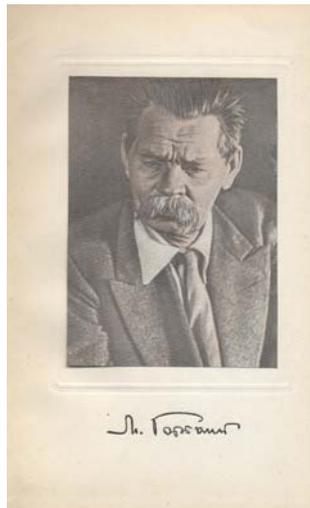


How Trotsky Murdered Maxim Gorky and Many Others

By Majdur Travail

Maxim Gorky, the most celebrated of all the proletarian writers; loved by Lenin and Stalin and endeared to the world proletariat, was murdered June 18, 1936.



The circumstances of the crime were so shocking and bizarre that none but Socrates himself, a witness to the wicked demagoguery of the 5th century B.C., could have envisioned such a dastardly deed.¹ Upon learning of the crime the proletariat of the entire world loosed a shriek of horror and the Soviet people echoed Gorky's words: "If the enemy does not surrender, he must be destroyed."²

¹ In Plato's *Republic*, Simonides holds that *justice is giving to each person his due* which, according to him, is *good to one's friends and harm to one's enemies*. Socrates gives this proposition his characteristic ironic twist:

[Soc.] "Who then is most able when they are *ill* to benefit friends and harm enemies in respect to disease and health?"

[Sim.] "*The physician.*" [*Republic*, 332:e]

² Maxim Gorky, *If the Enemy does not Surrender*, Nov. 15, 1930. "Inside the country, cunning enemies organize a shortage of food. The kulaks terrorize the collective farm peasants by murder, by arson, by all sorts of villainies; everything that has outlived the term set by history is against us, and this gives us the right to consider ourselves still in a state of civil war. The natural conclusion which follows is: if the enemy does not surrender, he must be destroyed."

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The investigation following the murder uncovered a sinister plot that linked Leon Trotsky to German, Polish and Japanese fascists, and to the British secret service via the American Trotskyite Max Eastman.

Leon Trotsky along with Nikolai Bukharin had organized the Bloc of Rights and Trotskyites³ not only to murder Maxim Gorky and his son Maxim Peshkov. The trial of the "Bloc of Rights and Trotskyites" before the Military Collegium of the Supreme Court of the USSR, in Moscow, March 2–13, 1938 exposed the entire treasonous affair and exposed Trotsky's direct links to fascist Duces⁴

The plot to murder Gorky unfolded as follows. Trotsky met Bessonov in Paris in 1934 who told Bessonov that Gorky must be destroyed at all costs for his adherence to Stalin and the general line of the party, and for his vocal opposition to the terrorist activities of the kulaks, inter alios⁵, which mobilized the Soviet masses against them. Trotsky then helped Bessonov to enter the USSR and told him to convey this message to Gorky's personal physician Pyatakov who transmitted it to the Bloc as was testified to by the co-conspirator Yagoda. The co-conspirator Rykov, the accomplice of Bukharin, testified that the Bloc "insisted on putting an end to Gorky's political activity," just as they had done to Sergei Mironovich Kirov.⁶

Bukharin testified at the trial that Trotsky had told him that Trotsky was preparing a hostile act against Gorky. Tomsy heard it from Bessonov who brought these instructions from abroad. What instructions? To destroy Gorky. From whom? Trotsky. What was the hostile act supposed to be?

According to Bukharin it was supposed to be an "action against the 'Stalinite Gorky,' as a defender of Socialist construction in general, and of Stalin's Party policy in particular." Bukharin testified that the hostile act against Gorky was to be linked to the overthrow of the Soviet government and said that

³ Hereinafter, "the Bloc". The Bloc was intermingled with Rights, Trotskyites, Mensheviks, Socialist-Revolutionaries, bourgeois nationalists and Social-Democrats (fascists).

⁴ Lat., dux, ducis: leader.

⁵ Lat. "among other people".

⁶

when one speaks of a 'hostile act' it could mean anything, including a terrorist act.

The terrorist acts which followed Trotsky's contract on Gorky would not precipitate one murder, but three murders—of Mezhinsky, Kuibyshev and Maxim Gorky. The hideous method by which these murders were committed was called killing by degrees—as Yagoda put it “murder with a guarantee.” As odd as it may seem to the modern proletariat, it was a murder method already known to the ancients—as Plato so testifies. Trotsky knew of it, just as all who have read Plato know of it. The three victims were murdered by their physicians: Levin, Kazakov and Pletnev. It was called “murder with a guarantee” since it would be presumed that the victims had died of natural causes and that their murders, their physicians, had done all in their power to save the victims lives.

Yagoda conceived of the plan and Levin became the main organizer of the terrorist cell group and enlisted both Kazakov and Pletnev. Maxim Gorky perished in the hands of Levin, a Doctor of Medical Sciences, who would go on to write Gorky's obituary in order to conceal his crime, but, in fact, gave away the secret of the murder.

Levin knew that Gorky had been severely afflicted with tuberculosis since before the revolution and had been Maxim Gorky's personal physician for the preceding ten years and observed that Gorky suffered the “grippe” (influenza) six times in that period and that the complications of bronchitis and catarrhal invariably followed. In his obituary for Gorky, Levin referred to Maxim's lungs as the *locus minoris resistentiae*.⁷ “Gorky was one of those people who live to be a hundred, and he would undoubtedly have lived to be a hundred if not for the vicious tuberculosis,” he said. The murderer giving away the *criminis secretum*.⁸

Levin was also Yagoda and Mezhinsky's physician and, after 1928, both would meet with Gorky at his home in Moscow during the summer. Yagoda lavished Levin with flowers and fine French wine and eventually turned over a beautiful country home near Moscow to him where he lived with his family during the summer months for five or six years. In addition to these flatteries, Yagoda arranged for Levin to pass through Soviet customs without inspection after his frequent trips abroad to visit Gorky recuperating during the winter months.

In 1933 Yagoda enlisted Levin in the plot against Gorky's son Maxim Peshkov. “You see Max—that was the way he called him—is not only a good-for-nothing, but also exerts harmful influence on his father...He must be removed. It is necessary to do something that he should perish,” Yagoda said.

⁷ Lat., “the place of least resistance”.

⁸ Lat., “secret of the crime”.

Yagoda was not idle, for he had also enlisted Maxim's personal secretary Kryuchkov in the plot. “It is not a question of Maxim [Peshkov], but mainly of Gorky,” Kryuchkov testified. Yagoda had convinced him that a counter-revolutionary coup was in the works and that a new government would soon be in power.

Prosecutor: Whose?

Kryuchkov: Mine.

Yagoda convinced him that the death of Maxim Peshkov would be a heavy blow to Gorky. “[It] would turn him into a harmless old man,” Kryuchkov said. They thus concluded that Maxim Peshkov's murder must be done and as a result of their professional wrecking activities of the medical kind, Menzhinsky perished on May 10, 1934 and Maxim Peshkov on the following day.

After the funerals, Yagoda summoned Levin and told him that on account of his crimes he was delivered entirely into Yagoda's hands and proceeded to give him further instructions, the instructions to commit even more crimes. “a change of government is inevitable, predetermined and unavoidable, the movement is headed by Rykov, Bukharin and Yenukidze. The soon it takes place the better. In order to speed it up we have to remove certain members of the Political Bureau and Alexei Maximovich Gorky,” Yagoda told Levin.

Since, according to Yagoda, it was a historical necessity; Levin volunteered to carry out Yagoda's instructions. “You will reap the fruits of it when the new government comes to power,” Yagoda told him.

Prosecutor: That means you organized the death of A. M. Gorky?

Levin: Yes.

Prosecutor: Upon whose orders did you act?

Levin: Yagoda's.

The President: Accused Levin, continue.

Levin: Not wishing to apply potent poisonous substances, we worked by means of wrong [medical] treatment.

With respect to the murder of Maxim Peshkov, Levin and members of the Bloc first “worked on the weakening of the organism” by the excessive use of alcoholic beverages. After getting him drunk and working him hard on a hot day they arranged for him to pass-out with out a shirt on causing him to catch a cold and in two days croupous pneumonia set in. Medicines that would have been beneficial to his heart were eliminated while those detrimental were

systematically applied. On May 11 he died of pneumonia.

Since Maxim Gorky's heart and lungs were already in terrible shape, on account of the reasons stated above. Levin and Kryuchkov knew that Gorky loved to hike and engage in manual work such as busting rock with a hammer and chopping wood. Levin and Kryuchkov set up a regime in the winter of 1935 when Gorky was hiking in the Crimea. Just as Gorky had finished chopping some wood, Levin and Kryuchkov insisted on a bonfire and Gorky was encouraged to stand next to it. The inhalation of this kind of smoke is bad for the lungs, as anyone who suffers (or treats) bronchitis would know.

Since, Gorky did not fall immediately ill he was to be taken to a home where someone was ill with influenza. As it turned out, Yagoda learned that the children at Gorky's house were sick with it and contrived to return Gorky to his home in Moscow. Within two or three days Gorky was stricken with the grippe complicated by croupous pneumonia which immediately took a dangerous turn.

Instead of healing him, Levin and another conspirator Professor Pletnev prescribed medicines normally used in such cases, but applied them in very large doses. "We did not administer any special medicines that would make people wonder why they were being applied," Levin testified. Among such medicines were camphor, caffeine, cardiosol, digalen.

Levin: We gave him as many as forty injections of camphor.

Prosecutor: Over what period of time?

Levin: Between thirty and forty injections in twenty-four hours.

Prosecutor: Plus?

Levin: Two injections of digalen.

Prosecutor: That's forty-two plus?

Levin: Plus four injections of caffeine.

Prosecutor: That's forty-six plus?

Levin: Plus two injections of strychnine.

Prosecutor: That's forty-eight...

Grinko tried to undermine the ruble. Zelensky disrupted food supplies and placed ground glass in butter and iron filings in flour. Others, working for Japanese intelligence, sabotaged mines and caused train wrecks. Rosengoltz tried to assassinate Stalin and murdered Kirov and Bukharin was the theoretician of the whole program.

The ties of Trotskyism with fascism are now open and notorious and they meet in the common depth of anti-human infamy. The Trotskyites went further than their Nazi mentors. The Nazis withheld butter from the masses; the Trotskyites loaded butter with nails and broken glass. The Nazis withheld meat; the Trotskyites infected it with anthrax. The Nazis used war to exalt their nation; the Trotskyites would use it to dismember their own. The Nazis oppressed their people; the Trots sold theirs into slavery. They were destroyed in the USSR. They must be destroyed everywhere.

They murdered the greatest proletarian author of all time. We must wonder, after Trotsky was killed, why the rest are now allowed to live.

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