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Spy, Spy, Trotsky

Throughout Russia last week Dictator Josef Stalin continued his "purge" against "Trotskyites."

In this natural aftermath of the execution a fortnight ago of 16 conspirators against the Soviet regime, no Trotskyite was spared. Nor was anyone suspected of Trotsky leanings overlooked. Journalists, officials, high-ranking red army officers, heads of banks, railroads, publishing houses, and many celebrities in literary and theatrical pursuits felt the heavy hand of the Kremlin government.

Helping in the "purge" was the NKVD (as the former OGPU is now called), which continued to investigate every state institution and every individual the secret police believed had Trotskyist leanings. In addition, the Soviet press declared Trotskyism must be cleaned out, root and branch. Leading newspapers announced the revival of spying methods developed by the dreaded Cheka in the early days of the Bolsheviki revolution. One paper urged every son to spy upon his father, and every worker to spy upon his neighbor.

"The better spy you are," it said, "the better communist you prove yourself."

While this was going on within the Soviet Union, the government vigorously protested to Norway for harboring Leon Trotsky, the man charged by Stalinites with fomenting the recent plot against Soviet leaders. In Oslo, the Norwegian police arrested two of Trotsky's secretaries, escorted them to the border under police guard, and cut off the exiled revolutionist from all contact with the outside world. But Norway refused the Russian demand that he be expelled, because it lacked the power to oust him until another nation volunteers to admit him.

Interned at Hoenefoss under close police guard, Trotsky was reported enraged at being suddenly transferred from the status of the little country's honored guest to its most closely guarded prisoner. His safety was virtually assured, however, when the Chief of State Police was ordered to find a suitable dwelling for him and his wife.

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The week's footnote to all this Trotsky-Stalin excitement was defiantly struck by Foreign Minister Halvdan Koht at a political meeting in Oslo. "Norway," he let Russia know, "does not intend to dance to another government's pipes."

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