

HOW GPU AGENT JACSON ASSASSINATED LEON TROTSKY

The Murder Machine That Drove a Pick-Axe Into Trotsky's Brain Directs Its Terror Against All Sections of the Socialist Movement

By EMANUEL GARRETT

Leon Trotsky was struck down in his home near Mexico City on August 20, 1940, by a Stalinist assassin, variously called Frank Jacson, Jacques Marnard and Jacques Vandendreschd, who drove the point of a pick-axe through the brain of the great revolutionary socialist leader.



Above we used the word COUNTLESS, and deliberately, because the victims of the GPU terror are unbelievably numerous, bearing comparison only with the mass exterminations of peoples organized by the Nazi regime.

It in no way slights the memory of those valiant socialists who would not save themselves by compromising with Stalinism to say that Leon Trotsky was the victim that the murder machine pursued most relentlessly.

MORE THAN ONE ATTEMPT AT MURDERING TROTSKY

For twelve years, after having been driven by Stalin from the land whose revolutionary armies he had led in 1917, Trotsky was the target of the GPU murder machine. Exiled to Alma Ata, then to Turkey, then to France and finally Mexico, Trotsky was pursued everywhere by the agents of the GPU.

The GPU multiplied its efforts when Trotsky entered Mexico. Once

a man dressed as a peasant brought a bomb during Trotsky's absence from the house and tried to leave it for him to open. About a year after this first known attempt, the alarms, set into the walls surrounding Trotsky's house, were set off in the middle of the night by someone trying to climb over. The most ambitious attempt before the one which actually succeeded was perpetrated on May 24, 1940, when machine guns blazed away at the Trotsky home.

THOUGH TROTSKY HIMSELF ESCAPED, SHELDON HARTE, ONE OF HIS SECRETARIES, WAS ABDUCTED AND MURDERED.

Long before the machine-gun attempt, the GPU was at work on an elaborate plot which was directed from New York, as is now proved conclusively by Budenz. A young woman, Ageloff by name, for some years a sympathizer of the Trotskyist movement (and who was proved to be completely blameless in the entire affair) planned a trip to Europe for the summer of 1938.

Jacson or Vandendreschd played his part well, courting Ageloff, disclaiming any interest in politics. He even went so far as to establish for himself a reputation as a mountain climber! (Had he been discovered on the day of the murder with the special mountain-climbing pick-axe, his excuse was ready—prepared for in Paris many months before.)

STALIN MANIPULATED ARM THAT HELD THE PICK-AXE

Jacson is today in a Mexican jail. Several times the Stalinists have tried to spring him. There is no doubt that they would like to kill him, or spirit him away to Russia, for so long as he lives he may yet tell the full story.

NOT ONLY TROTSKYISTS, BUT ALL SOCIALISTS

It is important that we know these things. Knowing them, we can present the evidence to the working class of the world, to decent people everywhere. We speak here of Trotsky, but there is much more involved than Trotsky or his followers who have been killed.

members of his household. Thus, through Ageloff, he met Alfred and Marguerite Rosmer, close friends of Trotsky, though Ageloff herself, meeting Jacson in Mexico, made no effort to introduce him into the Trotsky household. In this manner, Jacson managed to get himself invited into Trotsky's house and visited there several times.

On August 20 he drove to the Trotsky home and, unlike his usual custom, left his Buick facing away from the house, prepared for a quick getaway. He gained entrance to Trotsky's study by informing Trotsky, whom he met in the yard, that he had an article he wanted Trotsky to read.

There has never been any doubt that the GPU engineered the murder. With the testimony of Budenz there can be no doubt! Goldman recalls in his pamphlet that, when Trotsky's house was being remodelled after the May 24 assault, Jacson remarked: "The GPU will use different methods." He knew!

What else do you know about the activities and personnel of the GPU?

What do you know about the assassination of Leon Trotsky, plotted and carried through to execution by the GPU?

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We have already made mention of two of Trotsky's secretaries, Harte and Klement, who were murdered. A third, ERWIN WOLF, was kidnapped and murdered in Barcelona in 1937. But the systematic campaign to eradicate Trotsky and his associates goes back to 1929 and before!

In 1937, IGNAZ REISS, another member of the GPU, perceiving its counter-revolutionary role, broke with the GPU. He was murdered in Switzerland and the facts as they were disclosed in a court investigation at the time are every bit as "story-bookish" as the facts surrounding the Trotsky murder.

In that same year, Trotsky's son, Leon Sedov, died under mysterious circumstances in Paris. Taken to a hospital for an appendectomy, Leon was presumably recovering, when, without any established medical reason, and in the absence of nurses

from his room, he died. Attempts to exhumate the body and examine it for evidence of poison or other foul play were balked. Thus, though there is yet no direct proof that Stalin murdered Leon Sedov, the suspicion of murder stands; the circumstances point to it.

One after another, with the exception of Natalia, whom they hoped to get in the May 24 machine-gunning, every member of Trotsky's family has been removed, directly or indirectly, by Stalin. Such is the vengeance of the totalitarian monster who sits in the Kremlin!

We should like to enumerate all the Trotskyists and socialists who have been murdered by Stalin. But how is it possible? How is it possible to name all the Greek revolutionists who were killed by the Stalinists? Several months ago LABOR ACTION published a list of Greek Trotskyists KNOWN to have been killed by the Stalinist machine.

And the tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands, who were killed in Russia. Not all their names are known, nor even their exact numbers. But they were killed by Stalin. All the world knows of the infamous Moscow Trials which sent to its death almost the entire generation that forged the Russian Revolution.

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sands of "unknown" revolutionists, Russian workers and peasants who had to die because they had in them the memory or conviction of the gigantic days of the revolution. And there are the hundreds of thousands of others, like Trotsky's close colleague, Rakovsky, who are either dead or suffering a living death in some concentration camp.

NIN, EHRLICH, ALTER—ALL FACTS MUST BE MADE KNOWN

But, we repeat, far more is involved here than the Trotskyist movement.

ANDRES NIN, the Spanish revolutionary leader, was not at the time of his death a Trotskyist. But he was murdered by the GPU in Spain. EHRLICH and ALTER were far from being Trotskyists. They were Polish socialists whose views differed widely from Trotsky's.

These facts must be repeated constantly and every effort made to disclose new facts. Recently stories were published in the press of how the GPU, operating through the Communist Party, spreads its terror through France. From small, incidental beatings of socialists, trying to distribute a leaflet, to assassination—it is all part of the work of the GPU.

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members of a party whose leaders are dictated to by Stalin, who execute every political turn at his command, and participate in the crimes he organizes.

The working class has to drive from its ranks the Stalinist influence. For its own self-protection, it has to wage constant warfare against Stalinist totalitarianism. The murders of the GPU machine are part and parcel of the system that imposes slave rule on the Russian people. The GPU lives by assassinations, lies and slanders of the men who genuinely pursue socialist ideals.

We demand that Ruby Weil be brought forward to add to the evidence. We demand that Browder and Stachel and every one of the gangster leaders of the Communist Party be challenged to tell what they know. Ferreting out the truth about the Trotsky assassination, the Reiss assassination, the Ehrlich and Alter murders is a NECESSARY service to the cause of the working class, to the cause of socialist freedom.

"Labor Action" Demanded That Budenz Reveal Facts on the GPU Assassins

Aware that Louis Budenz was in the inside of the Stalinist-GPU machine, LABOR ACTION has twice editorially demanded that he tell the facts he knows about the Trotsky murder.

And what do you know about other anti-working class machinations and assassinations and hoodlum attacks carried out by the GPU against Trotskyists, and revolutionists more generally, in this country and others? You appear to know a lot about Eisler. Let us have ALL the facts.

Again we put our question to Mr. Budenz: What more do you know? Get out of the secret chambers of the FBI and Congress! Make your information available to the labor movement. Name names!

Budenz's disclosures have been hitting the headlines regularly ever since he quit being editor of the Daily Worker, organ of the Communist Party, and became converted to Catholicism. So far he hasn't told us anything that we did not know. We would like him to tell much more, and to tell a few things about HIMSELF! As editor of the Daily Worker he was in the GPU entourage. He claims knowledge of GPU activities. Let him make his real information public. Let him say a few things about his own activities. Let him tell us what he knows about the Trotsky assassination. And we have reason to believe that he knows more than he has made public.

The Labor Action Sunday Forum: PARKER TYLER, "Hollywood Hallucination—An Examination of American Movies" March 16 8:30 P. M. CONRAD LYNN, "Black Justice: A Survey of the Negro in American Society" March 23 8:30 P. M. Admission: 50 Cents — Series of Four: \$1.50 ALL LECTURES AT 114 WEST 14TH STREET, NEW YORK CITY

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