
Soviets Doom Plotters.

[unsigned news report in *The Workers Age*, Aug. 29, 1936]

Published in *The Workers Age*, v. 5, no. 35 (Aug. 29, 1936), pg. 1.
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The trial of sixteen former members of the Russian Communist Party, accused of terrorist activity against the leaders of the Soviet state, resulted in a death sentence for the whole group. The prisoners, including Zinoviev and Kamenev, were given seventy hours to appeal to the Central Executive Committee for mercy. At the time of writing it is not known whether the appeal will be made.

The chief defendants presented all the necessary evidence for conviction in their own testimony, wherein they vied in accusations of one another, and attempted to paint themselves as more involved, more guilty than their fellow-accused. Zinoviev, former head of the Communist International and, since 1926, a leader of the United Opposition (with Trotsky), despite his many recantations, announced that he had taken the complete road from "party opposition to complete counterrevolution, actually Fascism."

Kamenev ended the trial with a speech in which he hailed Soviet Russia and Stalin's leadership, denouncing his own activities. It was Kamenev who made his own analysis of the basis of the terrorist groupings. The socialist successes of the Soviets, he said, were such as made them despair (Zinoviev, Kamenev in Russia and Trotsky outside) of ever regaining power. Faced with the impossibility of achieving a mass basis, they resorted to terror, the assassination of leaders, especially Stalin, to recapture the reins of leadership.

The trial also brought out the connection of the terrorists with the Nazi Gestapo, who, according to the testimony, furnished false passports for the Trotskyists to enter Russia.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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