

LABOR ACTION

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"Of course, I'll be just as successful here as I was in Suez."

A Cartoon by Vicky in the London Daily Mirror, September 1955

CYPRUS: Imperialism Hangs On With Fang and Claw

By HAL DRAPER

Ending a period of attempted maneuvers designed to split the Cypriot nationalist movement, the British government has now admitted defeat by exiling Archbishop Makarios. With this, Britain declares war on the whole of the Greek population of Cyprus, and civil war on the island is exploding.

Now, after exiling the Cypriot national leader, the British (reports the papers) are searching his palace for "evidence" of his association with terrorism! This may be the prelude to manufacturing what is lacking.

The people of Cyprus, answered with a solid general strike, still continuing. It is important to understand that this move to resort to imperialist brass knuckles is the result of a defeat.

The British gauleiter Sir John Harding, backed up by envoys from London, has been trying to win away the "moderate" elements, who look to Makarios, as a counterweight to the more militant nationalists (heavily influenced by the Stalinists). The aim has been the usual one: to make an illusory deal with the

moderates which would keep the situation quiet for a while while the imperialist dominator tried to consolidate the situation.

The expulsion of Makarios is, therefore, an act of desperation in reaction to his refusal, or inability, to play the British game.

It will inevitably remind the world of the equally desperate expedient employed by the French when, frantically trying to hold on to their profitable preserves in North Africa, they turned the Sultan of Morocco into exile.

As everyone knows, this only served to unite the whole Moroccan nation more solidly than ever behind the man whom they considered the national martyr. Even reactionary and mercenary elements like El Glaoui, the pasha of Marrakesh, were finally and reluctantly

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Natalia Trotsky Assails Illusory Hopes About Turn by 20th Russian CP Congress

"We cannot hope for anything from these people," said Natalia Sedova Trotsky, widow of the great revolutionary leader, discussing the recent 20th Congress of the Russian Communist Party, which had sent up a massive propaganda smoke-screen about its "return to Leninism."

Natalia Sedova made her views clear in an interview with the press which launched the news of the telegram and letter which she had sent to this same congress of the Russian bureaucracy. However, the general press (judging by the N. Y. Times and the New York press) printed only the general content of her telegram and nothing of her views.

In her telegram, dated February 22 and addressed to the presidium of the 20th Congress, she had put before them the challenge to make good their intimations about rectifying Stalin's falsifications of history, by rehabilitating Trotsky's name.

In her letter of February 15, addressed to Voroshilov as president of the Supreme Soviet, she had asked for news of the fate of her son Serge Sedov.

The interview with Natalia Sedova, as well as the texts of the messages, appeared in the Mexican newspaper *Excelsior* for February 28, in an article signed by Victor Alba, a wellknown Mexican socialist writer.

Comrade Natalia riddled the notion that the new rulers constituted a "collective leadership." In reality, she said, it is the "collective dictatorship of a small group," instead of a single man.

The heirs of Stalin do not "want to be subjected in the future to the worry of depending on the caprices, moods, and complexes of a single dictator."

"SOP TO DISCONTENT"

Nothing can be expected, she said, from these people who yesterday bowed before Stalin and were accomplices in all his crimes, and who today ask people to forget the "errors" of such magnitude that they were capable of making.

They are just trying to throw a sop to popular discontent, she diag-

nosed, through the reforms which they promise.

Thus she made it quite clear that she was no party to the widespread illusions and delusions, about fundamental reform of the totalitarian dictatorship from the top down, which followed in the wake of the 20th Congress's demagoguery.

Evidently the telegram had been sent with the idea of thus exposing the demagogic character of the Khrushchev "return to Leninism," by showing that, in spite of all the talk, Stalin's chief victim and the symbol of the Leninist opposition to him, Leon Trotsky, was not going to be "rehabilitated" in official Russian historiography.

CREATIVE IMAGINATION

It seemed, however, that misinterpretation, fantastic and otherwise, was rife in the speculations of the same sort of commentators who were already blithely reporting that the Russian rulers were going back to a great democracy. One radio commentator, for example, apparently had his imagina-

tion overstimulated by reading the bare news that Natalia had sent a telegram to Moscow, plus perhaps the ignorant vaporings of Harrison Salisbury which were already appearing in the N. Y. Times. He told his radio audience that all this presaged a rapprochement "between the Communists and the Trotskyists," which no doubt would increase "Communist" strength no end....

But Natalia Sedova was not looking optimistically to the political deliberations of the congress. This is clear from the sentiments she expressed in the *Excelsior* interview.

Here is the whole section of the *Excelsior* article which presents the interview with Natalia Sedova.

FROM TEXT OF INTERVIEW

... Making public the text of these documents [the telegram and letter], in the Coyoacan house where Leon Trotsky had lived and where he was assassinated, Natalia Sedova declared on the subject of

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