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The Trial of the so-called "Social Revolutionaries". To the Workers of the World!

On the 1st of June, 1922 there begins in Moscow the trial of the Social Revolutionaries to which the class conscious world proletariat must pay attention. 47 former members of the party which bears the proud name "Social Revolutionary" are on trial. Many workers who know but little of the most important political parties in Russia will probably think that they are real Socialists and real revolutionaries. As a matter of fact however they are "Social Revolutionaries" like the "Radical Socialists" or the "Independent Socialists" in France. This bourgeois party which calls itself "Democratic" or even "Socialist" has in fact carried on for years an armed struggle against the Russian proletariat. The late Plekhanoff, when he was still a Marxist, named this party "Social Reactionaries".

The Social Revolutionaries have perpetrated countless crimes against the Russian revolution. In the first days of the March revolution of 1917 the leaders of the S.R. together with the Menshevik leaders surrendered the power seized by the workers and soldiers to the bands of open imperialists led by Gutchkoff Milioukoff, Prince Lvoff and other flunkies of the Entente. The Social Revolutionaries and the Mensheviks exerted all their influence upon the soldiers, the peasants and that portion of the working class that still had confidence in them, to use them to augment the power of the bourgeoisie and prosecute the war began by the Czar Nicholas II in the name of Russia. In June 1917, Kerensky, a former minister, a member of the Central Committee of the Social Revolutionary Party, began—with the full support of all the leaders of his party—the offensive which cost the lives of thousands upon thousands of Russian soldiers and workers. This he did at the instance of the English and French imperialists. In July 1917 the S.R. and the Mensheviks, who at that time belonged to the so-called Bourgeois Coalition Government, attempted to work up a sort of Dreyfus Affair against the leaders of the Bolsheviks. The Social Revolutionary and Menshevik minister stooped to the vilest hypocrisy and accused Lenin, Trotzky, Zinoviev, Lunatcharski and a number of other old revolutionaries of being agents of the German Kaiser, from whom it was alleged they had obtained funds for their anti-war agitation. This was a conscious attempt at judicial murder, a deliberate cold-blooded plan to deliver the leaders of the Russian revolutionary proletariat over to the White Guardist reaction which was at that time still violent and drunk with fury. To this period belongs also the attempt of the "Social Revolutionaries" and the Mensheviks to disarm the Petrograd workers. During July 1917 the S.R.'s slaughtered hundreds of Petrograd workers and Kronstadt sailors. The Coalition Government and in particular Avksentiev, at that time Minister of the Interior, suppressed dozens of workers' papers of the Bolshevik wing. On the instructions of the "Socialist Revolutionaries" the bands of White Guard officers attacked the headquarters of the trade unions. The labor movement was compelled for a long time to exist illegally. Kerensky conferred supreme command of all the armed forces of the country upon the "Black Hundred" general, Kornilov. Upon the command of Generals Kornilov and Savinkov, who at that time were

members of the "Socialist Revolutionary" Party, the S.R. Menshevik and bourgeois Government officially introduced capital punishment.

The Menshevik Minister Tseretelli was one of the chief defenders of the reintroduction of the death sentence. The leaders of the Mensheviks, Voitinski, Dan, Bogdanov, Liber and others did all in their power to prove the necessity of restoring the death sentence. At the command of Kerensky's Government whole Bolshevik regiments were shot.

Some weeks later General Kornilov who was placed in command by the Kerensky Government opened the front to the German troops. He undertook an open campaign against the revolutionary capital. It transpired that Savinkov, then a member of the "Social Revolutionary" Party had taken part in the Kornilov conspiracy and that Kerensky himself was more or less in league with Kornilov. Some days after the great victory gained by the Russian Proletariat on October 25th Old Style, (November 7th New Style), the Central Committee of the "Socialist Revolutionary" Party organized the assault of the Junkers against the Petrograd workers. A. Goz, member of the Central Committee of the "Socialist Revolutionaries" Party one of the present accused, was the chief organizer of this Junker attack which cost the revolutionary workers an enormous toll of lives. At the beginning of 1918 the "Social Revolutionary" Party entered into an open alliance with the Entente. In the resolutions of their Central Committees they openly demanded intervention. The Central Committee of the "Social Revolutionaries", with Tchernov, Avksentiev, Sensinov, Minor and many others at the head, entered into an open league with the counter-revolutionary Czecho-Slovakian officers who had been prisoners of war in Russia. The Czech workers know quite plainly the composition of these Czech legions; they came from the same elements which furnished the "conquerors" of the Spartacists and the murderers of Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht. Supported by these Czecho-Slovakian Legionaries, the "Socialist Revolutionary" Party seized power in Samara and from there it organized the civil war against the Russian proletariat. Thousands upon thousands of workers who sympathized with the Soviet Power were murdered during these months by the S.R. Party which was allied with the Czecho-Slovakian Legion. Over 600 Bolshevik workers were shot in Samara when the Red Army compelled the S.R. and the Czecho-Slovakian Legions to evacuate even before their evacuation at the command of the leader of the "Socialist Revolutionary" Party, Tchernov. It was thanks to the S.R. and the Czecho-Slovakian Legions that Admiral Koltchak was able to seize power in Siberia. In the Russian revolution Koltchak attempted to play the role of General Gallifet, the suppresser of the Paris Commune. Avksentiev and Sensinov, members of the Central Committee of the "Socialist Revolutionary" Party were the supporters of Admiral Koltchak. For many months the "Socialist Revolutionary" Party rendered Admiral Koltchak true and devoted service until he grew strong and kicked them out of the Government as one

throws away a dried lemon. After he had made full use of the treachers of the "Socialist Revolutionary" Party turned out Avksentiev and Sensinov.

In Archangelsk the English imperialists, supported by English intervention troops, organised a White Government. At the head of this Government the English imperialists placed Tchakovsky, one of the founders of "Social Revolutionism" which at present stands very near the "Socialist Revolutionary" Party. Hundreds of the most active members of the "Socialist Revolutionary" Party fought in the armies of Generals Yudenitch and Denikin against the Russian workers. The leading S.R.'s and Mensheviks committed the basest treachery in the districts temporarily occupied by Wrangel, Denikin, Yudenitch and Koltchak and grovelled before them in the dust. But this was not enough. The "Socialist Revolutionary" Party adopts the tactics of *INDIVIDUAL TERROR* against the prominent leaders of the Russian proletariat. The members of the "Socialist Revolutionary" Party murdered Comrade Volodarsky, the Tribune of the Petrograd working class. As the disclosures of Semenov, a former prominent member of the "Socialist Revolutionary" Party, show this was the result of a decision of the Central Committee of the "Social Revolutionary" Party. 500,000 Petrograd working men and women followed the coffin of their beloved leader Volodarsky in spite of the bad weather prevailing on the day of the funeral. The whole proletariat of Petrograd was filled with indignation against the "Socialist Revolutionary" murderers. A student named Kannregiesser a member of the group of "People's Socialists" which is connected with the "Socialist Revolutionary" murdered Comrade Uritzky, the self-sacrificing fighter for the workers' revolution, an old revolutionary who under Czarism had been in dozens of prisons. On the same day Fanny Kaplan, a member of the "Socialist Revolutionary" Party shot the leader of the World Revolution, Comrade Lenin. She did it on the order of the Central Committee of the "Socialist Revolutionary" Party. This fact is based on a series of depositions and will doubtless be perfectly proved during the trial at Moscow. Comrade Lenin was severely wounded. For some day he was at death's door. The most advanced workers of Russia and the whole world waited with the greatest anxiety for the issue of this painful struggle with death and breathed more easily when it became known that Lenin's life had been saved. Recently, three years after the attempted murder, the bullet was extracted from the body of Lenin, and according to the official bulletin signed by several prominent surgeons the bullet had been cut in order to enlarge the wound. The S.R.'s openly boast that one of the bullets used in the attempt on Lenin's life was poisoned with curare. For many months the S.R. murderers systematically sought to assassinate Trotzky, Zinoviev and other leaders of the Russian proletariat. And the Mensheviks who are the greatest verbal opponents of terror were perfectly aware of all these intrigues of the S.R. murderers, were in fact politically allied with them and still are at the present time.

These are the most important (but by no means all) of the crimes of the Party of the so-called "Socialist Revolutionaries" which the Proletarian Tribunal in Moscow will judge. The programme of this party of "Social Revolutionaries" is the reestablishment of the power of capital. Under the name of democracy this party of so-called "Social Revolutionaries" in reality defends the interests of the bourgeois restoration. It is the most active party of the Russian and therefore also under present circumstances of the international counter-revolution.

After all the above mentioned facts can one wonder that the leaders of the Second 2½ Internationals take this party under their protection? Why should not Noske and Scheidemann, Wels and Ebert, the inspirers of the murders of Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht, not defend Goz and Tchernov, the inspirers of the murders of Volodarsky and Uritzky, and the organizers of the attempts upon the life of Lenin. Vandervelde, a former King's minister, in 1914 at the beginning of the war carried on friendly negotiations with the Czarist Ambassador Prince Kudashev, he came to Russia during the rule of the Kerensky Government in order to demand the continuance of the imperialistic butchery; he signed the criminal Treaty of Versailles. Why should not Vandervelde take the "Socialist Revolutionary" Party under his protection? Henderson, a former King's Minister, and Mac Donald, a future Minister respectfully regard with angelic patience the murders carried out by "their" Government in the colonies. They uttered no word of protest against the murder of the revolutionary leader Connolly. Why should these pious petty bourgeois not take the Russian counter-revolutionary party under their protection? The Russian Mensheviks, these

true friends of the "Socialist Revolutionary" Party, the Lettish and the Finnish "Social Democrats" who have shed the blood of thousands of Communist workers, the Yugoslav "Socialists" who with the aid of the gendarmerie have taken possession of the trades halls under the control of the Communists—all these parties belong to the Second International. Why should the leaders of such an "International" not undertake the defence of the counter-revolutionary S.R.? Why should not the Georgian "Social Democrats", who during their rule in Georgia murdered thousands upon thousands of revolutionary workers and peasants, not seek protection and assistance from the heroes of the Second and 2½ Internationals? The leaders of the Second and 2½ Internationals submitted the provocative demand to Soviet Russia that at least ten attorneys, members of the Second and 2½ Internationals, should be permitted to act as defenders of the 47 accused "Social Revolutionary" in order to shatter the (to them) hateful proletariat united front that was springing into existence. For the role of defenders of the murderers of the Russian workers the leaders of the Second and 2½ Internationals have selected the most conscienceless demagogues: as for example Paul Boncour, one of the French social traitors; the shrewd businessman's lawyer Modigliani, the Italian "Socialist"; the former royal minister Vandervelde; Oudegeest, the well known Dutch reformist enemy of Soviet Russia; the members of the Central Committee of the "Socialist Revolutionaries", i. e., the open adherents of Admiral Koltchak, Sukhomlin, Sensinov and Gurevitch.

In spite of the provocative character of this list of attorneys the Soviet Government has expressed its readiness to admit even the above-named gentlemen as defenders. On the basis of the agreement concluded by the representatives of the three Internationals at the Berlin Conference the Communist International has also agreed to permit these notorious enemies of the proletarian revolution to act as defenders of the "Socialist Revolutionaries". The world proletariat should know that the Communist International did all that lay in its power to frustrate the intrigues of the leaders of the second and 2½ Internationals against the contemplated proletarian united front.

At the same time however, the Communist International declares to the world proletariat:

Soviet Russia, the first workers' state in the world, is the main bulwark of the world proletariat. The most important events in Soviet Russia must therefore excite the most lively interest not merely of the Russian but also of the international proletariat. The trial of the "Socialist Revolutionary" Party which is the driving force of the active counter-revolution in Russia is without doubt one of these events. It will be a legal contest between the proletarian World Revolution and its opponents from the camp of petty bourgeois Socialism. At the trial in Moscow the whole history of the great Russian Revolution will be unfolded before the international proletariat; all the attempts of imperialist world reaction to throttle this revolution and all the crimes and treachery of the parties of the Second and 2½ Internationals against the great movement for the emancipation of the proletariat will be mentioned. The Communist International addresses itself to the class-conscious working class of the whole world, but in particular to the workers who still have confidence in the parties of the Second and 2½ Internationals with the request: Follow the course of the trial in Moscow. Do not miss a single detail! The reports of the trial in Moscow will be published in the whole of the world press. Immediately after the conclusion of the trial the detailed minutes of the proceedings will be published. Follow the contest between the proletarian revolution and the petty bourgeois counter-revolution in Moscow. Know that it is the trial of the Russian Noskes and Hörsings, of the Russian lackeys of Poincaré, of the adherents of Admiral Koltchak and General Denikin; it is the trial of those "Socialists" who in a number of countries were the direct murderers of the workers and who will inevitably appear in every land in which the proletariat will arise against its oppressors.

**DOWN WITH THE ENEMIES OF THE PROLETARIAN
REVOLUTION!**

LONG LIVE SOVIET RUSSIA!

**The Executive Committee
of the Communist International.**