzle is embarrassing to the Mexican government. If Mornard is released he must be deported—but where to? On Dec. 20 Mornard will have completed two-thirds of his term and will have the right to ask for conditional release.

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# Trotsky's Assassin Fears Death Is Waiting Outside Prison Walls

United Press

Mexico City, Dec. 26 — Jacques Mornard, who assassinated Bolshevik Leon Trotsky 13 years ago, refused to make a bid for parole recently because he fears to leave his prison "sanctuary," Mexican authorities declare.

Mornard, whose real name has never been disclosed, killed the arch-rival of the late Josef Stalin with a pickaxe in Trotsky's heavily-fortified villa near here in 1940. He has completed two-thirds of his 20-year sentence for the murder, and is eligible for parole.

But, the steely-eyed assassin has made no move to seek liberty, even though he has been eligible to apply for parole for six months. Authorities are convinced that both friends of the murdered Trotsky and agents of the Soviet regime are waiting here to kill him if he ever tries to leave prison.

#### Used 11 Aliases

Mornard, who is known to have used 11 other aliases in his career, never has disclosed who ordered him to slay Trotsky. The revolutionist gasped out a statement before he died that he was convinced his assassin was a member of Stalin's secret police, but Mornard himself never has disclosed his nationality.

Authorities think the Soviets are anxious to seal Mornard's lips permanently.

During his years in Mexico City's model prison, Mornard has been supplied by funds from a mysterious source and has lived in comparative luxury. Reporters and agents of several governments have attempted to interview him in the past, but he has steadfastly refused to see them.

#### Pair Became Friends

The U. S. FBI and Britain's Scotland Yard held a joint investigation of Trotsky's assassination.

Mornard came to Mexico from France several months before the assassination, on

what he claimed later was a vacation trip. Once here he managed to ingratiate himself with Trotsky and was given complete freedom of the villa. On the night of the slaying, he removed the villa telephone from its receiver, and moved

in swiftly on Trotsky, clutching an alpenstock, a mountain climber's pickaxe. He apparently intended to shoot his way to freedom after striking Trotsky down but the villa's guards surprised him before he could reach his gun.

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Belmont
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Mohr
- Mr. Tamm
- Mr. Winterrowd
- Tele. Room
- Mr. Holloman
- Miss Gandy



Mexico City, Dec. 26 — Jacques Mornard, left, slayer of Leon Trotsky in 1940, is treated for a hand infection in Mexico City prison recently. The mysterious killer has refused to apply for parole after serving more than 13 years of a 20 year sentence. Mexican newspapers claim he "apparently is content behind the safety of penitentiary walls." — AP Wirephoto.

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THE MIAMI DAILY NEWS  
 MIAMI, FLORIDA  
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Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Mr. Sizoo \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
 Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

BRANIGAN

(TROTSKY ASSASSIN)  
 MEXICO CITY--JACQUES MORNARD, IMPRISONED ASSASSIN OF BOLSHEVIK LEADER  
 LEON TROTSKY, WILL BE TURNED DOWN IN HIS REQUEST FOR PAROLE, A HIGH  
 MEXICAN OFFICIAL SAID.

HERACLIO RODRIGUEZ, CHIEF OF THE INTERIOR MINISTRY'S SOCIAL WELFARE  
 DEPARTMENT, SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD DENY MORNARD'S BID FOR FREEDOM FOR  
 "GOOD REASONS." BUT RODRIGUEZ DECLINED TO ELABORATE ON THOSE REASONS.

WHEN MORNARD'S ATTORNEY FILED A PETITION FOR THE ASSASSIN'S  
 RELEASE LAST THURSDAY IT WAS BELIEVED THAT MORNARD WOULD BE GRANTED  
 LIBERTY AS A MATTER OF COURSE.

MORNARD, WHO DROVE A PICKAXE INTO THE BRAIN OF THE LATE JOSEF  
 STALIN'S ARCH-RIVAL IN 1940, HAS COMPLETED MORE THAN TWO-THIRDS OF  
 HIS SENTENCE. HIS PRISON BEHAVIOR HAS BEEN GOOD AND HE HAD NO PREVIOUS  
 CRIMINAL RECORD.

JOSEFEARAH, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE FEDERAL DISTRICT PENITENTIARY  
 WHERE MORNARD HAS BEEN A "MODEL PRISONER" FOR 14 YEARS, SPECULATED  
 THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD DENY HIS REQUEST FOR EARLY RELEASE ON THE  
 GROUNDS THAT HE ENTERED THE COUNTRY ILLEGALLY WITH THE INTENTION OF  
 COMMITTING MURDER.

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WASHINGTON CITY NEWS SERVICE

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MEXICO CITY.--THE ASSASSIN OF EXILED SOVIET LEADER LEON TROTSKY WAS ORDERED TODAY TO SERVE HIS FULL 20-YEAR SENTENCE. IT HAD BEEN REPORTED HE MIGHT BE PAROLED.

THE COURT RULED YESTERDAY THAT JACQUES MORNARD MUST SERVE THE 20-YEAR-SENTENCE IMPOSED ON HIM IN 1943 FOR THE MURDER.

IN TURNING DOWN MORNARD'S APPEAL THE COURT CALLED THE KILLING "A CAREFULLY PLANNED" PLOT TO REMOVE THE BIGGEST THREAT TO INTERNATIONAL COMMUNISM.

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*RE: MORNARD*

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TROTSKY KILLER--The Mexican Minister of the Interior has refused to grant parole to Jacques Mornard, Leon Trotsky's murderer. The department of social welfare of the Ministry rejected Mornard's application because it considers him potentially dangerous. (HCJB Quito, Jan. 20, 1955, 1230 CMT--E)

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 Mr. Sizoo \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
 Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

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*(P. M. R.)*  
*Belmont*  
*Harbo*

(MORNARD)  
 MEXICO CITY.--THE NEWSPAPER NOVEDADES REPORTED JACQUES MORNARD, WHO MURDERED PIONEER COMMUNIST LEON TROTSKY HERE 15 YEARS AGO, WILL BE RELEASED FROM PRISON "WITHIN THREE DAYS."  
 THE PICKAXE MURDERER BECAME ELIGIBLE FOR PAROLE LAST YEAR, BUT MEXICAN AUTHORITIES HAVE REFUSED SO FAR TO RELEASE HIM BECAUSE HE WILL NOT REVEAL HIS TRUE IDENTITY. MORNARD IS KNOWN TO BE AN ALIAS, AND THE CANADIAN PASSPORT WITH WHICH HE ENTERED MEXICO HAS BEEN PROVED FALSE.

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Mr. Ladd	.....
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Mr. Rosen	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Mohr	.....
Mr. Winterrowd	.....
Tele. Room	.....
Mr. Holloman	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

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*Jacques Mornard*

# Trotsky's Murderer Wants Out



**JACQUES MORNARD**  
... seeks parole

LEON TROTSKY'S murderer has begun a new move to force the Mexican government to free him on parole. Jacques Mornard, who fatally wounded the exiled Soviet leader with an ice ax in Mexico City in 1940, was due for a parole in 1953. He asked for the parole a year and a half ago but received no reply, he said, so he is seeking an injunction against the government, on the ground that public officials must respect the right of petition.

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TROTSKY AND LENIN

# Re-Writing History, From 2 View Points

MEXICO CITY, March 9 (AP)—Leon Trotsky's 74-year-old widow charged today the efforts of the Russian Communist Party to picture the murdered Bolshevik leader as the ideological enemy of Lenin "are merely their usual method to quiet the protests of the Russian people."

Trotsky's murderer said, meanwhile, he believed Mrs. Trotsky would never achieve her goal of clearing the name of the founder of the Red army.

Mrs. Natalia Sedova Trotsky and Jacques Mornard, Trotsky's confessed assassin, expressed strong disagreement over the recent softening of communist attitude toward Trotsky, who until his murder in 1940 threatened to split world communism wide open.

### SENTENCE

"Tyrants govern the people of Russia and for that reason, to calm popular discontent, they invent and make fashionable facts that are contrary to those which have been perfectly well established by the supreme sentence of history," Mrs. Trotsky said.

She sent a telegram recently to the Supreme Soviet asking her husband's name be cleared of "spy and traitor" charges.

She refused to accept the Communist Party's recent attempt to present Trotsky's "Fourth International" as being merely anti-Lenin.

### LIES

"It is not possible that the Russian people will continue to listen to these lies," she said. "This is merely a continuation of the same system of poisoning the people's minds started by Stalin."

Trotsky's mysterious assassin, who crushed Trotsky's skull with an alpenstock 16 years ago, was interviewed in his prison cell. He has completed two-thirds of his 20-year sentence.

The quiet, bespectacled killer, who has never revealed his true identity or the motives for the slaying, said the attempt to restore Trotsky's name "is a matter pertaining only to the state and not to individuals."

"Political affairs such as this will be judged by history and perhaps history will judge me kindly."

### LOCATION

Mrs. Trotsky said in addition to clearing Trotsky's name she is "desperately anxious" to learn the whereabouts of her son, Segio Sedov, who disappeared 20 years ago, and was presumably sent to a concentration camp following Trotsky's break with Stalin.

She said she wrote the Supreme Soviet recently "with very little hope," asking for information concerning her son.

She said she knew nothing about Berlin reports she might be invited to return to Russia.

"I will never go while the men who were the accomplices of Stalin govern there," she said. "Any such invitation could not be sincere and I would be placed in the position of condoning the murder of Trotsky."



MRS. NATALIA TROTSKY



JACQUES MORNARD

- Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Boardman \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Parsons \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
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- Mr. Sizoo \_\_\_\_\_
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- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
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- Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

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- Wash. Post and Times-Herald \_\_\_\_\_
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# Trotsky's Widow To Get Soviet Bid

BERLIN, March 6 (INS).— Russian sources said Tuesday that the widow of Leon Trotsky, exiled Soviet leader who was murdered in 1940, would be invited to return to Moscow from Mexico City.

Trotsky's widow appealed during last month's historic 20th Soviet Communist Party Congress that his name be rehabilitated. He was denounced during the purge trials of the 1930s as an "enemy of the people."

The Soviet sources said the Kremlin invitation to his widow would be made soon.

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### Trotsky Killer's Release Held Up

MEXICO CITY, March 22 — The Mexican government Interior Ministry filed an appeal today blocked immediate freedom for Jacques Mornard, assassin of Leon Trotsky, as his long legal fight to obtain release on parole neared the end. Twenty-four hours after a Mexican court upheld Mornard's demand for parole, the Interior Ministry filed an appeal against the court ruling, thereby postponing Mornard's release indefinitely. At the same time, the prison "grapevine" reported Trotsky slayer had lost the soft job and special privileges he had enjoyed.

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- Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

(MORNARD)  
 MEXICO CITY--THE MURDERER OF LEON TROTSKY GOT HIS FOOT IN THE  
 DOORWAY TO FREEDOM TODAY WHEN A MEXICAN COURT UPHELD HIS DEMAND FOR  
 PAROLE.  
 THE INTERIOR MINISTRY COULD SLAM THE DOOR BY FILING AN APPEAL  
 WITHIN 72 HOURS.  
 JACQUES-MORNARD WON A COURT INJUNCTION AGAINST THE MINISTRY'S  
 PRIOR DECISION THAT HE WAS "TOO DANGEROUS" TO TURN LOOSE.

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52 MAR 28 1956

WASHINGTON CITY NEWS SERVICE

*File 60*

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MORWARD)

MEXICO CITY--A SPECIAL GUARD HAS BEEN PLACED AROUND JACQUES MORWARD, WHO KILLED COMMUNIST LEADER LEON TROTSKY IN 1940, FOLLOWING AN ALLEGED ATTEMPT ON HIS LIFE IN THE MEXICO CITY PENITENTIARY. IT WAS DISCLOSED.

PRISON OFFICIALS SAID THEY THOUGHT MORWARD'S CLAIM THAT SOMEONE TRIED TO KILL HIM WAS A "FARCE" TO BOLSTER HIS CAMPAIGN FOR PAROLE. BUT THEY ADDED THEY "CAN'T TAKE ANY CHANCES," SO THE SPECIAL GUARD WAS ORDERED.

THE NEWSPAPER OVACIONES DECLARED THAT "THE RED HAND OF CRIMINAL COMMUNISM" ENTERED THE PRISON TO TRY TO ELIMINATE MORWARD AS HIS BID FOR FREEDOM NEARED A CLIMAX IN CIRCUIT COURT.

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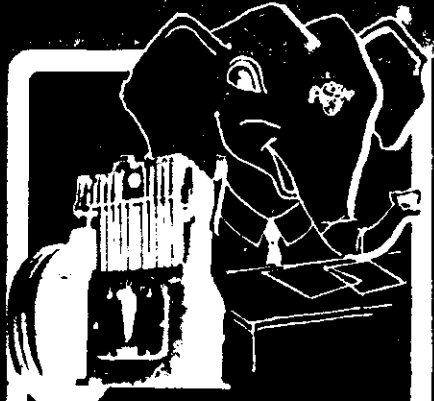


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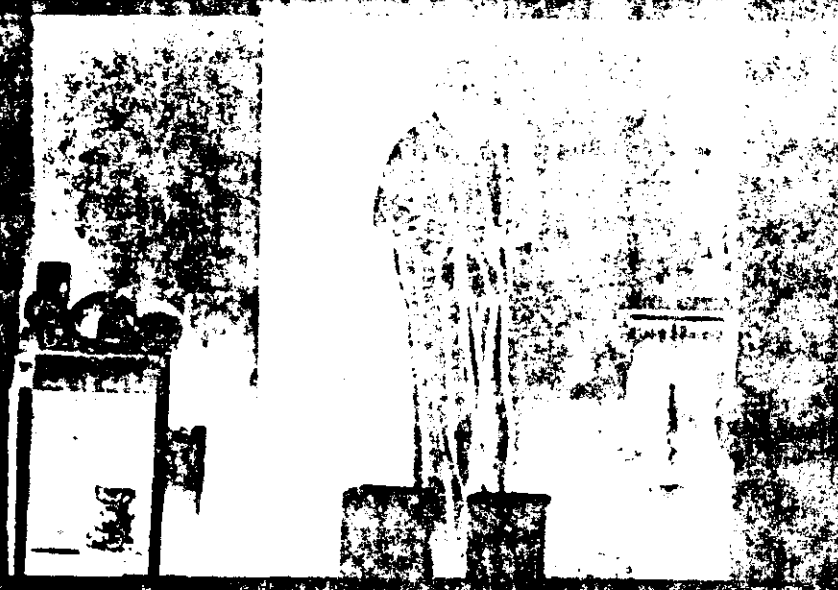
MEMO  
FROM MEXICO

# THE HAND OF STALIN

MEXICO CITY—The Kremlin has gone far enough in revealing Joseph Stalin's crimes, may clear up the biggest mystery—the reasons for the former archrival Leon Trotsky's assassination. And the Kremlin may be able to tell also who the assassin really is.

The burly man who killed Trotsky, carried in the penitentiary by Jacques Mornard, but that is almost certainly a fictitious name. According to one story, he is a Spanish Communist who was recruited in Spain to liquidate Trotsky. Other opinions are to the effect that he is a Belgian, an Italian or Bulgarian. He entered Mexico with documents indicating that he was a United States citizen, and once in Ciudad Juarez.

Mornard, who expects to be released from prison soon, refuses to talk, but is believed that Moscow knows exactly who he is, where he came from and why.



TROTSKY'S ASSASSIN HAS PROSPECTS OF LEAVING THIS JAIL SITE. Then Stalinists may kill him for what he knows, Trotskyites for what he did

906

was introduced to them as "Frank's son," early in 1940. Mornard became friendly that he soon was able to go in and out of the villa without being challenged by the guards whom the Mexican Government had stationed there to protect Stalin's enemy.

**Two attempts:** The first attempt at assassination was made on May 21, 1940, when a gang of 21 men poured machine gun bullets through the window of the room where the Trotskys were sleeping. The Trotskys were unhurt, and Trotsky publicly blamed "Stalin and the secret police" for having tried to kill him. Mornard, however, was not linked to that attempt; his time came soon afterward.

On August 20, Mornard called on the Trotskys, found them in their garden and told Trotsky he wanted to show him a manuscript. The two men went into the study. Minutes later, the guards outside heard Trotsky scream. Running into the study, they found that Mornard had beaten Trotsky's skull with a short-handled pickax of the kind used by mountain climbers. The wounded man died the next day.

While Mornard was in the hospital recovering from the injuries that he had suffered while resisting arrest, police searched his person and his living quarters. They found no clues as to his identity. They did find, however, a statement to the effect that he had planned the crime because Trotsky had interfered in his romance with an American girl and had tried to send him on Russia on a sabotage mission.

**Prison de luxe:** Mornard was tried in 1943 and sentenced to 20 years in prison. During his imprisonment he has lived comfortably. Much of the time he has occupied a suite of rooms and enjoyed luxuries bought with ample funds provided by his attorney. The source of those funds never has been disclosed.

Since Mornard became eligible for parole by serving two thirds of his term, his attorney has been fighting for his release. After being turned down by the parole board, he recently carried the case into court, and won. Now the Ministry of the Interior has delayed Mornard's release by appealing the case to a higher court.

If Mornard wins freedom, as he expects, he will be subject to deportation on the ground that he entered Mexico illegally. Once he is free, however, he may not live to face deportation proceedings.

Mexican officials believe that Trotskyites are awaiting the day when they can avenge their leader's death, and that Stalinists are ready to silence Mornard forever. Unless Mornard decides to tell the whole story before his release or the Kremlin issues an explanation, the world may never know why Leon Trotsky was killed and who his assassin really is.

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### Slayer of Trotsky Is Denied Release

MEXICO CITY, Dec. 20 (AP).—  
 The slayer of Leon Trotsky will  
 have to serve out his full 20-year  
 prison sentence, which ends Au-  
 gust 20, 1960.

A final court of appeals has  
 rejected the petition of Jacques  
 Mornard, trying since 1954 to  
 get his freedom under a law per-  
 mitting release for good behav-  
 ior after serving two-thirds of a  
 sentence.

The three judges' unanimous  
 ruling said Mornard remains a  
 dangerous criminal, that he has  
 shown no repentance for killing  
 the exiled Russian revolutionary  
 in 1940, and that he still won't  
 answer questions about his real  
 identity and why he killed  
 Trotsky.

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*Life Magazine 9-28-57*

*Secrets of An Assassin (Art)*

*By Isaac Don Levine*

*James Earl Ray*

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# Book Labels Trotsky Killer Robot of Future

By **OLAND D. RUSSELL**  
Scripps-Howard Staff Writer

ON Aug. 20 next, the murderer of Leon Trotsky will be set free in Mexico City after completing a 20-year sentence for his famous killing with a short-handled ice ax.

He is the most composed, dedicated and perfectly adjusted assassin in all history, who for 20 years has never admitted his real identity. To do so would reveal that he is a Stalinist agent, schooled from early youth for the bloody riddance of Stalin's greatest enemy — Trotsky.

But the life of Ramon Mercader becomes an open book with the publication of Isaac Don Levine's "The Mind of an Assassin" (Farrar, Straus and Cudahy, \$4.50). Mr. Levine, biographer of both Lenin and Stalin, is one of the world's leading authorities on the darker machinations of the Soviet Union.

### TWO VISITS

In preparing this book, Mr. Levine has twice visited Mexico City and saw the assassin in prison, the last time as recently as only a few months ago. More importantly, he has had access to the amazing psychological study of Mercader by two expert criminologists. This record alone is 1359 pages long, forming more than half of the entire court record of the case.

Mr. Levine concludes that Mercader, now 45, is a missionary of the Stalinist-type communist faith, and is beyond redemption. He typifies the modern political assassin who is to be found in the special character of the cult in which he has enlisted for life. His code of conduct dictates that "morality is a bourgeois heritage, humanity an abstract entity and murder a mere mechanical exercise."

### CRIME ANALYSIS

Thus, says Mr. Levine, he turns out to be the prototype of the coming race as seen from Moscow in which man and machine alike will be harnessed twins. "Beneath the mask of the prisoner in Mexico lurks the Kremlin's happy robot of the future," is Mr. Levine's frightening summation.

Despite the complexity of the roster of characters in this book, it is documented crime analysis of the highest order. Mr. Levine is a pleasantly smooth writer who has organized his material well and produced a top-grade thriller based on fact.

What will happen to Mercader when he is set free? The prospects are many, but two are likely: Either he may be done in by a Trotsky avenger, or, escaping that fate, he will be smuggled out in glory by communist agents and go to his adopted fatherland, Russia. There he will be greeted as proper recipient of the Order of the Hero of the Soviet Union—and wear a medal such as adorned Nikita Khrushchev on his visit to America.

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*Don Levine*

- The Washington Post and Times Herald \_\_\_\_\_
- The Washington Daily News \_\_\_\_\_
- The Evening Star \_\_\_\_\_
- New York Herald Tribune \_\_\_\_\_
- New York Journal-American \_\_\_\_\_
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## Prague Plans Welcome for Trotsky Killer

MUNICH, Feb. 29 (NANA). —The assassin of Leon Trotsky, who goes by the name of Jacques Mornard, is reported planning to settle in Czechoslovakia when he is released in August from prison in Mexico City.

A villa is being prepared for occupancy by Mornard in a suburb of Prague popular with leading Czech Communist functionaries, according to information obtained by United States officials.

It is said that Mornard, now 47, will take up the career of a "writer."

Apparently by way of preparing a welcome for Mornard, a Prague newspaper recently published a story describing his imprisonment as a frameup. The Czechoslovakia newspaper claimed Mornard killed Trotsky in self-defense as the climax to a violent quarrel about Communist ideology.

Mornard murdered Trotsky on August 20, 1940, smashing his skull with an Alpine pick he carried—concealed in a raincoat—into the study of Trotsky's home in Coyacan, a Mexico City suburb. Mornard was sentenced to 20 years retroactive to the date of the murder.

Mornard's imprisonment has been distinguished by his mysterious affluence and his silence.

These two characteristics apparently are related and help to explain the pains being taken for Mornard's reception here. The villa selected for him is luxurious, and the assassin apparently is to live on the scale of a senior Communist official.

The Czechs appear to have no doubt that Mornard will head for the Iron Curtain as soon as he steps out of Ixtalapa Penitentiary.

But there is nothing about the Prague preparations suggesting that the Communists intend lifting the curtain on the secret of his identity.

The assassin entered Mexico on a Canadian passport identifying him as "Frank Jackson." After his arrest he claimed to be a Belgian named Jacques Mornard.

His real identity is believed to be Ramon Mercador Del Rio, a Spanish Communist whose mother, Caridad, was the mistress during the Spanish civil war of Leonid Eitingon, a Soviet secret police general who subsequently organized Trotsky's assassination.

But all indications from Prague point to Mornard's keeping his silence after he leaves prison.

- The Washington Post and Times Herald \_\_\_\_\_
- The Washington Daily News \_\_\_\_\_
- The Evening Star \_\_\_\_\_
- New York Herald Tribune \_\_\_\_\_
- New York Journal-American \_\_\_\_\_
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# Trotsky Assassin Free, Believed in Cuba

HAVANA, May 7 (AP).— Jacques Mornard, the man who assassinated Russian revolutionary Leon Trotsky 20 years ago, was believed hiding from vengeance killers in Havana today after his release from a Mexican prison.

Freed more than three months, before his 20-year sentence expires August 20, Mornard was spirited out of Mexico yesterday to avoid a possible attempt on his life by Trotskyites bent on avenging their slain leader.

Trotsky's widow, who still lives in Mexico City, said Mornard might be heading for a similar fate as her husband. Trotsky was slain at his home in exile in Mexico in the late summer of 1940. Mrs. Trotsky called Mornard a "Kremlin hatchet man."

"Mornard goes now to his reward or elimination," wry, 20-year-old Natalia Sedova Trotsky told a reporter when she learned the assassin was whisked out of the country.

Mexican officials said Mornard had left under the name Jacques Van Dendresch, accompanied by two Czech embassy officials — Oldrich Novicky and Eduard Fuchas. They said the party planned to check in at Havana's Hotel Nacional.

A source at Havana's International Airport said a passenger listed as Jacques Van Dendresch, carrying a Czechoslovak passport, had arrived from Mexico City aboard a Cuban airliner.

A check of Havana's larger hotels failed to turn up anyone registered under Van Dendresch or Mornard. Informed Mexican sources said Mornard would go to Europe later and then to Czechoslovakia. He was issued a Czech passport.



Jacques Mornard (right), assassin of Russian revolutionary Leon Trotsky 20 years ago, stands in an airliner in Mexico City with his lawyer, Eduardo Cinceros.—AP Wirephoto.

wife went to Mexico to live in 1937.

Mornard appeared in 1939 and won the affections of Sylvia Ageloff, a Brooklyn girl who was planning to join Trotsky's secretarial staff. He identified himself as Frank Jackson of Toronto, Canada.

Mornard was known to know Trotsky, expressed admiration for the old revolutionary and offered to write articles for him. He gained easy access to Trotsky's guarded home and strolled in on August 20, 1940, carrying a mountain-climbing axe under his raincoat.

Trotsky was in his garden. Mornard lured him to the study to read an article. As Trotsky sat at the desk, he swung the axe. Trotsky died 26 hours later in a hospital.

Mornard was arrested and after a long trial was sentenced to 20 years, the maximum for murder in Mexico.

Cuban visa, several months ago.

Mexico granted Mornard provisional liberty last Wednesday and ordered him out as an undesirable alien. Interior Ministry agents had taken him from the prison yesterday and put him aboard a plane bound for Havana.

Mornard's deportation touched off a sensation in Mexico.

where he had become famous since he buried an ax in Trotsky's head in the late summer of 1940.

Trotsky was Lenin's partner in masterminding the Bolshevik revolution. He was forced into exile by Stalin after Lenin's death in a fight for power stemming from differences over Communist theory. After roaming Europe, Trotsky and his

- The Washington Post and Times Herald \_\_\_\_\_
- The Washington Daily News \_\_\_\_\_
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- New York Herald Tribune \_\_\_\_\_
- New York Journal-American \_\_\_\_\_
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- The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_
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## Mexicans Free Trotsky's Killer; He Leaves in Czechs' Company

Continued From Page 1, Col. 4

in 1954. His previous pleas were denied.

The ministry said Mornard had been freed ahead of time to avoid possible troubles officials here feared would accompany a publicized release of the man. Immigration officials took Mornard from the penitentiary just before noon. They accompanied him in a prison van about a mile to the main highway junction, where he was transferred to a government limousine.

The road passes close to the airport. The limousine drove onto the ramp where the plane of Cubana's Flight 465, scheduled to depart at 1:30 P. M., was warming its engines. There Mornard was met by the Czechoslovak diplomats Oldrich Novicky and Edward Foulches, who made the flight with him.

At the plane Mornard had a tearful parting with his common-law wife, Roqualia Mendoza. Mexican criminal law allows what is known as conjugal visits for prisoners in the penitentiary and the woman had been recognized as his wife since 1946. It was understood that she would follow him later.

Several years ago, Dr. Alfonso Diaz Quaron, a Mexican criminologist, who had been active in the investigations of the Trotsky assassination, visited Spain. From his research there, Dr. Diaz Quaron said, he was convinced Mornard was, in reality, a young Spanish Communist named Ramon Mercader.

Ever since the killing of the exiled Trotsky, Mornard or Mercader has been the subject of world-wide speculation. He has never publicly divulged his identity or admitted any of the details behind the assassination or said who, if anyone, may have directed his act. In fact, he has insisted it was not premeditated.

Mexican officials have said that Mornard himself feared he would be killed by pro-Trotsky elements soon after his release. The surprise departure seemed designed to avoid this happening in Mexico.



Associated Press

Jacques Mornard

### Visitor Was Admitted

In the afternoon of Aug. 20, 1940, guards at Leon Trotsky's villa in a suburb of Mexico City admitted a tall, dark man wearing a British trenchcoat.

Only three months before a band of men had gained entry, sprayed the Trotsky bedroom with machine-gun fire, and fled in the night taking with them a guard who later was found slain. Trotsky and his wife, aroused by the noise, had rolled under their bed before the shooting began. They were unharmed.

But on that August afternoon the visitor was admitted without question. For eight months he had been so frequent a caller that, one of the guards said later, "he seemed to be one of the family."

A few minutes later, screams came from the study. Guards rushed in and found the visitor standing over the fallen Trotsky, who had been struck in the head many times with a short-handled axe.

The following day, the 60-

year-old former ~~was~~ Commissar of the Soviet Union died.

He died, as he had lived for most of his life, in exile—far from St. Petersburg [now Leningrad] and Moscow where, with Lenin, he had led the Bolshevik Revolution. He was ousted from power and, in 1929, expelled by Stalin.

His assassination caused a world-wide sensation. It was widely believed the slayer had been sent by Stalin to erase a still active foe and possible rival.

The assassin was known to his victim and his guards as Frank Jackson, an American writer and Trotskyite. He was said to have carried a Canadian passport.

But he told the police he was Jacques Mornard van den Dreschd, born in Persia, and was the son of a Belgian diplomat. A Belgian envoy who interviewed him in jail denied this; the prisoner spoke with a Swiss rather than a French accent, he reported.

Mornard told the police he had been a Trotskyite but had fallen out with his leader because Trotsky had sought to send him on a mission of assassination to the Soviet Union, and had prevented his marriage.

Throughout his imprisonment Mornard stubbornly kept his secrets. Late in 1953 he became eligible for parole. Three times thereafter he applied for it, and three times was rejected. The authorities explained that he had refused to cooperate.

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# TROTSKY'S KILLER FREED BY MEXICO

Takes Cuba-Bound Plane in  
Company of Czech Aides

Special to The New York Times.

MEXICO CITY, May 6—In a surprise move today, the Mexican Government freed Jacques Mornard, convicted of killing Leon Trotsky, the Soviet revolutionary leader, on Aug. 20, 1940.

An hour after his release from the Federal District Penitentiary, Mornard was aboard a Cuban Airlines plane on his way to Czechoslovakia by way of Cuba with a Czech diplomatic passport.

Officials said that Mornard was bound for Prague and would assume Czechoslovak citizenship after his arrival in that Communist capital. He will remain in Cuba a week, the official said, before departing by ship for Europe.

The Interior Ministry said Mornard had virtually completed his twenty-year sentence and was eligible for parole. The assassin first applied for parole

Continued on page 4, Column 2

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DONAHUE

UPI-49

(TROTSKY)

HAVANA, CUBA.--JACQUES MORNARD, ASSASSIN OF COMMUNIST REBEL LEON TROTSKY IN 1940, WAS BELIEVED IN DANGER OF ASSASSINATION HIMSELF TODAY FOLLOWING HIS SECRET RELEASE FROM A 20-YEAR PRISON TERM IN MEXICO CITY AND DEPORTATION TO CUBA.

MORNARD SAID BEFORE LEAVING MEXICO CITY THAT HE WAS A CZECH NATIONAL AND WOULD GO TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA AFTER A FEW DAYS IN CUBA. MEXICAN AUTHORITIES BELIEVE HE IS A SPANIARD.

THE MEXICAN INTERIOR MINISTRY ANNOUNCED LAST NIGHT THAT MORNARD HAD BEEN FREED AFTER SERVING ALL BUT FOUR MONTHS OF HIS SENTENCE. HE WAS PUT ON A PLANE TO CUBA BEFORE THE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE.

INFORMED SOURCES SAID HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY TWO CZECHS WITH DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS. HE HAD A CZECH PASSPORT HIMSELF UNDER THE NAME OF JACQUES M. BARBERDRESCHED.

CUBAN AIRLINE OFFICIALS CONFIRMED THAT THE HOLDERS OF THE THREE CZECH PASSPORTS ARRIVED HERE, BUT MORNARD IMMEDIATELY WENT INTO HIDING AND COULD NOT BE TRACED.

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57 MAY 27 1960

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

133 MAY 28 1960

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# Why Trotsky Had to Be Slain

By VIRGINIA PREWETT

The disappearance of Jacques Mornard, murderer of Trotsky, after 20 years in a Mexican prison recalls a communist murder-and-spy drama that in its day shook the world far more than the U-2 flight over the Urals.

This writer, doing a book on Mexico, came to know one inside fact about the Trotsky killing that could not be publicized then nor for a long time afterwards.

### RED FACED

It was why Trotsky's murder had become imperative even tho it profoundly embarrassed the one regime that at that time was sincerely Russia's friend—Mexico's.

For years before the murder, Lazaro Cardenas, a precursor of Cuba's Fidel Castro, had waged a propaganda war against the U. S. from the president's palace in Mexico City. Expropriation of U. S. properties and agrarian reform on the Soviet model had made headlines, and extremists elsewhere had echoed the battle cry.

Nazi Germany meanwhile had moved in to capitalize on the anti-Americanism. With fancy trade pacts very like the ones Russia and Poland have made recently with Cuba, they sought political penetration.

Nazism planned uprisings at the Panama Canal, massacres of American communities in Latin America, a New Germany for South America, and other horrors.

At that time the U. S. government had no intelligence service operating overseas at all.

### SACRIFICE

U. S. Army and Navy officers, who as naval and military attaches gathered what information they could, were miserably handicapped by their conspicuous positions as embassy officials and weavers of their country's uniforms. They had no funds with which to buy information, tho many did lay out all they could squeeze from their personal pay.

The U. S. foreign correspondents in the region were few and completely untrained as compared with the skilled Russian and German espionage agents, they also did what they could to dribble information into our government's files.

The largest group of skilled conspirators in all Latin America at the time—outside of the communists and Nazis—were the Trotskyites.

They were particularly inconvenient for the communists, whose every secret they were able to fathom.

Trotsky had been a fugitive from Stalinist wrath for years. He came to Mexico

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He was bargaining with the U. S. State Department for a visa into a last haven of safety—the United States. The service he was rendering in advance was vital intelligence information gathered by his party.

And this is why, at last, he had to be killed.

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# Trotsky Slayer Reaches Cuba; Goes in Hiding

HAVANA, May 7 (AP).— Jacques Mornard, the man who assassinated Leon Trotsky 20 years ago, went into hiding in Havana today and was believed heading for communist territory to escape revenge.

Spirited out of Mexico after serving a 20-year prison sentence, the mysterious killer arrived last night aboard a Cubana Airlines plane.

The semi-official newspaper *Revolucion* said he was carrying a transient visa and was escorted by two members of the Czechoslovak embassy in Mexico City.

*Revolucion* identified his escorts as Oldrich Novicky and Eparad Fuches. These were the same names given by Mexican police, who added that Mornard, a man of many aliases, was traveling under the name of Jacques van Dendresch.

### WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN

However, none of the name appeared in the registers of any of Havana's leading hotels. Cuban officials denied any knowledge of Mornard's whereabouts or plans.

Natalia Sedova Trotsky, wiry, 80-year-old widow of the slain Communist leader, was told in Mexico City of Mornard's departure.

"Mornard now goes to his reward or elimination," she said.

Trotsky was Lenin's partner during the Russian revolution and was forced into exile by Stalin during the power struggle following Lenin's death. He settled in Mexico in 1937. Mornard appeared in 1939, worked his way into Trotsky's confidence and killed him with a mountain-climbing axe on Aug. 20, 1940.

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### The Leon Trotsky Case

Echoes of still another sensational cloak-and-dagger case got only scant headlines over the weekend.

This one happened 20 years ago. A Stalinist agent complete with faked passports and many aliases showed up in Mexico. Posing as a friend, he connived his way into the presence of Leon Trotsky and brutally killed the unarmed exile with a short-handled ax. Trotsky of course was an active foe of Stalin and a possible rival for the tyrant's power.

Now the killer has been freed after serving a Mexican prison term and, not surprisingly, he has been escorted by Red agents to safe haven in Cuba. Later he is expected to go to Czechoslovakia, or perhaps Russia, where honors undoubtedly await him.

It serves to show that when Communist leaders have serious business at hand they pay no attention to national borders. And not even Khrushchev, no friend of Stalin's, is likely ever to explain away that murder-espionage crime of 1940. Candor is never a weakness of the Reds.

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THE HOUSTON PRESS  
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GEORGE CARMACK, Editor  
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# Trotsky Case Reflects Red Tactics

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At the precise moment when the Soviet Union was self-righteously raging over an act of American espionage, it was quietly but quite surely tying up the loose end of one of its own intrigues of 20 years old.

This was the assassination of Leon Trotsky on Aug. 20, 1940, in his Mexican City villa.

The assassin, Ramon Mercader, was released May 6 from a Mexican penitentiary. He was at once picked up by two diplomats from the Soviet's most obedient satellite, Czechoslovakia, and with them he flew to Havana. There, from Prague, came two other Czech officials.

Cuba was to be only a temporary shelter. Perhaps aboard one of the tankers docked under a recent Soviet-Cuban oil-sugar deal, Mercader was reported en route to the Czech capital, headquarters for Spanish Communists exiled after the Spanish Civil War.

### Never Acknowledged

At no time in two decades has the Soviet Union acknowledged its role in the affair. To concede that Moscow plotted Trotsky's murder—on friendly foreign soil—that it financed a near-posh existence for the murderer in his 20 years in jail and that it engineered his flight would be to prick a nest

of domestic and international hornets.

Nor could Mercader ever admit a link with the Kremlin. If his silence were not ensured by the knowledge that he would some day lose the security of jail, there was another way.

According to Julian Gorkin, a Spanish journalist familiar with the case, the Soviets have held Mercader's brother a hostage for 20 years to guarantee Ramon's discretion. The brother, Luis, a mechanical engineer, in 1944 was quoted as saying he could never leave Moscow until Ramon was back in Communist hands.

In addition, Gorkin says, Ramon has a sister in Paris, married to a French Communist. His mother, also in Paris, has had a well-documented career as a Soviet agent.

### Broke With Party

Gorkin, a former Communist leader who broke with the party, bears a deep scar on his temple as a mark of Communist vengeance.

The assassin has steadfastly insisted he is "Jacques Mornard van den Dresch"—the name on his Czech passport—Persian-born son of a Belgian diplomat who as "Frank Jackson" fled to Mexico to dodge the draft and there became a disciple of Trotsky.

He has claimed he fell out with his mentor because of a biological clash, because Trotsky assigned him an assassination mission, because it was his imminent marriage because "they have

over has been shredded among others, Gorkin Isaac Don Levine, a writer who specializes in unmasking Soviet intrigues.

Levine has traced the Mercader story from his recruitment by a Soviet NKVD official in Spain, through the New York Communist network's selection of a female

dupe to be his entree to Trotsky, to Mercader's seduction of her in Paris.

### Briefed Gang

From there the tale twists to Mexico City. Now a trusted member of the Trotsky ménage, Mercader did his first part by briefing the gang that pumped hundreds of bullets into the Old Man's bedroom on May 24, 1940. Trotsky dove safely under the bed.

Ordered now to murder Trotsky himself, Mercader gained a private audience to discuss an article he had written:

"At the exact moment when Trotsky started to read my article, which served as my pretext, I took the (mountain axe) out of my raincoat, took it in my fist and, closing my eyes, I gave him a tremendous blow . . . The man screamed in such a way . . ."

Trotsky's guards clubbed Mercader down. In Moscow, his mother received from Stalin his Order of the Hero of the Soviet Union. The assassin went to jail.

Asked what will happen now to Ramon Mercader, the journalist Gorkin merely shrugs.

- The Washington Post and Times Herald \_\_\_\_\_
- The Washington Daily News \_\_\_\_\_
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- New York Herald Tribune \_\_\_\_\_
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**☐ CUBA**

✓ Rumors re circulating that the slayer of Leon Trotsky has returned to Havana from Russia and is living in the Soviet Embassy. Jacques Mornard is believed to have arrived here with many groups of Red "technicians."

✓ Twenty-two more newspapermen have been expelled from the Collegium of Journalists as "traitors" and "counter-revolutionaries."

**☐ MEXICO**

✓ Troops attacked demonstrators with tear gas in Acapulco, one newspaper has reported. The army is in control of the Pacific resort town despite a march of workers protesting against Guerrero State Gov. Raul Callesero.

✓ A machine-gun ambush killed a former police chief as he was driving from Parral, Chihuahua, on his way to work in a mine.

**☐ PUERTO RICO**

✓ The island's final census count was 2,349,544, an increase of 6.3 per cent over the 1950 figure and the smallest percentage gain since the first U. S. census here in 1910.

**☐ WASHINGTON**

✓ The meeting of the Board of Governors of the Inter-American Development Bank, scheduled for Feb. 20 in Rio de Janeiro, has been postponed until April 10.

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THE SAN JUAN STAR — Friday, May 10, 1963.

# Trotsky Assassin Heads Red Terrorism School

By OMER ANDERSON

BONN (NANA) Leon Trotsky's assassin, Frank Jacson alias Ramon Mercader, has been placed in charge of a special school in Czechoslovakia to train Communist political terrorists for Latin America.

Western intelligence sources report that the "School of Terrorists" is located outside Prague disguised as part of the "Agricultural School" of the "State College for Political and Economic Science," an affiliate of the University of Prague.

"State College" caters to foreign students, primarily those from the underdeveloped countries.

The sources here report that Czechoslovakia has been picked as

the center for all Communist-block-directed political subversion activities in Latin America.

The Czechs have been supplying the bulk of Fidel Castro's administrators and economic technicians. With Castro's administrative apparatus apparently adequately staffed, the Czechs are now concentrating on training political terrorists for Castro's Communist offensive into Latin America.

Jacson took charge of this project, it is understood, last December. Immediate objectives are Venezuela (where the first Jacson-trained terrorists) are reported already in action, the Panama Canal, and Brazil.

Trotsky's assassin is reported now in the Soviet Union, presumably for conferences with Fidel Castro and Soviet leaders in connection with the Cuban dictator's surprise visit there. There is speculation here that the Dominican Republic and Haiti are to become priority targets for Jacson's terrorists, the Communists moving to exploit the tension between the two neighbors on the island of Hispaniola.

Bombing of oil fields and other industrial installations in Venezuela is regarded by Western intelligence authorities here as a preview of what the Jacson-directed training in Czechoslovakia is intended to accomplish.

Jacson killed Trotsky in the study of his Mexico City home with

an Alpinist's ice-axe Aug. 20, 1941. He was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment, and upon his release in 1960 he flew to Cuba and on to Czechoslovakia.

Before being assigned to head the terrorist training, Jacson-Mercader worked in Prague on the compilation of instruction material for political terrorism and guerrilla warfare to be distributed among Latin Communist movements.

Western intelligence believes that Jacson-Mercader has 100 agents enrolled in his Prague center. The training course lasts nine months. Upon completion of the course, they presumably will be flown to Cuba and staged from there.

- The Washington Daily News \_\_\_\_\_
- The Evening Star \_\_\_\_\_
- New York Herald Tribune \_\_\_\_\_
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- The National Observer \_\_\_\_\_
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Page 34

"The San Juan Star"

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