

THE P.O.U.M. TRIAL IN BARCELONA.

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From "Solidaridad Obrera", October 25, 1938.

The Trial of Some of the Members of the P.O.U.M.

THE PROSECUTION DEMANDS FIVE 30-YEAR SENTENCES AND ONE of 15 YEARS

Charges are dropped against Jose M. Escuder

The trial of the accused members of the POUM was held in the court room of the Tribunal for Espionage and High Treason. The trial lasted 12 days.

The Presiding Judge was Mr. Portal, the Prosecuting Attorney, Mr. Gomis and the lawyer for the Defence was Mr. Rodriguez Revilla.

The accused are Gorkin, Andrade, Adroher, Rebull, Jorge Arquer, Escuder and Bonet.

Among the witnesses for the prosecution and for the defence are, the Sub-Secretary of the Land Army, Col. Cordon; the Commissar of the XII Corps of the Army, Virgilio Llanos; former Governor of Aragon, Jose Ignacio Mantecon; the writer Cesar Falcon; the Director of the Radio Association of Catalonia, Mr. Garriga; the Sub-Secretary of the President of the Generality, Martin Rouret; the former Minister of the Interior, now General Secretary of Defence, Mr. Julian Zugazagoitia; the former Prime Minister, Mr. Francisco Largo Caballero; the former Ministers, Angel Galarza (Interior), Manuel Irujo (Justice), Federica Montseny (Public Health); the former Ambassador to Paris, Mr. Luis Araquistain; and the President of the Court of Barcelona and of the Court of Appeals of Catalonia, Mr. Andreu Abello.

The Attorney General has solicited a sentence of 30 years of isolation for Gorkin, Andrade, Adroher, Arquer, and Bonet; 15 years for Rebull, and acquittal for Escuder who has been released.

The lawyer for the Defence, in a detailed report which lasted five hours, has solicited the acquittal for all the accused.

The verdict will be given within two or three days.

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From "Solidaridad Obrera", October 26, 1938.

THE TRIAL OF THE P.O.U.M. LEADERS

Well Known Personalities Appear as Witnesses, Among them the Chief of the High Command Gordon Garcia; the Former Ministers Federica Montseny, Largo Caballero, Irujo and Galarza.

THE ACCUSED ARE RECOGNIZED AS SINCERE ANTIFASCISTS OF GOOD STANDING

Antonio Gordon Garcia - Chief of the High Command, answering the questions of the prosecutor, states that the 29th Division was entirely under the control of the POUM and that clandestine and fascist literature (demonstrated by their contents) was freely distributed. He adds that all this material, together with other documents, was sent to Defence Minister, Mr. Prieto.

He says there were no contacts between the POUM and the High Command. He states that the 29th Division left the front during the May events; that it set up its own control and thus endangered that part of the front which it held. He says that the High Command continually received threats against the lives of some of the military heads.

Answering the lawyer for the Defence he says that he learned all this in June and July when he was appointed to the Eastern Front and he specifies that the threats were made by the provisional head of the 29th Division.

Jose Luis Coelho de Portugal -Of the Statistics Department of the Defense Ministry, states that he did not see the plan found in the fascist organization in Madrid; that the plan was deciphered by the Cipher Department of the Defense Ministry, and that they used the same code as for the reports coming from the Balearic Islands.

Virgilio Llanos Arteta - said that he was appointed Commissar by General Pozas; that the POUM, thru its 29th Division influenced, in a subtle way, many FAI militia; that the POUM controlled the Division. He adds that on May 5th the 28th Division rebelled and joined the 29th Division (in the absence of the Commander of the 28th); that together they went to Binefar where Vivancos found them studying plans to capture Lerida. The capture of Huesca seemed to them a much easier task (?) . He adds that the 29th Division neglected its section of the front; that the fortifications were only strong in appearance but really weak, that they were in no condition to resist the slightest attack by the enemy. He says there was a "non aggression pact" with the fascists and that the 29th Division fraternized with them passing from trench to trench. This, he says, is corroborated by the declarations of fascist prisoners, and besides, that they had contacts with them. He adds that he informed the Minister of Defence of all these facts.

He continues saying that on a certain occasion a Commissar was sent to the 29th Division; that he subsequently reported fully on all the happenings, especially concerning an order received by the 29th Division to "open the way to the enemy". The following day this Commissar was found dead, no doubt killed by members of the 29th Division because, he says, during those days there was not a single shot fired in the course of battle. He declares that the actions of the 29th Division have been favorable to Franco and Mussolini; that because the Division was so well equipped as to clothes and shoes they were called "the Queen's Cadets"; that once in Binefar they gathered together a large quantity of arms having made them previously disappear from the front.

The witness states that he was not at that front in May and adds that Vivancos informed him of all he has just declared.

Llanos continues saying that when he went to the Eastern Front he was warned to differentiate between the POUM and the CNT-FAI militia as the latter were very honest; that all the POUM militia were indisciplined, so much so that when a Commissar was arrested, a sergeant tried to mutiny an entire brigade the same night; that all its actions were of a conspiratory character, and that until the very moment of its dissolution there were acts of rebellion.

Joaquin Roca Mir (on trial for espionage, his case is pending) states that he entered the espionage service of Dalmau-Riera of Perpignan. He sent all military information to Riera. One day they took him a letter for Riera and left him a valise to be picked up the following day. Four hours later the police appeared. He said they kept him without food for 48 hours; that he was coerced by the police to confess what they wanted. However, he says

that he HAS RETRACTED THIS CONFESSION by his declaration before the judge and in a letter rectifying the false testimony that he had any realtions with the POUM and added that he did not know any POUM people.

In the valise were found documents with plans for manufacturing a bomb. On them was written "Central Committee of the POUM". There were other ciphered documents which revealed that secret groups of the POUM were preparing an attempt against Prieto's life. He said that he did not know the man that took him the letter and the valise.

Martin Rauret -Sub Secretary of the Government of the Generality takes the stand.

The prosecutor reads a report of a telephone conversation which Rouret is said to have held with Llopis in Valencia after the May events, in which he said that the POUM people were provocateurs. Rouret denies that he held a telephone conversation with Llopis on that matter or at the time stated. He adds that according to his opinion, the police force and their actions as regards the Telephone Building incident, provoked the May events. He says that he knew nothing of the sabotage that is supposed to have taken place there.

Ignacio Mantecon (Former Governor of Aragon) Commissar, says that he was not at the Aragon front during the May events and that he has no first-hand knowledge of the affair of the 29th Division, but that HE KNOWS THERE WAS A NON AGRESSION PACT AND RELATIONS WITH THE FASCISTS. He states that when the 29th Division left the front for Binefar it carried out a series of atrocities and crimes even against leftist people; that its attitude was one of disobedience; that it refused to help other Divisions; that its propseganda was provoking. He adds that the 29th Division was entirely under the influence of the Executive Committee of the POUM.

Luis Araquistain -Former Ambassador to Paris, says that he never saw Gorkin in the Paris Embassy altho many of the delegates of the political and workers' organizations had visited it. He says he knows some of the accused and their anti-fascist activities. He explains that he thinks they are accused of political antagonisms rather than associations with the rebels.

A letter from Araquistain to Nin is read. Araquistain says that he wrote it in reference to literary work that Nin did for the publishing concern "Españe". This concern was directed by Negrin, Alvarez del Vayo, Araquistain and Nin.

FRANCISCO LARGO CABALLERO.

Answering the lawyer for the Defence Caballero states that the May events were caused by the competition existing among the various political parties.

He asserts that STRONG PRESSURE WAS EXERTED UPON HIM TO DISSOLVE THE POUM OFFICIALLY; THAT HE REFUSED TO DO IT AND CONSISTENTLY CONTINUED TO REFUSE. Concerning the telephone service he says that there were difficulties in all communications everywhere at that time but that he does not believe that there was any sabotage. He declares that HE NEVER WARNED LLAPOS ABOUT THE POUM. He says he knows some of the accused personally and knows them to be fine old militants. HE SAYS HE DOES NOT CONSIDER THEM FASCISTS, BUT ON THE CONTRARY IS EXTREMELY INTOLERANT REVOLUTIONISTS.

The Prosecutor asks him to state if as Prime Minister he considered his government anti-proletarian. He answers that he is not the person to answer this and adds, "Many antifascist sectors, besides the POUM, had said it".

Angel Galarza - Former Minister of the Interior, states that Public Order in Barcelona was under the control of the Generality Government and therefore he had no jurisdiction over it. He said he could furnish no concrete details. He stated that the MAY EVENTS WERE THE RESULT OF THE STRUGGLE FOR POWER OF THE DIFFERENT POLITICAL PARTIES IN CATALONIA. He says that the negotiations to end the May events were carried on by the CNT thru Garcia Oliver and Federica Montseny who came from Valencia to Barcelona for that purpose. He knows nothing of sabotage in the Telephone Building. He adds that he prohibited the publishing of the POUM paper later because it was not previously submitted to the censor; that before the May events there was little censorship and that explains the attacks on the Government and upon the parties. He declares that he, as Minister of the Interior would not have permitted such press campaigns and that he wrote about it to the Delegate of Public Order of the Generality, but that as he had no jurisdiction over this matter he could only express his opinion.

Cesar Falcon - newspaper man, did not appear. A statement about articles which he wrote against the POUM is read wherein phrases, meanings, sources and insinuations are explained and revealed.

Joaquin Mata - Policeman of the Paris Embassy, does not appear. His testimony is read. He states that the POUM got hold of the stamp used in Franco's bills and used it. The money thus acquired was used to buy arms etc. He says the POUM exported to France all kinds of valuable objects and art works, but that the FAI exported much more, even into Belgium and England.

Manuel Irujo - Former Minister of Justice, declares that while he was Minister he received numerous delegations from abroad, REPRESENTING ALL POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES, who came to exert pressure so that the POUM affair would have the legal guarantees of the Tribunals of the Republic and not allowed to be conducted on a plane of political rivalries, so that the Republic, with complete independence of its executive and police powers could act in accordance to the normal legal procedure.

He said that he put all his efforts to try to channel the spirit of justice in favor of the accused. He explains how, during his tenure of office he was informed of the anomalous action of the POLICE in the POUM affair such as the arrests made in Barcelona, the transportation of the prisoners to Valencia, then to Madrid; placing them in such situations and conditions THAT NO ONE KNEW WHERE THEY WERE. This was the case of Andres Nin WHO WAS LOCKED UP IN A PRIVATE HOUSE INSTEAD OF IN A JAIL. He said that upon learning of these irregularities of the Executive Power of the Government, he called them to the attention of the Attorney General of the Republic and of the resident of the Supreme Court so that these matters might be taken up by the Justice Department. He adds that the judge, especially appointed to enquire into the disappearance of Nin WAS ON THE POINT OF BEING ARRESTED and that THE POLICE USED METHODS OF A COMPLETELY ABNORMAL AND IMMODERATE CHARACTER.

The Police, he goes on to say, HAVE MADE ARRESTS WITHOUT THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. THEY WENT BEYOND THEIR OFFICIAL DUTIES AND TRANSPORTED THE PRISONERS FROM ONE PLACE TO ANOTHER TAKING THEM TO UNKNOWN DESTINATIONS, AND MAKING IT POSSIBLE FOR PEOPLE TO DISAPPEAR AS WAS THE CASE OF ANDRES NIN and THUS TAKING AWAY ALL POSSIBILITIES TO CHECK OR TO ENQUIRE INTO THE HAPPENINGS.

Report of the Handwriting Experts. Two handwriting experts who examined three signatures on three documents declare that at first sight they appear to be similar but that upon careful and detailed examination they are different. There are various details of doubtful authenticity, and as a result they declare that they cannot assert that the documents have been signed by the same person.

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NEW EVIDENCE AGAINST THE POUM.

At the conclusion of the session the Prosecuting Attorney announces that he has just been handed a collection of documents WHICH HAD DISAPPEARED among which are some proving that the 29th Division had given the POUM Three million pesetas. The new evidence is appended to the indictment.

Jose Guerner Vivanco - Chief of the High Command of the Defence Council, says he WAS PERFECTLY FAMILIAR WITH THE 29th DIVISION AND THAT IT NEVER CAUSED ANY DISTURBANCE OF A MILITARY CHARACTER; THAT HE NEVER HEARD OF THE NON AGRESSION PACT WITH THE ENEMY, BUT ON THE CONTRARY KNOWS THAT THE FEELINGS OF THE 29th DIVISION WERE COMPLETELY OPPOSITE TO SUCH A VIEW. HE SAYS HE CAN TESTIFY TO THE BRILLIANT ACTIONS OF SAID DIVISION. As to the fortifications he thinks there were no different from the rest; and that ROVIRA, who commanded the 29th Division was not in complicity with the fascists; and finally that HE HAS A VERY GOOD OPINION OF THE POUM.

Answering the Prosecutor he says that he was not appointed to the Aragon front but that his duties took him there frequently. He explains that there was no rigorous discipline in any Division because of the lack of military organization. He says he does not know for certain that the 29th Division left the front during the May events but that he heard say that they left and came back immediately and that many other Divisions ALSO WANTED TO LEAVE THE FRONT BECAUSE IT WAS SAID THEY WERE ASSASSINATING THEIR BROTHERS IN BARCELONA. He asserts, unequivocally, that the government did not send one single man to the front on account of it being abandoned, but that it sent all its forces to Barcelona.

He says he does not know who payed the 29th Division, since he was only concerned with the military operations.

FEDERICA MONTSENY

She says she knows some of the accused thru their Trade Union work and thru their literary production, and also as proven anti-fascist militants. She states that she was sent by the government to mediate the May events and that when full light can be thrown on this disturbance many things now obscure will be understood. THAT NEITHER THE POUM NOR THE CNT-FAI WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MAY EVENTS.

She adds that this affair had all the ear marks OF BEING HATCHED IN AN UNDERHANDED AND SECRETIVE MANNER TO OVERTHROW THE LARGO CABALLERO GOVERNMENT AND THUS DO AWAY WITH THE PROLETARIAN INFLUENCE IN THE GOVERNMENT, WHICH NATURALLY HURT THE WORKERS' CAUSE.

In answer to the questions of the prosecutor she says that upon arrival from Valencia they held a meeting in the Generality to appease the excited spirits and to keep the situation in hand so that events would not follow the course mapped out by its provocators. They were convinced that THESE EVENTS WERE A MANOEUVRE AGAINST THE INTERESTS OF THE POPULAR MASSES.

In conclusion she begged the prosecutor to allow her a few words in behalf of the accused saying that since Spain is the cradle of free and liberal men the court WOULD NOT CONDEMN THE PERSONS NOW SITTING ON THE DOCK BECAUSE THEY ARE LIBERALS AND ANTI-FASCIST.

Andreu Abello - President of the Court of Appeals of Catalonia, answers the prosecutor stating that he cannot assert that the POUM provoked the May events; that all the mistakes made by all parties were favorable to the fascists. He explains that he cannot say who took part in the fighting BUT THINKS THAT THE POUM HAD THE LEAST PART IN IT SINCE THE CNT-FAI ARE MUCH STRONGER AND MORE NUMEROUS, and adds that THE POUM WHICH WAS LESS IMPORTANT COULD HAVE DONE NOTHING WITHOUT THE CNT-FAI.

Source of "evidence"

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Documentary Evidence. Various articles from "La Batalla" were read and also the minutes of a meeting held in Lerida after the May events where it was agreed to organize shock groups and to manufacture munitions. Minutes of other meetings of the POUM are read in which reference is made to the May events; where the withdrawal of the CNT-FAI forces is discussed because they were not sufficiently prepared to continue the fight. There are remarks concerning certain opinions expressed in "Solidaridad Obrera".

Report of the Madrid Police. A statement is read asserting that a plan had been found and that it had been deciphered with the fascist code; that among the documents found on many foreigners of the POUM there was evidence of espionage; that there was a message in invisible ink addressed to the "Generalissimo" with military information about the strength of the POUM forces with promises of direct aid to the movement.

Additional Documentary Evidence. Statements made by Nin are read denying that he had any relations with the fascists.

A COMMUNIQUE FROM THE NATIONAL DEFENCE MINISTRY IS READ IN WHICH IT IS STATED THAT THE PLANS SUBMITTED AS EVIDENCE HAVE NO MILITARY VALUE WHATSOEVER, AND THAT THE STATEMENTS MADE BY EXPERTS SHOW THEIR DOUBTFUL CHARACTER AND POINT OUT MANY DISCREPANCIES AND SUSPICIONS ON THOSE THEY HAVE EXAMINED.

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From "Solidaridad Obrera", October 27, 1938.

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THE TRIAL OF SOME OF THE POUM LEADERS.

The Lawyer for the Defence, Vicente Rodriguez Revilla, in his Admirable Report Destroys The Accusations and Demonstrates the Inconsistency of the Charges Made Against the Accused.

In the session of the trial of some of the leaders of the POUM the lawyer for the defence, Vicente Rodriguez Revilla, made a most brilliant report analyzing and tearing to shreds the charges of the prosecution.

Because of lack of space we cannot give the full report of this session and will limit ourselves to the brief extracts which follow.

The lawyer for the defence begins with a salutation to the sympathizers, friends, and enemies of the accused, who, before and during the trial have shown their desire for the full exercise of justice.

After analyzing the actions of the workers during the first months of the rebellion and demonstrating that a state of revolution existed, a revolution in which the POUM participated like the rest of the workers' organizations, he goes on to examine the documentary evidence submitted and points out that the source of much of this evidence cannot be, or has not been revealed by the prosecution. He therefore denies the authenticity of all the evidence that is not recognized as bona fide by his clients.

"The trial" says the lawyer for the defence, "has been marked by the bitter fight between the presiding judge and the police, from whom he has continually requested the sources for the evidence on which it bases its accusations without ever obtaining a satisfactory answer."

He analyzes the indictment and finds it very deficient altho he recognizes that portions of it have been compiled with all good faith.

The police concludes its report by turning over the accused to the prosecution. In this report the police deduced that the POUM had incurred in the following breaches fo the law: Possession of photographs of airfields which denote espionage; Foreigners, members of the POUM, upon being questioned, had confessed that they were members of the Gestapo, and had signed this confession; Illegal traffic in arms and money; Use of false codes and forged personal documents; Espionage.

Examining each of these charges the lawyer for the defence points out: "That the suspicious photographs submitted as evidence were, according to the statement of the Defence Ministry DEVOID OF ALL MILITARY VALUE and WERE TAKEN FROM THE STATE FILES. These photographs were used in the aerostatic courses given by the government."

Secondly: "That in spite of the repeated requests of the judge, the police never turned over to him the foreigners of the POUM said to be agents of the Gestapo; that the judge had insisted time and again on seeing these foreigners and obtaining their signed confessions and that he was only able to get a list of prisoners which is in the files of the trial. There is only one foreigner on this list, Simeon Kotcheff, who has allready been released. No one ever thought of accusing him of such a thing and no proof was found for such an accusation.

He mentions Victor Serge and Trotsky who, according to the Prosecuting Attorney, are responsible for all the misdeeds of the POUM. He points out the well known revolutionary character of these two writers and touches on the ideological differences between the accused and Trotsky.

He denies illicit traffic in arms and money but adds that if it were true it would only have resulted in detriment of the fascists. He refers to the codes and to the scaled plan found on the fascist Golfin. He says that the presentation of the codes by the police is a little suspicious and that as to the plan there is no doubt that it was acquired thru the police informer who is now in Paris. He recalls that the plan was taken from Golfin the 23rd of March and at that time it had no message written on the back.

The judge who investigated this angle, as far as he was allowed," continues the lawyer for the defence," called Golfin to testify. Golfin vehemently denied having written anything on the back of the plan altho he freely admitted having committed the other crimes for which he was executed a few months ago." He continues saying that Castilla and the rest of the group arrested for espionage, likewise denied ever having written anything in relation to the POUM. These denials were amply corroborated when the judge, after many difficulties, finally got handwriting experts to examine the documentary evidence submitted. The experts stated that neither Golfin, nor any of his accomplices had written the message on the back of the plan. They added they could not ascertain it had been written by the police informer Alberto Castilla because he was not present and a specimen of writing, said to be his, did not justify such an assertion. We conclude- says the lawyer- that the writing is of unknown origin, and that if it cannot be attributed to the publisher of the "Noticiere Guia de Madrid" who sold the plan, it is difficult to attribute it to any other known person. I wish to call your attention to this fact, that if the fascists of Golfin's organization did not write it, nor the police, who kept it for a long time, WE MUST ADMIT THAT THE WRITING WAS PRODUCED BY SPONTANEOUS GENERATION, which, if a little strange, is perhaps not totally impossible."

"WHO'S WHO" of the Witnesses.

Main witnesses for the Prosecution.

- CORDON- Lieutenant Colonel, -Sub Secretary of the Land Army. Member of the Communist Party.
- LLANOS - Commissar of the XII Army Corps. Member of the Socialist Party. He is the leading figure of the Stalinist fraction within the Socialist Party. He has directed the persecution of the POUM in the military field which began long before the May events.
- MANTECÓN - General Governor of Aragon. Member of the Left Republican Party whose leader is Azana. He was named Governor General of Aragon after the dissolution of the Defence Council of Aragon, a revolutionary body presided by the Anarchist Ascaso. He had Ascaso (leader of the CNT) arrested on charges of theft.
While Governor he permitted and encouraged the destruction of the agricultural collectives; the murder and arrests of Anarchists; and arrested almost all the Popular Committees in Aragon.
- FALCON - Writer and journalist. Member of the Communist Party. Has a well known past of dubious exploits in his literary career. At the present moment he writes at the dictates of the Communist Party.
- GARRIGI - Director of Radio Association of Barcelona. Member of the PSUC (III International).
- ZUGAZAQUITI - Former Minister of the Interior at the time of the assassination of Andres Nin and during the beginning of the repression against the POUM. Member of the Socialist Party (belongs to the Prieto tendency).
- COELHO DE PORTUGAL - Professor in the Police School of Madrid during the monarchy. Now head of the Statistics Department of the National Defence Ministry. He has published a book of poetry dedicated to the former Queen Victoria, wife of the former king of Spain, Alfonso XIII !!!
- MATE - Of the Police service of the Spanish Embassy in Paris.

Main Witnesses for the Defence.

- LARGO CABALLERO - Former Prime Minister; leader of the Socialist Party and of the UGT. Leader of the Left fraction of the Socialist Party.
- ROURET - Secretary of the Presidency of the Generality Government. One of the leaders of the Left Republican Party of Catalonia.
- GALARZA - Former Minister of the Interior in the Largo Caballero government. Leader of the Socialist Party (Left Wing).
- IRUJO - Former Minister of Justice during the POUM repression. Leader of the Basque Nationalist Party (a Catholic and separatist party).
- MONTSENY - Former Minister of Public Health in the Largo Caballero government. Prominent figure and leader of the FAI and the CNT.
- ARQUISTAIN - Former Spanish Ambassador to France. Leader of the Socialist Party (Left Wing).
- ANDREU BELLO - President of the Court of Appeals of Catalonia and President of the District Court of Barcelona. Prominent figure in the Left Republican Party of Catalonia.
- GUARNER VIVANCOS - Chief of the High Command of the Council of War of the Generality Government of Catalonia. (Not to be mistaken with Garcia Vivancos, Commander of the 28th Division).

Other persons cited in the course of the trial.

- PRIETO - National Defence Minister. Leader of the Centrist tendency of the Socialist Party.
- POZAS - General. Chief of the Eastern Army (Aragon). Military of the traditional monarchical school. Had a leading part in the persecution of the workers after the October 1934 revolution. Together with Batet he crushed the revolutionary Workers' Alliance in Barcelona. At present he is accused as being responsible for the fall of the Aragon front.

INTERNATIONAL WORKERS' FRONT AGAINST WAR CONFERENCE.

Special Resolution on the POUM Trial.

At the conference held in Brussels of the International Workers' Front Against War the following resolution was unanimously adopted.

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At the Conference held at Brussels the 30th of October 1938 the undermentioned parties and organizations examined all the circumstances in which the POUM trial at Barcelona had been held. They also examined the character and the object of this trial and after having rendered homage to the firm and courageous attitude of the accused comrades at the tribunal, declared the following:-

- 1) In principle the trial was strictly political and in consequence of this the condemnation can only be considered from a political point of view.
- 2) The trial was carried out in order to give satisfaction to Stalinism in Spain (the Spanish Communist Party, the P.S.U.C. of Catalonia, the Youth Section) as well as to the bourgeois parties which desired to destroy the P.O.U.M. as the vanguard of the proletarian revolution in Spain.
- 3) This trial is today the culminating point of the revolutionary defeat commenced during the May days 1937.
- 4) All the parties which collaborate in the Government must be held responsible for the political and other consequences of the trial.

The Conference registered with satisfaction the abandonment of the accusation of espionage and noted the fact that the accused comrades were only condemned on account of their participation in the May Days and this, in spite of the unceasing attacks of the Stalinists and the so-called proofs of the prosecuting counsel.

Nevertheless this sentence clearly shows the political character of the trial as only the militants of the P.O.U.M. were charged because of their attitude in taking their stand on the side of the workers of Barcelona during the May Days.

The Conference denounces the fact that such a trial which has resulted in condemnations of imprisonment to the leaders of the P.O.U.M. and the dissolution of the P.O.U.M. and the P.O.U.M. Youth Section (J.C.I.), could have been carried out by a Government of which the majority is composed of representatives of working class parties. Particularly the Conference expresses its surprise at the attitude of the C.N.T. which, being represented in the Government, tolerates the accusations and condemnations of working class militants because of their revolutionary policy and thus allows a working class party to be placed in an illegal position because of its unswerving loyalty to the defence of the proletariat.

It is for this reason that the Conference decided to communicate with the leadership of the Spanish working class organisations and in the first place the C.N.T., seeing that it was side by side with the militants of the C.N.T. that the comrades of the P.O.U.M. struggled during the May Days, in calling upon them to express publicly their protestation against this iniquitous judgment and also to act in consequence vis-a-vis the Government under whose auspices the trial was held.

Finally the parties united in the Conference proclaim that the trial against the leaders of the P.O.U.M. could only be terminated by a verdict of acquittal, purely and simply. They will use all their efforts in the struggle to quash the trial, to educate and agitate the public opinion against other trials in preparation of the

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militants of the P.O.U.M. and the J.C.I. and to carry on an unceasing fight for the liberation of all revolutionary workers imprisoned in Republican Spain because of their revolutionary activity and to demand the cancellation of the legal suppression of the P.O.U.M. and the J.C.I.

It is thus only that we can assist in the complete victory against Franco and against his allies in Fascism and in "democratic" Capitalism at the exterior.

Signed by the

- P.S.O.P., France.
- I.J.P., England.
- I.S.P., Italy.
- Der Funke, Austria.
- O.F.O., Germany.
- Archio-Maoist Party, Greece.
- P.U.P., France.
- International Bureau of Revolutionary Socialist Youth
- The "Struggle", Indo-China.
- The Bund, Holland.
- R.S.A.P., Holland.
- Revolutionary Group, Belgium.
- Palestine Workers' Party.
- Hashomer Hatzair, Palestine.
- Czechoslovakian Delegation.

THREE IMPORTANT PAMPHLETS ON THE PRESENT SPANISH SITUATION.

1) "AUTOUR DU PROCES DU P.O.U.M."

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- a) Short biographies of the accused members of the P.O.U.M. with photographs.
- b) Short biography and photograph of Andres Nin.
- c) The Summary of the Indictment.
- d) The "evidence" presented by the prosecution.
- e) Press quotations from the Spanish Stalinist press.
- f) List of questions put to Gorkin and the other prisoners by the Police of the Spanish Republic, July 23, 1937.

This same pamphlet is being published by the Independent Labour Party of Great Britain. Send your orders to them at 35 St. Bride Street, London E.C.4.

2) "THE P.O.U.M. TRIAL IN BARCELONA".

The present "Special Issue" of Independent News.

3) "LE STALINISME EN ESPAGNE"

The testimony of foreign revolutionary militants arrested in Spain by the GPU and subsequently released thru the efforts and pressure of the international working class.

The Introduction is by Alfred Rosmer.

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