

# International Bulletin

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## NATALIA - WIFE OF TROTSKY IS WITH US NO MORE

On Monday January the 29th several hundred people at the Pere Lachaise cemetery attended the funeral of Natalia Trotsky to pay their last respects. Natalia had died on the 23rd of January at Corbeil, Paris.

Born at Romi, Poltava Province in the Ukraine, in 1881, Natalia had been from her early youth an active revolutionary. During her first stay in Paris in 1903 she met Leon Trotsky and became his second wife. Alongside Trotsky she participated in the movement which led up to the 1905 revolution. They returned to Russia during that revolution and were both arrested. Natalia after being caught in a cavalry charge on a street demonstration received a four year sentence - she was later amnestied. She assisted in Trotsky's escape, planning the last stages of his journey. During the period between the the failure of the 1905 revolution and the overthrow of Tsardom, she was Trotsky's constant companion in arms in the many ups and downs of the movement.

(S) TWENTY EIGHTH FRONT

Returning to Russia <sup>in 1917</sup> with her husband and two sons from the United States, during which journey they were detained by the British navy and only released after strong protests, she took a leading part in the October revolution. After the triumph of the Bolsheviks she lived with Trotsky in the Kremlin sharing the amenities with Lenin and his wife. She was in charge of Museums and Art Galleries under Lunacharsky.

As the bureaucratic degeneration of the first workers' state developed, Natalia supported wholeheartedly Trotsky's struggle against growing stalinism. Together with Trotsky she was exiled to Alma Alta and then in 1928 expelled from the Soviet Union. Thus started the most tragic period of her life, during which she first lost both her sons and finally in 1940, she suffered the worst blow of all when Trotsky was assassinated in Mexico.

Remaining true to the memory of Trotsky and his ideas and fully confident of the final victory of revolutionary socialism, she devoted the rest of her life to defending the heritage of her companion against the slanders of stalinism and all other distortions.

In the last year of her life she expressed solidarity with the two leaders of the Fourth International, Raptis and Santon, who were on trial in Holland for their activities on behalf of the Algerian Revolution, by sending a letter to the chairman of the Amsterdam court.

After the 22nd Congress of the C.P.S.U. she demanded of the leadership of the C.P.S.U. that they revise the Moscow trials and authorise the publication of Trotsky's works in the land of the October Revolution.

(S) TWENTY EIGHTH FRONT

The chief mourner at the funeral was Sera, the grandson of Trotsky, who came over from Mexico. Natalia's ashes will be flown to Mexico to rest alongside those of Trotsky. At the funeral speeches were made by Andre Breton, French writer; Marguerite Bonnet, in the name of Alfred Rosmer who was unable to be present because of the death of his wife; Pierre Naville, French sociologist; Isaac Deutscher, biographer of Trotsky; Laurent Schwarz, professor of mathematics at Sorbonne and chairman of the Committee of Solidarity with Algerian victims of imperialist repression; and on behalf of the Trotskyist movement, Joseph Hansen, editor of the Militant, journal of the S.W.P. of the United States who was Trotsky's secretary at the time of his death; Pierre Frank, secretary of the French section of the Fourth International and Livio Maitin on behalf of the International Secretariat.

Our group was represented by the editor of this bulletin. It has been suggested that we publish, as our modest contribution to one of the outstanding women of history, Trotsky's pamphlet on his elder son - Leon Sedov - who was murdered by the stalinists in France. We hope that this idea will be supported, Natalia herself would have liked the idea, we are sure.

An area delegate conference of Scottish miners in Edinburgh meeting January 21st, decided to hold a one-day strike on March 7th in protest against the closure of Scottish pits. Miners from Scotland are to lobby Parliament on March 8th the same day as the members of the ASLEF (Locomen's union) who are protesting against the closure of Scottish railway lines.

Only two hands went up against the proposal after it had been reported that the majority of the branches were for the strike. The decision had been taken before at a delegate conference by a small majority but it had then been referred to the branches. At least 300 will be taking part in the lobby which will be also supported by the South Wales miners. The latter took this decision in view of the fact that South Wales is also faced by pit closures.

These actions are being taken quite independ<sup>ent</sup>ly of measures in relation to the wage claim although it will give an early opportunity for miners to express their disgust at the coal-board's insulting offer.

#### B.R.S. MAINTENANCE MEN FIGHT PAY PAUSE

It is almost certain that the strike of maintenance men on the British Road Services will be made official by the men's union - the National Union of Vehicle Builders. The strike, which at time of writing was affecting 11 areas is for a bonus to bring the men into line with the drivers. The B.R.S has other troubles too: 200 workers in four West of Scotland struck to have a pay agreement back-dated in line with private haulage contractors' men. Men walked out at 2 depots in Durham in protest against the Government's wage pause which is holding up their wage claim.

#### CLERKS WIN NINE-WEEK FIGHT AT IDEAL

After a strike lasting nine weeks for trade union recognition and higher pay, the 200 clerks of Ideal Standard radiator and boiler works in Hull returned to work having won their main demands. The clerks have been accorded the same recognition of negotiating rights as that held by the manual workers. The wage increase which is to be further discussed is to be back-dated to January 1st.

#### REDUNDANCY STRUGGLE AT REDDITCH

All 1,600 workers at High Duty Alloys Ltd., Redditch, a firm which makes turbo-prop blades for aircraft engines, came out on strike January 23rd. The struggle is to prevent the management from sacking men because of falling orders. The shop stewards backed by the mass of the workers are pressing instead for a shorter working week. The local district committee of the A.E.U. has endorsed the strike

#### DOCKERS GO INTO ACTION

A strike of 800 dockers took place January 22nd and brought the port of Middlesborough to a complete standstill. It is a two-day token strike in protest the suspension of 44 men who refused to work at Hartlepoons one day last month under a compulsory labour transfer scheme. A conflict is brewing in the Glasgow docks over the question of 'dirty money' to be paid for unloading manganese ore. Already there has been one strike on January 10th and although the men went back to work in the event of an unsatisfactory offer being made feeling is that another strike will take place.

#### AUSTRALIA - PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

From Australia we have received the latest issue of International, Labour Forward and Dissent. Unfortunately we have only of each to hand, however we hope to reproduce in the Bulletin, next issue, as assessment of the election results and some other material. The question of the Australian Government's attitude to the West New Guinea crisis is much to the forefront and the issue of Labor Forward is entirely devoted to it. Dissent, which we have received for the first time is the official journal of the Young Labor Association of Queensland and has a wide range of views expressed in its columns. The Y.L.A. seem to be a serious organisation judging from their programme of activities. Their Lecture class programme for the first four months of the year includes talks on Marx and Engels, Fabians and Leninism.

ANNOUNCING THE 'FOLK CLUB' : The second meeting is Friday the 9th Feb., 7.30 p.m. at the Three Horse Shoes, Derby Rd., opposite the Co-op. The group give a lively performance of well-known C.N.D. and socialist songs. The bar is open till 10.00 and the guest star is Rod Kreizman on the Mandolin playing East European folk songs.

## LONDON AREA MOVEMENT OF COLONIAL FREEDOM MEETS

The Annual conference of the London area of the Movement for Colonial Freedom was held on January 28th. Resolutions were passed on Malta, Goa, Congo, Rhodesia, West Irian and South Africa. Of particular note was an emergency one from the Executive Committee calling for the immediate release of Gizonga to stop him from sharing the fate of Lumumba and another from an individual member which called for stopping of the setting up of a South African Arms industry. A resolution from the Ceylon Socialists Students' Association, which was passed unanimously, read:

"The case of Aires Branca clearly shows that the British Government continues to give every practical support to the Salazar regime in its refusal to recognise the liberation of Goa.

This Conference demands: (1) that the British Government clearly acknowledges Indian rights in Goa.

(11) that the British Government gives an answer as to how many refugees from Portugal have been refused entry into Britain.

(111) that the British Government declares its policy on the right of the Indian Government to issue passports to whosoever it may think fit to do so. This conference also strongly recommends that the M.C.F. campaigns immediately along these lines."

Another emergency resolution from South Paddington Constituency Labour Party went:

"While rejecting suggestions for a U.N. plebiscite in a territory which is already an integral part of Indonesia, illegally occupied by the Dutch, this Conference supports the Indonesian people in their movement for the liberation of their brothers in West Irian."

The conference was characterised by the emergence of a kind of marxist bloc consisting of the Ceylon Students, the South Paddington Labour Party, some trade union delegates and other individuals. The Sino-Russian dispute was reflected in the positions taken by C.P. members and supporters - some following Khrushchov's brand of 'peaceful co-existence' whilst others supported what might be called a 'Chinese line'. Altogether the tempo of the conference was good and reflected a shift to the left.

## WATERHOUSE ON UNITED NATIONS INTERVENTION IN THE CONGO

An interesting comment on the role of the United Nations in the Congo was made by Captain Waterhouse, chairman of the Tanganyika Concessions Ltd. (which has an intimate connection with Union Miniere of Katanga) and the leading member of the Katanga lobby in Britain. Those who 'critically support' United Nations intervention in the Congo should consider very seriously his words all the more because no one could say that he is a friend of the United Nations. He said:

".....This is not an occasion on which to attempt an assessment of the value of the intervention of the United Nations Organisation in the Congo as a whole. It may be fairly argued that large areas of the northern and western districts have reaped material benefits and that the presence of United Nations representatives prevented in them the establishment of a communist regime under Russian influence in 1960..."

Of course, in the language of extreme right wingers like Waterhouse, a communist regime means one which would try to prevent the continued imperialist exploitation of the Congo. Because the United Nations prevented this, Waterhouse also 'critically supports' United Nations intervention.

## ABOUT OUR BULLETIN

Comrades will not have failed to notice that this issue of the Bulletin is very late. The main reason for this is that the editor was for some days unable to do the technical work because of his attendance of Natalia's funeral. However this underlines the need for more collective work on the Bulletin. Matters have improved lately in that correspondents in several fields and in different localities have been arranged. We now receive regular reports from the Ceylon students and other fields. Much needs to be done on the other hand if we are to continually improve the bulletin. The main burden is that of writing and we would ask all comrades to train themselves to write reports of activities and events. This will not only be good for the bulletin but is an integral part of the bolshevizing of our group. In particular there are a number of localities where very good work is being done Glasgow, parts of London, Wolverhampton, Sheffield et al but most of the members do not know about it. Again we would appeal for all these comrades to make regular reports. We need, too, more financial support. Most comrades pay their subscription but those who don't are imposing a burden on the group. One last point we think that in some areas, bearing in mind the type of distribution decided upon, the Glasgow example of ordering a small bulk supply could be followed.

## VERY SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL ON ALGERIA IN NOTTINGHAM.

On January 21st, John Baird M.P. and editor of Free Algeria, spoke to a South Nottingham Federation of Young Socialists' day school. Altogether some 40 people attended. All the Nottingham and area branches were represented and in addition comrades came from the University, Derby, Northampton and Liverpool. John Baird was able to give a first hand account of his recent visit to North Africa. There was a good discussion and questions (which didn't always keep to Algeria) were numerous. People said that they had learnt something about one of the most important and dynamic movements in the world today. Encouraged by the success of this school the Young Socialists are to draw up plans for the holding of several others this year.

## GAITSKELL GETS A HOT RECEPTION IN NOTTINGHAM

Oxford is not the only place which has given Gaitskell a hot reception lately. Speaking at an East Midlands Conference of the Labour Party, Gaitskell was on January 27th faced with a barrage of hostile questions. He may have wondered whether there would be a recurrence of last year's demonstration in Derby when several people were thrown out by the police in order to allow Gaitskell to carry on speaking. Questioned later about this by the press, Gaitskell said that the trouble was caused by "two busloads of Trotskyites who came from Nottingham". But this time the left considered very seriously what to do at the meeting.

The situation inside the Labour Party is very different from that of last year and in addition many left wingers felt that the tactics of disruption had cut off middle of the road people. The main issues now democracy inside the Labour Party in general and the selection of Parliamentary candidates, more autonomy for the Young Socialists, and the relationship of the annual conference and the Parliamentary Labour Party in particular.

At the meeting, and after Gaitskell had stabbed the trade union movement in the back by denouncing unofficial strikes, the questions reflected the above issues. Before the meeting began, the delegates as they entered were handed a reprinted article from Tribune. This was done by the Central Nottingham Young Socialists who had been infuriated by the facts brought to light by this article (see issue no.7 of the bulletin). This time only one person was escorted out but a big section of the audience by its reactions to Gaitskell's answers showed its hostility.

All in all the tactics of the left seemed to have been successful. It is very difficult to do a great deal under such conditions when the whole machine control of the meeting is against the left. However, the left made common ground people worried about inner-party democracy, it retained its identity as an integral part of the Labour Party and not something coming from the outside, finally and most important of all it put Gaitskell on the spot showed by his evasions, and unconvincing arguments the gap between him and the bulk of the constituency workers.

## TRIBUNE STARTS A YOUTH SECTION

Tribune has recently started a youth section which although modest can be of big importance. The extent to which it is supported and contributions are received will determine the extent to which it develops. With an estimated readership of 40,000 Tribune is an excellent medium for reaching big layers of the left. We urge all comrades to support the section, send in reports, interest others in the section and generally give the asked for cooperation. Correspondence should go to:

Brian Lynam,  
Editor Youth Section,  
Tribune,  
222, The Strand,  
London W.C. 2.

## CEYLON STUDENTS CONTINUE MARXIST EDUCATION COURSE

From the Ceylon Socialist Students' Association we have received the following details of their marxist education programme:

Thursday 18/1/62 - What is Socialism?	Thursday 25/1/62 Perspectives for Colonial Revolution
Thursday 1/2/62 Stalinism in World Politics	Thursday 8/2/62 The Revolutionary Party of the Proletariat (1)

In all cases the meetings are at 374, Grays Inn Rd. King X, London WC 1 and the speaker is Osmund Jayaratne a member of the CC of the Ceylon Section of the Fourth International and starting at 7.30 p.m. The meetings are attended by Afro Asian students and members of the Young Socialists. 22 attended the 18 Jan meeting.

Preparing for February the 5th

Bringing out 3 million workers even for a one day strike is no simple matter and all over the country preparations are under way. It is not merely a question of ensuring 100% action at all factories, etc. effected, there are many borderline cases and peripheral workers. Also every effort is made by the more militant unionists to involve large sectors even if they are not directly effected.

Two 'white-collar' unions - the supervisors, staffs and technicians (ASSET) and the draughtsmen (DATA) - have declared their support for the one-day strike. In a joint statement, the two executives recommend that wherever possible their members should join the strike. They have instructed their members who may under their contracts, etc. be compelled to carry on working 'not to supervise or assist any blackleg labour.'....'In all cases the closest collaboration is urged with the unions in dispute.'

Admiralty workers' leaders have told the Admiralty that will recommend their members to stop work on February 5th too. Though they are not effected by the same negotiations they have received a similar answer to their wage claim.

The London area committee of the National Society of Painters is to recommend its branches to consider a stoppage on February 5th as the pause is also affecting building workers' claims.

Manchester workers will pour into Platt Fields Park, after a march through the city, to hear shop-floor speakers from the big factories at Trafford Park, Salford, Stockport, Warrington and Ashton.

Tyneside Confederation leaders have endorsed the call of shop stewards for a march and demonstration led by bands from the big shipyards. They are also asking member unions to recommend a ban on all weekend overtime before and in the week after the stoppage.

Sheffield engineers will form up alongside the big Firth Brown works in Carisle Street at 10.00 a.m. and march to the City Hall. Fred Hollingsworth, the foundry workers' president will address a mass meeting there.

Liverpool Confederation leaders are asking the local trades council and Labour Party to join their march and meeting. Over 10,000 leaflets will be distributed.

Leeds factory-gate meetings start on Tuesday in the Hunslett area and will continue throughout the district until the eve of the stoppage.

Clydeside stewards are to meet in Glasgow on February 1st to prepare for the walk out. The emergency committee of the Confederation on Clydeside is booking Shawfield F.C. park for a 50,000 strong demonstration.

Birmingham executive committee of the Confederation has planned a series of activities to prepare for February 5th. These include factory-gate meetings, <sup>and</sup> the distribution of 10,000 leaflets. A mass march throughout the city on the day, finishing with a meeting at Digbeth Institute is to be addressed by an M.P. and trade union leaders.

South-East London shop stewards representing 20,000 workers have set up a campaign committee to unite the workers in all big factories behind the national stoppage.

Rover (Tyseley, Birmingham) workers at a factory-gate meeting attended by 500 supported the one-day stoppage and called for a full turn-out. On January 24th, the same day, 60 Tyseley men at Rovers downed tools because of a bonus dispute. The strike has led to the laying off of 2,650 workers in the three Rover factories.

Jarrow workers to march again

Some 25 years ago men from Jarrow - the town that was murdered by ship-builders and the Government - marched to London for work. On February 17th men of Jarrow will again demonstrate for work. In a statement the trades council secretary, Duncan Blair, said that the shadow of depression was looming larger and larger every week. The march was the first step in a campaign for the sending of new industries into an area which has been entirely dependent on the slumping ship-building and repairing industry. Unemployment among ship-repair workers troubled during 1961 and now stands at nearly 500, total unemployed are nearly 1,400.

## PIERRE FRANK TO SPEAK IN NOTTINGHAM

Pierre Frank, one time secretary of Trotsky and one of the earliest members of our movement, will be speaking at two meetings in Nottingham the 11th and 12th of this month. The first on the Sunday will be at the Co-op Education Centre 3.00 p.m., on the Monday he will speak at the University at 4.00.

Pierre's subject will be Trotsky today, no doubt with the recent death of Natalia he will speak upon her contribution to Trotsky's life too. Few people could be more suited to speak on this subject. Pierre is in this country to go over Isaac Deutscher's third volume of Trotsky's biography on factual questions before it is printed. What finer compliment could be paid to his knowledge of Trotsky's life and ideas? Pierre is no armchair theoretician as the heroic part he is playing in France on the Algerian war demonstrates. When the editor visited him recently it was necessary to walk over the rubble and other debris from an O.A.S. attack on the apartment block.

The town meeting will be by invitation only but we want to ensure the widest possible attendance. We must aim to get along all those who are sympathetic and interested in our ideas. Comrades from outside Nottingham who would like to attend please write in if accommodation is necessary. Anyone who wants to invite someone should get in touch immediately. Pierre's presence will give an opportunity to discuss many questions appertaining to the movement as a whole. We are tape-recording the speech to provide the basis for an article.

Please regard this opportunity as a means to assist our movement and spread our ideas by giving the maximum support to the meeting.

## CONCERNING OURSELVES AND THE S.L.L.

A number of comrades come into contact with the S.L.L. and especially in the last few weeks have had bad experiences of the extreme sectarianism and factionalism of this organisation. (An example of the latter is that in their report of Natalia's funeral in the Newsletter they list only 3 of the 7 speakers, the rest having become 'unpersons' because to report their presence at the funeral would be damaging the claim of the S.L.L. to be THE Trotskyist movement).

Most comrades are not familiar with the history of the S.L.L. and find the situation somewhat confusing, it is therefore recommended that all comrades read the following: (1) Recall to Order, an open letter from the International Secretariat of the Fourth International to members of the S.L.L.. This is especially important as it outlines the origins of the split and very accurately appraises the politics of the formation of the S.L.L. This costs 3d. (2) Statement by the Nottingham disaffiliated branch of the S.L.L.. This document produced by comrades who disagreed with the formation of the S.L.L. and other aspects of the S.L.L.'s policy examines these questions politically and also exposes the bad way in which their political differences were dealt with. Comrades should also try to get hold of Peter Fryer's Open Letter to Members of the S.L.L. and other Marxists. The latter whilst it is not a profound political document gives a very clear picture of the internal set-up of the League. Peter Fryer founder and former editor of the Newsletter with his highly skilled journalist's descriptive writing outlines what led up to the formation of the League and his reasons for breaking with the League.

We should approach this question not in a factional spirit and should avoid at all costs being drawn into inter-factional warfare. An examination and a discussion of the political differences between ourselves and the S.L.L. can on the other hand be of benefit and will enrich our understanding of the problems which face us.

## TROTSKYISTS AND THE 22nd CONGRESS OF THE C.P.S.U.

All over the world members of the Fourth International are utilising the events of the 22nd Congress to publicise Trotskyist ideas and to break the grip of Stalinism over many sectors. In this bulletin we give just three examples: DENMARK: Comrades have translated the letter of the I.S. to the leadership of the C.P.S.U. into Danish and five hundred copies have been sent to all the newspapers, trade unions, reviews and others. Two bourgeois papers in Copenhagen mentioned it on their front pages, and most of the social-democrat papers in the provinces have published long articles about it. ISRAEL: Material has been translated into Hebrew and distributed widely amongst C.P. members. ITALY: The debate organised by the "New Generation" official organ of the Communist Party Youth has continued the debate on Trotsky's ideas. Mundo Nuovo, left wing review of the Nenni party, has published several articles on Trotskyism and has published long extracts from Trotsky's "New Course", "The Third International after Lenin" and "1905".