

Bulletin

X:PC

Police Claim Vielot's Killers 'Escaped'

BRONX, N.Y. — More than two weeks after the murder of Augustin Vielot, the killers are still at large.

Detectives of the 46th Precinct in the Bronx claim that they have not been able to locate the two suspects, identified as Francisco and Henry Santos of 117 Willis Avenue, Bronx.

Vielot, 37, was shot 12 to 15 times by two gunmen while working in his auto repair shop at 5:40 p.m. on July 18.

He was the brother of Jacques Vielot, a Central Committee member of the Workers League, who was himself critically wounded on October 16, 1977 when two gunmen invaded a Brooklyn social club where a youth dance sponsored by the Workers League was being held.

It was during that unprovoked attack that Tom Henehan, a leader of the Workers League, was assassinated.

No one has ever been arrested for either the assassination of Henehan or the shooting of Jacques Vielot.

The failure of the Bronx police to arrest the killers of Augustin Vielot brings into focus a wide range of astonishing similarities with the murder of Tom Henehan.

A definite pattern has now emerged that connects both killings as political contract murders carried out with the approval and protection of the capitalist state.

—As in the assassination of Henehan, two gunmen were involved.

—As in the assassination of Henehan, police were able to identify the gunmen within a few hours. Angel Torres was identified as the murderer of Henehan and the Santos brothers have been named by police as the murderers of Vielot.

—As in the assassination of Henehan, the alleged killers have long police records. Torres had a record as a contract killer and Francisco Santos has a homicide record.

—As in the assassination of Henehan, police took no action to apprehend the killers immediately after the shooting. Although already identified as the murderer, Torres was able to go to his job the following day and collect his pay. Police in the Bronx claim that they did not immediately seek to apprehend the killers because they received assurances by telephone from their lawyer that the suspects would turn themselves in. During the time which the police claim to have spent waiting for the

killers to turn themselves in, they vanished.

A police car was outside Vielot's auto shop moments after the shooting. But the police inside refused appeals by Vielot's sister to help the dying man. Nor did they attempt to pursue the killers. The police said they were busy and drove off.

—As in the assassination of Henehan, the police claim that the suspects have disappeared. The police suggested that Torres may have fled to Puerto Rico. On Thursday, the police told the *Bulletin* that the Santos brothers may have fled to Puerto Rico.

—As in the assassination of Henehan, no mention of the murder has appeared in the capitalist newspapers.

—As in the assassination of Henehan, an attempt is being made to portray the killing as "non-political." When NBC television news finally covered the killing, it made no mention of the previous shooting of Jacques Vielot or the assassination of Tom Henehan.

The pattern is clear: first the gunmen carry out a

gangland style raid and killing, then they make their escape, the police make no effort to pursue the killers, the capitalist press remains silent, the police claim that the killers have vanished ... and the case is closed!

Above all, the authorities insist that the murder had nothing to do with politics.

As in the murder of Henehan, the silence of the capitalist newspapers has been joined by the Socialist Workers Party.

This is no accident. We believe that there is strong grounds for suspecting that the murder of Vielot is a desperate response to the Workers League's four-year-old campaign — in solidarity with the International Committee of the Fourth International — to expose the police agents inside the SWP.

Tom Henehan was murdered exactly two and a half months after the International Committee exposed the late SWP leader, Joseph Hansen, as an FBI informer.

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dered exactly two and a half months after the International Committee exposed the New York headquarters of the SWP as the center of an international network of police agents.

The whole truth must be known. Thousands of trade unionists, students, professional workers and civil libertarians have supported our demand for an investigation into the murder of Tom Henehan.

We call on all these supporters to raise their voices again to demand an end to the police cover-up of the Vielot murder and the capture and exposure of all

those who planned it as well as executed it.

The Workers League has already stated that it is convinced that the assassination of Tom Henehan was contracted by FBI agents inside the leadership of the Socialist Workers Party. It is a matter of public record that these agents enjoy unlimited backing from every branch of the US Government.

We are now investigating the very serious likelihood that the murder of Vielot was contracted by the same FBI agents in the SWP who organized the murder of Henehan.