

The White Terror

Rescue Our Comrade Rakosi

By Harry Pollitt (London)

What would you feel like if after serving a sentence of eight and a half years in a torture prison when the time of your release came you were calmly told that you were now going to be held in prison to wait new charges being levelled against you for events that took place sixteen years ago?

That is the question that must be put to every worker and friend of the heroic fight of the Hungarian working class and one of its greatest leaders, **Comrade Rakosi**, who now stands menaced with the death penalty arising out of the farcical trial that is being staged on January 14, 1935.

For eight and a half long years Comrade Rakosi has given an example of exemplary courage and bearing in the face of the terrible suffering and provocation that the Hungarian fascists are past masters of. These hangmen had hoped that in this time they could have killed Rakosi as a result of their prison treatment. But the spirit of the revolutionary is unconquerable, and Rakosi served the sentence originally inflicted upon him, and on the day that his liberation was due, instead of walking out of the death house of the Hungarian hangmen, he was just told that a new indictment was being prepared against him.

Since April, 1934, he has been kept in prison waiting. Now the indictment has been drafted. Rakosi is to be tried by what is technically described as "summary procedure," which means he has no chance before such a court, and that the death sentence by hanging is already written out.

That is the intention of the Hungarian fascists, who have never forgotten the heroic stand of the Hungarian workers and peasants in the short days when the Soviets ruled in Hungary.

But there is another court that must and can not only speak but act. It is the **workers' international tribunal**. At once we must rouse the workers to the knowledge of this new infamy that is being planned. At once we must get the same

mass mobilisation that was secured when the Hitler hangmen thought that Comrade Dimitrov and his comrades were secure in their clutches.

World protests and Comrade Dimitrov's magnificent stand succeeded in confounding the plans of the German fascists; world protests, strengthened by the memories of the splendid stand and speeches of Comrade Rakosi made eight and a half years ago, must now this very moment be organised in every land, in order that we can snatch Rakosi from the scaffold.

It can be done, it must be done. It will be an indelible stain on our revolutionary honour if we let Rakosi die. It will be a heavy blow at the international working-class movement that Rakosi has served so nobly and so well if we do not use every minute to fan the wave of protests already beginning into a mighty ocean of demands for the immediate release of Rakosi.

Just now the social democrats are making, as usual, a united front with their various capitalist governments against the Soviet Union. Their crocodile tears are bespattering pages of the bourgeois press about the recent trials and executions of known counter-revolutionaries, the scum of the earth, the bandits and terrorists who would try and bring down the Soviet Union, who work in close relationship with the terrorists of all the European capitals, and who can always rely upon the support and hospitality of the Hungarian government. But these same social democrats are silent where the case of Rakosi is concerned. He is only a worker with a lifetime of service to the working class, with a lifetime's devotion to the revolutionary cause of the workers.

The Hungarian fascists want to kill Rakosi, not because of the events that took place in a revolutionary situation in Hungary sixteen years ago, and for which Rakosi as People's Commissar for Social Production had no responsibility, but because they know that Rakosi free is another revolutionary fighter free to continue the struggle against hunger, fascism, and war. Because they know that Rakosi free will come back immediately into the ranks to carry on the struggle as undauntedly as before, seeking to inspire all those he will come in contact with, with renewed ardour to carry on the fight against fascist oppression and terror.

Eight and a half years in a foul jail. Twenty-hour hours in a day, three hundred and sixty-five days in a year, eight and a half years of this slow torture and suffering, and yet to be able to face the gloating hangmen with a smile born out of the proud knowledge that the revolutionary cannot be crushed.

Our duty is plain. Rakosi has done more than one man ought to be called upon to bear, but he has had to do it, because the protests of the workers have not been loud enough, have not been forceful and sustained enough. Now to action to end this nightmare of suffering and uncertainty. Rakosi belongs to the international working-class movement; we have the responsibility of freeing him, and doing it now.

Only four weeks remain. Believe me, they will seem to fly to those whose lives are at stake. In every large city there is some representative of the Hungarian government. Let us organise the workers to make their presence felt. Resolutions, protest deputations, all these must be got under way. International opinion still counts even amongst fascist hangmen. Let it be so exerted now, that the Hungarian government is forced to realise that under no circumstances are the workers of the world prepared to let this trial proceed. That they demand the release of Rakosi, and that they intend to secure this.

It is the duty of all the Communist Parties to take the lead in developing this agitation to rescue one of the bravest and most dauntless fighters of the Communist International.