

## ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 24th February, 1937.

SECRETNO. 845WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS  
AND AGITATION IN CANADAReport

General Emil Kleber, formerly Commander of the International Brigade in Spain and recently reported captured by the Insurgents during the storming of Malaga, is safe in Valencia, according to a press dispatch appearing in the 23rd February edition of the Daily Clarion. Kleber, described by the Communist leaders as a naturalized Canadian, is expected to play a prominent role in the reorganization of the Loyalist defenses on the Almeria front.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

1. The Communist Party of Canada and Trotskyism

The Stalinists, i.e., the Communist Party of Canada, are at present indulging in an orgy of propaganda against Trotskyism. The recent trial of the Trotskyist “parallel centre” in Moscow has become a regular feature in the Communist

press and many editorials as well as feature articles by well known Communist leaders, such as Tim Buck, Malcolm Bruce, William Bennett and Beckie Buhay Ewen, have appeared condemning Trotsky and his followers.

"Clean out Trotskyist poison", demands Tim Buck in a feature article appearing in a recent issue of the Daily Clarion. "In this country", Tim Buck asserts, "their policy and their slanders are carefully worked out to tie in between sincere but uninformed people on the one hand and the Fascists on the other; Trotskyism has a foot in each of these camps and its role is to act as a link between them; obstructing the development of the unity of progressive forces, confusing and demoralizing socialist organizations, providing the Fascists and semi-Fascists with arguments against the Soviet Union and the Communist Party; the whole of it providing the counter-part to their attempt at organization of counter-revolution in the U.S.S.R." Trotskyism, Buck maintains, will destroy the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation unless the C.C.F. cleanses itself of its "poisonous" influence.

Drawing a parallel between the respective stands of Hitler and Trotsky in regard to the Soviet Union, T. C. Sims, [~~deletion: 1/2 line~~] of the Communist Party of Canada, recently returned from Moscow, told an audience which packed the Labour Lyceum at Toronto on the night of 15th February, that the similarity was not accidental. Claiming that "reactionary" socialist leaders and the Capitalist newspapers have taken Trotsky under their wing, Sims asserted that Trotskyism has always been in conflict with the best interests of the Labour Movement. "To ridicule them is not enough", he declared, "they must be isolated and swept from the Labour and Progressive Movement". "The struggle against Trotskyism is an integral part of the struggle for unity of the Socialist and Communist Movement

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in the fight against war, against reaction and for the victory of Socialism", he declared.

The meeting adopted the following resolution:—

- "1. We wholeheartedly approve of the measures taken by Soviet justice against the Trotskyist counter-revolutionaries, who, as proven by the evidence and from their own admissions, have, on instruction of L. D. Trotsky, and acting together with fascist agents and spies were guilty of the crimes:

"(a) Organizing the murder of Sergei Kirov and plotting to murder Joseph Stalin, Lazar Kaganovich, K. Voroshilov, M. Molotov and other Soviet leaders.

"(b) Sabotaging Soviet industry, causing the loss of

many valuable lives.

“(c) Plotting with German fascism and Japanese militarism to defeat the U.S.S.R. in a counter-revolutionary war, to give the Ukraine to Germany, Sakalin to Japan, etc.

“(d) To restore capitalism in the U.S.S.R.

“2. In addition we are outraged at the counter-revolutionary deeds of the Trotskyists in Spain and think the Spanish loyalist government has acted wisely in suppressing the Trotskyist organizations whose work helps the fascist Franco.

“3. We call upon all Canadian workers and progressives to strengthen the struggle to clean out the poison of Trotskyism from Canada. The fight to unite the Canadian workers and their allies to resist the attacks of the 50 multi-millionaires, to build up the widest front against fascism and war, to help our brothers and sisters in Spain, to defend the U.S.S.R., to go forward towards Socialist Canada will only be strengthened by eradicating counter-revolutionary Trotskyism from the labor and progressive movements of our country. Eternal vigilance is the price of progress and liberty”.

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Tim Buck was the chief speaker at an anti-Trotsky meeting staged by the Communist Party of Canada in the Prince Arthur Hall, Montreal, Que., on the evening of 12th February. Approximately 1,500 people attended, filling the hall to capacity with hundreds standing during the whole of the meeting. “The Trotskyite Trials In Moscow” was the subject of Tim Buck’s address. He recounted the “glorious achievements” in the industrial life of the Soviet Union and dealing with the recent trial in Moscow he declared that the Soviet Union was at present at war with the whole world, being encircled by Capitalist countries. He maintained that those found plotting against the U.S.S.R. must be destroyed. Referring to the Spanish situation

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he described the present conflict as an “invasion instigated by Fascist powers”. He contended that there were only 6,000 foreigners fighting on the side of the Loyalists while the overwhelming majority of the Rebels were Italians, Germans and Moors. Maurice Spector, leading Trotskyite in Canada, was dealt with at some length. Buck depicted Maurice Spector as a schemer and Trotskyite during the latter years of his association with the Communist Party

of Canada. He recounted how Spector, as editor of the official organ of the Party and as one of the most informed members of the Central Executive, was plotting against the Party and how he was uncovered in 1928 as a result of certain documents that came into the possession of the Communist Party leaders in Toronto.

While Time Buck was speaking at the Prince Arthur Hall, Maurice Spector addressed a meeting under the auspices of the American Committee for the Defence of Leon Trotsky in the Workers' Centre, 4848 St. Lawrence Boulevard. Approximately 450 people were present, ninety-five per cent of whom were young Hebrews. Spector indulged in a tirade against the Stalin regime, claiming that the ones convicted were true Bolsheviks and former associates of Lenin and Trotsky. He asserted that the condemned men had been secretly executed by a firing squad 48 hours after conviction. Dealing with the confessions of the accused, he charged who hinted that action would be taken against their wives and children if they refused to confess. He charged that the evidence given by the O.G.P.U. officials who hinted that action would be taken against their wives and children if they refused to confess. He charged that the evidence given by the O.G.P.U. officials covering Trotsky's movements and his instructions to his fellow-conspirators was a tissue of lies and could be readily disproven if Trotsky were permitted to make his defence before an impartial and non-partisan court. The address appeared to be well received but only references to Lenin and his objective received applause.

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The Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association at Winnipeg, Man., held a well attended mass meeting in the Ukrainian Labour Temple, corner Pritchard and McGregor Streets, on 14th February. The place was filled to capacity, and the speakers were P. Lysets and John

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Navizowski who spoke on "Trotskyism, How and Why It Became an Accomplice of Fascism, an Agent of Japanese and German Secret Diplomacy". Navizowski dealt extensively with sabotage in the U.S.S.R. attributing same to Trotskyist agents. He accused Trotsky of co-operation with Japanese and German Secret Agents. He condemned Trotskyism in Canada, particularly that action in the Ukrainian field led by D. Lobay. Lysets' speech was entirely devoted to the Spanish Civil War. Both speakers urged the audience to send protests to the Federal Government against the proposed legislation calculated to stop recruiting for Spain. "Every able bodied man should be ready to go and defend the Spanish cause for it is equally our cause", Lysets said. He urged

the members of the U.L.F.T.A. to do all in their power to aid the Spanish Loyalists in their defence against the Fascists.

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The arrival in Mexico of Leon Trotsky and his renewal of the demand for an impartial international commission to investigate the recent Moscow trial has given impetus to the Trotskyist Movement in Canada. The Stalinists in Mexico and the U.S.A., particularly, are attempting to have Trotsky moved from Mexico by asking the Mexican Government to expel him. The campaign has been ineffectual, however, for the most powerful unions of the C.T.M. (Federation of Mexican Workers) have, so far, refused to endorse the demand for Trotsky's expulsion.

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## 2. Waterfront Situation in Vancouver Remains Unsettled

The waterfront situation in Vancouver, B.C., remains unsettled. Recent negotiations between officials of the Inland Boatmen's Union of Pacific and the Shipping Operators' representatives in Vancouver in an effort to reach a settlement proved futile. American unions continue to boycott ships from the three principal ports of British Columbia, Vancouver, Victoria and New Westminster, because they are being loaded by Canadian unions not affiliated with the

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International Longshoremen's Association, or manned by Canadian labour that is not affiliated with American seafaring unions. Shipping interests in Vancouver declare the position has now reached a point where some definite governmental action must be taken soon.

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## 3. Leslie Morris Touring Western Provinces

Leslie Morris, editor of the Daily Clarion, has left on an extended tour of the Western Provinces. John Weir is to take over Morris' duties until he returns. Morris, a leading member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Canada, is to devote a great deal of his time to Alberta.

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#### 4. Campaign in Aid of Spanish Loyalists

A Youth Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy has been formed in Toronto, Ont., recently. At its first meeting the committee embarked upon a number of projects to give material aid to the Medical Unit in Madrid headed by Dr. Norman Bethune of Montreal, Que. The committee has printed a button in Spanish national colours with an inscription reading "I Gave For Dr. Bethune". The button will be sold by the affiliated youth organizations for five cents each.

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A conference of delegates from various labour and Left Wing organizations held in Hamilton, Ont., on 12th February resolved to insure continued support to the "fighters for Spanish democracy" by pledging \$25 per week for Dr. Bethune's Medical Unit in Madrid. Among the organizations represented were the Hamilton Trades and Labour Council, a number of trade unions, Co-operative Commonwealth Federation clubs, Communist Party and its subsidiary organizations. A committee of nine was elected to organize a "Spanish Night" in the near future to acquaint people with the situation in Spain and to help raise funds. The existing local Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy is to be enlarged to include representatives from the various

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organizations represented at the conference. The committee is to meet every two weeks regularly.

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Clothing workers in Toronto, Ont., are said to be making some 350 suits of clothes which will be sold and the net proceeds donated to the cause of the Spanish Loyalists. The plan is for unions workers to make the suits without charge for the labour. When the work has been completed the suits will be distributed by them to various dealers throughout the city who will sell them to the public.

#### 5. Communist Campaign in Opposition to Government National Defence Programme

A. A. McLeod, national chairman of the League Against War and Fascism, following a meeting of the National Bureau of the league held in Toronto, Ont., on 16th February, announced that Provincial and local Councils of the Canadian League Against War and Fascism throughout Canada have been

instructed to intensify the campaign in opposition to the National Defence programme of the Federal Government. Commenting on the campaign, McLeod pointed out that defeat of the Grant McNeil Amendment in the House of Commons does not mean final defeat of the question. "On the contrary", he stated, "the protest movement has only just begun". "The Canadian people sincerely believe that a policy of collective security can be developed and for this purpose the Canadian League Against War and Fascism will continue its campaign to organize protests against present Government policy," he declared.

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## APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

### I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

#### 6. Vancouver Communists Discuss Trotskyism

The Communist Party in Vancouver held a mass membership meeting at the Orange Hall on 15th February with approximately 300 members in attendance. Fergie McKean, [deletion:2 words] of the Party, acted as chairman and the speakers were Tom Ewen, Becky Ewen and Bob Lealess. The theme of their speeches centered around the recent Trotskyist trials in Moscow and the effect of same on the membership campaign conducted by the Communist Party throughout Canada at the present time. Without qualifying his remarks, Tom Ewen stated that the Communist Party of Canada in British Columbia, has found it necessary to discipline certain of its members suspected of being supporters of Trotskyism. These members, he said, immediately left the Party, and went over to the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation.

On the authority of Tommy Lawrence, [deletion:1/2 line], it seems that the recruiting campaign conducted by the Communist Party of Canada in British Columbia received a set-back through the publicity given the Trotskyist trials in Moscow.

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It has been decided that the Communist Party School at Vancouver this year will open at the Clinton Hall about the end of March under the direction of [deletion:1 word] assisted by Bureau members. [deletion:1 word] will take the classes in economics and history; and Party structure agit-prop organization and trade unionism will be dealt with over the six weeks by different individuals.



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## II. ALBERTA

### 7. Northern Alberta Unemployed Conference Postponed

The Northern Alberta Unemployed Conference scheduled for 6th March has been postponed to 15th March to coincide with the conference of the Canadian Labour Defence League for Northern Alberta,

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which is to be held immediately after the Unemployed Conference. Five hundred show cards advertising the conference will be printed and sent out to contacts in the country who are to display them in conspicuous places, [~~deletion:2 lines~~]

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According to a circular letter issued by the Calgary Bureau of the Communist Party of Canada to all locals of the Party in the district, the main task confronting the Party at the present time is to establish unity of all progressive forces for the formation of a Municipal Progressive Association to serve as an instrument of the Communist Party in the municipal political arena. The various units are urged to raise \$500 to finance the work and liquidate all outstanding debts.

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The 13 Chinese unemployed who were arrested by City Police at Calgary, on 6th February, on charges of vagrancy after they had staged a "sit-down" protest on the street car tracks on the intersection of First Street, West, and Eighth Avenue, appeared in Police Court on the morning of 11th February, found guilty and given suspended sentences.

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Pat Lenihan, [~~deletion:1 word~~] of the Communist Party of Canada for the Crow's Nest Pass district, addressed a meeting under the auspices of the Communist Party in the basement of the White Lunch Cafe at Lethbridge, on 10th February, and urged all radicals in Alberta to support the Social Credit Movement for "it is a lever with which Capitalism can be eventually overthrown". The people of the province, he said, are not yet ready to accept Communism but will support any programme which will meet their immediate needs. He endeavoured to show that the Social Credit Party and the Communist Party were working for the same immediate end. He intimated that the

decision to support the Social Credit Party was arrived at at a recent meeting of the

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Provincial Executive Committee of the Communist Party of Canada.

The Communist Party branch at Lethbridge has been divided into four area groups; each group to cover a certain area with its own officers who will meet together with the officers of other groups every Sunday morning in the Ukrainian Labour Temple at North Lethbridge. The group meetings proper will be held in private houses.

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### III. SASKATCHEWAN

#### 8. Communist Party Membership in Saskatchewan Shows Increase

A recent report issued by the Saskatchewan Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of Canada disclosed that the average dues-paying membership of the Communist Party in Saskatchewan for the month of January stood at 1,106 — an increase of 73 over the previous month. The report shows that the Party is incorporated in many cities and towns throughout the province, ranging in importance according to dues-paying membership as follows:—

Saskatoon	Kelvington	Crane Valley	Kronau
Regina	Lestock	Robsart	Punnichy
Melville	Simmie	Claydon	Dinsmore
Bienfait	Kyle	Prelate	Reliance
South Fork	Vantage	Golden Prairie	Product
Sturgis	Shaunavon	Yorkton	Roan Mine
Weyburn	Moose Jaw	Melfort	Secretan
Elfros	Stoney Creek	Edenwold	McMahon
Swift Current	Lisieux	Wynyard	
Mistatim	Lidgett	Bethune	

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The Communist Party School at Regina completed its course of studies on 10th February and the students are said to have returned to their respective homes. [deletion:2 words], instructor of the school, is reported to have left Regina for Calgary on or about 16th February. While nothing definite is known regarding his visit to Calgary, it is understood that he will conduct a similar school there.

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#### IV. MANITOBA

##### 9. Demonstration Scheduled for Opening of Manitoba Legislature Cancelled

The demonstration scheduled for the opening of the Manitoba Provincial Legislature on 18th February was called off [deletion: 1 1/2 lines] speaking at an executive meeting of the Single Unemployed Association at Winnipeg on 18th February, stated: "The basic reason for calling off the demonstration is because we believe it is best to keep the Bracken government in power for the present; if they are defeated we might do worse by having Erick Willis form a coalition government which would prove more reactionary than Bracken's. We also feel it would do us more harm than good. Our numbers would be small and we have not the backing of the Manitoba Conference of Unemployed". The demonstration was originally announced as a protest against the policies of the Bracken Government.

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#### V. ONTARIO

##### 10. A. E. Smith Speaker at C.L.D.L. Meeting in Ottawa

A. E. Smith, general secretary of the Canadian Labour Defence League, addressed approximately 200 people under the auspices of the Ottawa Branch of the Canadian Labour Defence League in the Hollywood Gardens, Ottawa, on the evening of 20th February. Smith recounted his experiences in Europe last year as a member of an international delegation sent to Bulgaria to investigate conditions among revolutionary Macedonians arrested there for political offences. Smith also commented upon the work performed by Dr. Bethune of Montreal and his Medical Unit in Madrid, Spain. He also appealed for funds for this Medical Unit, stating that the cost of operation connected with this Unit amounted to \$1,000 per week.

Alex Davidson, of the local branch of the Canadian Labour Defence League, presided over the meeting.

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VI. QUEBEC11. United Front Labour Party Conference at Montreal

A United Front Labour Party Conference held at the Mount Royal Hotel, Montreal, on 14th February, was attended by 150 delegates, most of whom represented Left Wing [deletion:2-3 words] organizations. The Communist Party was represented by Stanley Ryerson, Fred Rose and Romeo Duval. J. Cupello, chairman of the conference, in his opening remarks, stated that the object of the conference was to form a United Labour Party "that could enter and become a factor in the political field". He said that labour had suffered a loss at every election and that this must not be repeated. He urged all organizations represented, with the exception of the Communist Party of Canada, to affiliate with the Labour Party. Stanley Ryerson, speaking in the name of the Communist Party, stated that his organization is as yet not prepared to affiliate with the Labour Party but would extend its fullest co-operation in the building of a unified Labour Party.

The Communist Party, for tactical reasons, declines to affiliate with the Labour Party for the time being. All Left Wing organizations controlled by the Communist Party, however, will be urged to do so and it is anticipated that through them the Communist Party will indirectly become the driving force in the Labour Party.

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