

## ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 20th January, 1937.

**SECRET**NO. 840WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS  
AND AGITATION IN CANADAReport

Communist Party activity at present centres largely in the campaign in aid of the Madrid-Valencia Government of Spain. The Party has come out openly against neutrality [~~deletion: 1 1/2 lines~~]

Taking Mr. J. S. Woodsworth, M.P., to task for his refusal to bring up the question of Spain in the House of Commons, the Daily Clarion, central organ of the Communist Party of Canada, for 19th January, points out:—

“1. Canadian people are not observing the criminal practice of neutrality in Spain. They have equipped and are maintaining Dr. Bethune’s medical unit, have gathered in tens of thousands at meetings to denounce the non-intervention pact, and are raising money each day for Spanish democracy.

“2. Spain must come on the floor of the house of commons. The ‘little world war’ is our concern. It is Mr. Woodsworth’s duty to introduce the subject and to condemn the policy of the King government in objectively assisting the fascist onslaught on the Spanish government.

“3. The U.S.S.R. has consistently fought to aid the Spanish government. Last August it called the fascist bluff. It is the fore-front fighter among the nations against Mussolini’s and Hitler’s intervention. Stalin has stated that events in Spain cannot be the private affair of the Spanish people but must be the concern of every fighter for democracy”.

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[~~deletion:1 line~~]

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### APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

#### I. Recruiting for Loyalist Forces in Spain

Recent reports indicate that the Communist Party has started recruiting volunteers for the Madrid Government in Winnipeg, Man., and Montreal, Que.

[~~deletion:2 1/4 lines~~] stated that he had come to Winnipeg to join the draft of 300 volunteers for Spain which is supposed to leave Winnipeg about 20th January. He remarked that in order to avoid trouble the draft will sail either from New York or from Mexico. [~~deletion:1 1/4 lines~~]

It has been said that the Communist Party leaders are keeping the recruiting very quiet. A prospective recruit is taken behind closed doors, examined and, if suitable, accepted for service in Spain.

[~~deletion:4 words~~] is said to have remarked that he had 26 names of prospective recruits but expressed fear that the Government would interfere with their going. On this date some recruiting activity was observed at Manor Hall, the headquarters of the Single Men's Unemployed Association. [~~deletion:1 words~~] one of the more prominent Communist agitators in Winnipeg, has been overheard to remark, "I should hear about going away by tomorrow night" (15th January). While definite information is lacking, it is intimated that the applicants accepted to date in Winnipeg consist of active agitators from the ranks of the Communist Party and the Young Communist League.

A report from Montreal states that on 16th January two men arrived in Montreal from Quebec City where they had been enlisted for service in Spain. On their arrival in Montreal they were met at the station by Fred Rose who directed them to a certain address on Sherbrooke Street, East, where they were billeted together with several volunteers recruited in the City of Montreal. A group of volunteers are scheduled to leave Montreal for New York by train on

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19th January. The exact strength of this group is not known but it is reported that the local group will be augmented by 20 men from Port Arthur, 20 from the west and seven or eight additional recruits from Quebec City. The volunteers have been given to understand that they are going to Spain via New York

and that they will sail from there without delay. They are further given to understand that their pay will be similar to the pay in the United States Army. The Montreal recruiting office is situated in the Modern Book Shop at 2093 Bleury Street, which is owned and conducted by the Communist Party of Canada. One of the men recruited in Quebec City has stated he had been given money for his meals and pay of \$1 per day.

The Communist Party is said to be attempting to raise suitable clothes for the recruits in order that they may look respectable when crossing the U.S.A. Border. [Xdeletion: 1 line] that the reason why the recruiting was being carried on secretly was because they fear that the United States Immigration authorities might interfere with the movement of the men.

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The Port Arthur Trades and Labour Council, at its regular meeting on 12th January, passed a resolution requesting the lifting of the "arms blockade against the Government of Spain". Copies of the resolution have been sent to the League of Nations, to the Dominion Government and to Walter Shevenels, secretary of the International Federation of Trade Unions at Amsterdam. The resolution states that "since Spain is a properly and democratically elected Government, elected by substantial majority of the adult suffrage of Spain and since this present Loyalist Government of Spain is an accredited member of the League of Nations", that the Trades and Labour Council of Port Arthur request the lifting of the arms blockade and give the Government of Spain the right to purchase arms. Included in the resolution was a protest against the "atrocities" of international Fascism in Spain. In the opinion of the Council, the non-intervention pact works solely in the interests of the Rebels.

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### 2. Committee for Industrial Organization to Spend \$500,000 in Canada Organizing Steel Workers

Ernest Curtis, director of the Steel Workers Organizing Committee in Canada, speaking recently to a lodge of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Tin and Steel Workers of America, stated that the sum of \$500,000 has been set aside by the Committee for Industrial Organization to be spent in Canada. "We will organize every place under our jurisdiction in Canada; we are not going to permit the masters of industry to make us slaves; we will build up an organization which will make Canada a great place to live in", he remarked. Speaking of the progress made in Canada, he said that from 1,300 to 1,500 of the 3,000 employees of the Dominion Steel Company in Sydney, N.S., have

joined the organization; further, that in New Glasgow steel workers voted 500 to three to enter the association. New charters have been granted to steel workers in Crowland and Welland while lodges in Hamilton and Toronto were showing a marked progress, he said. He also announced that the eight Ontario lodges will meet in conference in Hamilton on 17th January to discuss further unionization plans.

The Communist Party of Canada has thrown all of its resources behind this drive with the result that many offices in the various branches of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Tin and Steel Workers of America [~~deletion: 1/2 line~~]

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### 3. M. Popovich Launches Libel Action Against D. Lobay

Damages of \$10,000 are sought by Matthew Popovich in a libel action on file in Court of King's Bench at Winnipeg, Man., against the Truth Publishing Association, John Homick, of the People's Press and the Winnipeg Printing and Engraving Company. The suit arises out of statements published in Pravda, D. Lobay's publication, in October. Popovich's statement of claim filed by S. Greenberg charges that the members of the Truth Publishing Association which issues the Pravda are D. Lobay, editor; Tom Kobzey, Nykola Handziuk, John Slobodian, Victoria Kulchucki, Steven Chwalibago and Mike Smith, all of whom are named as defendants along with John Homick, of the

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Winnipeg Printing and Engraving Company. Popovich alleges that the defendants in Pravda falsely and maliciously declared that he was notorious and that he had committed a theft and as a result he has been injured in his credit, good name and reputation.

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### 4. Serbian Communist Element in Canada Publish Own Paper

A new revolutionary language organ in the Serbian language called Pravda (Truth) has made its appearance in Canada, augmenting the already long list of Communist Party controlled foreign language publications in Canada. The first edition, containing eight pages, is dated 6th January, 1937; it features a number of articles devoted to the Serbian "progressive" workers of Canada. It is to serve as the official organ of the [~~deletion: 2-3 words~~] Serbian Progressive Association under whose auspices a drive is being conducted to

raise sufficient funds to insure its continuous publication. It is said that the drive has netted \$401 so far. The principal contributors appear to be from the main cities of Ontario and Montreal, Que.

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#### 5. Croatian Communists in Canada Stage Press Campaign

The Croatian Communist element in Canada is at present engaged in a campaign to obtain 502 new subscribers and a sustaining fund of \$2,020 for their paper Slobodna Misao, formerly known as Borba, published three times a week at Toronto, Ont.

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#### 6. Todowymazu (Society for Assisting the Liberation Movement in Western Ukraine) Campaign

The month of January has been set aside by the Ukrainian Communists for a campaign on behalf of Todowymazu with the object in view of raising \$8,000 and 500 new members for the organization. A series of lectures and meetings throughout the country, as well as house parties, form part of the campaign.

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### APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

#### I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

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Tom Ewen, in search of a "burning issue" so necessary to support agitation, has taken up the cause of the British Columbia Indians and has sent out a feeler in the form of a story in the 31st December issue of the B.C. Workers' News, entitled "A White Man's Appeal for the Canadian Indian".

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#### II. ALBERTA

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At about 4.00 p.m on 8th January approximately 100 members of the Single Men's Unemployed Association at Calgary left the headquarters of the association and marched in columns of fours to the relief kitchen. Arriving there they retained their formation and refused to get in line with the others, creating considerable disturbance by shouting and singing "Hold The Fort" and other revolutionary songs. The City Police, in an endeavour to disperse the demonstrators, were met with resistance and were compelled to arrest seven of the leaders including John McKinnon, Thomas Burgess, William Diesing, John Wilson alias O'Shea, Jack Kyle, Sidney Thompson and John Roberts.

The cases of the seven leaders were dismissed by Magistrate Sinclair on 12th January on the grounds that the informations, laid by the City Police, as set forth in the indictment were bad and did not conform to Sub-Section "f", Section 238 of the Criminal Code under which the charges were laid.

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Led by I. Matthews, a number of unemployed Chinese, on 9th January, staged a "sit down" demonstration on the corner of 8th Avenue and 1st Street, West, Calgary's busiest corner. One demonstrator

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sat down in the centre of the street car track and the others were seated on the curb. They were dispersed by the City Police without causing any damage.

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Approximately 300 men attended a meeting of the Unemployed Single Men's Protective Association of Edmonton on 12th January. Frank Clarke acted as chairman and the speakers included L. Rodman, Harry Johnson and McGettie; the latter also acting as secretary of the meeting. The chairman called for a show of hands of those cut off relief for refusing farm jobs; eight men reported they had been cut off during the week-end. Clarke asked if any of the eight were going to farms; they all replied in the negative. It was then moved by Rodman that these eight men go to the Mayor of the City with representatives of the Single Unemployed Protective Association to try and get relief from the city. This, he said, would show the citizens that the farm scheme is forced labour. The motion was accepted. A representative of the Single Men's Unemployed Organization of Calgary, who was present at this meeting, gave a short talk on conditions in Calgary. He said he was sent to Edmonton by the Citizen's Defence League to collect funds for the defence of the 19 men arrested in Calgary in December. He asserted that in Calgary

the single unemployed had beaten the Farm Placement Scheme and that no one was forced to accept jobs on farms.

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### III. MANITOBA

#### 9. Winnipeg Unemployed Associations Hold Conference

A conference of unemployed associations of Winnipeg was held on 13th January at Room 305, Chambers of Commerce, representative of the following organizations:—

Ward 1, Unemployed Association

“ 2, ” “

“ 3, ” “

Unemployed Railway Men's Association

Working Women's League

St. Vital Unemployed

East Kildonan Unemployed

Hebrew Unemployed Association

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Norwood and St. Boniface Association

Women's Section, Ukrainian Labour Farmer

Temple Association

G. Nichols, chairman of the conference, stated that the meeting was called to discuss ways and means whereby the unemployed could deal with the question of how to compel the city to adopt an open clothing voucher. It was agreed that a special committee (elected by the conference) interview the Merchants Association and explain to them that it was in their interest to have an open clothing voucher; that the money spent in this way would help the small merchants. The committee is also to ask the Merchants Association if they favour the plan to start a petition in support of the scheme. The committee was also instructed to print 7,000 leaflets on the question of housing and a higher relief rate. The conference commissioned A. Browne, M. Sago and G. Nichols to draw up a plan for a general strike of the unemployed should the city authorities force any more men to work in the woodyard as a penalty for not reporting money earned. The unemployed at Brandon, Virden and other points are to be asked to stand behind a demand for an increase in relief.

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IV. ONTARIO10. First Communist Party Radio Talk in Ottawa

On the evening of 7th January Harry Binder, [§deletion:2 words] for the Communist Party of Canada at Ottawa, gave what has been described by the Communists as the "first Communist Party radio talk in the history of Ottawa" over Station C.R.C.O. His talk was on local conditions, pertaining particularly to free medical attention for the needy and development of the local housing programme.

G. Walsh, [§deletion:2 words] of the Communist Party of Canada at Kitchener is reported to have been the guest speaker at a luncheon of the Young Men's Club at the Y.M.C.A. at Kitchener on 9th January. He has been invited to speak on the subject of Communism and when about to commence his speech he was presented with four written questions:—

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- (1) Is Communism compatible with democracy;
- (2) Does Communism seek to destroy Christianity;
- (3) What are the ultimate aims of Communism;
- (4) How do you intend to achieve your aims.

He is said to have answered the questions in a capable fashion.

The City Council of Cornwall (Ont.) recently passed a by-law which imposes a penalty if a leaflet is issued without permission from the city authorities. The Mayor, in advocating the by-law, is said to have openly stated that it was aimed at the Communists. On 14th January Frank Love, representing the Communist Party, presented a leaflet to the City Clerk and asked for a permit. He was told none would be given as no useful purpose would be served by its publication.

V. QUEBEC11. Annie Buller Finds Wives of C.P. Members in Montreal Apathetic

Annie Buller, sent to Montreal to stimulate a greater interest in Communist Party work among the wives of the Party members, in an interview said that many of the wives of the Communist Party members are not sympathetic

towards the movement. This, she said, applies particularly to the wives of the French-Canadian Party members, some of whom have actually reported their husband's activity to the local police. She further stated that there is at present a definite lack of leadership among women in Montreal and that the Communist Party had failed to give the necessary lead in that respect. To remedy this condition she is going to suggest to the National Office at Toronto that an attempt be made to send a few women from Montreal to the National Party School which is to commence in Toronto shortly. Annie Buller found the movement in Montreal much weaker than anywhere else in Canada.

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The local Canadian Labour Defence League leadership at Montreal met on the morning of 3rd January to hear Annie Buller explain the present policy of the organization. Annie Buller stated that the Canadian Labour Defence League must strengthen its defence work through the medium of well functioning Defence Committees within the mass organizations. In order to keep interest alive, she suggested that the language mass organizations carry on a campaign for political prisoners in their respective countries. Speaking of the situation in Montreal she maintained that the Canadian Labour Defence League had missed a good opportunity in failing to develop a strong united front campaign after the "Fascist" attacks on the Modern Book Shop and Clarte a few months ago. She suggested that the Canadian Labour Defence League should become the spearhead of the movement against Fascism. Any loss of time would be fatal, she said, as "the Fascists are now becoming stronger and are organizing faster than we are". She expressed her belief that Quebec will be the province where reaction will set in first and therefore "great responsibility rests on the shoulders of the local Canadian Labour Defence League and Communist Party leadership".

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A branch of the Scandinavian Workers and Farmers Club has recently been organized in the City of Montreal. It meets at 1550 Guy Street, the premises of the Finnish Organization of Canada.

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Liaudies Balsas, Lithuanian Communist organ, formerly Darbininku Zodis, of 7th January, 1937, contains an article signed by "K.K." in which it is said that the Lithuanian language school operative for the last three months in the east side district in Montreal is attended by 22 children and that another school for the same purpose is being organized in the Point St. Charles district.

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