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Dies Seeks to Question Trotsky And Rivera at Texas Border

By The Associated Press
ORANGE, Tex., Dec. 6.—Exiled Leon Trotsky and Diego Rivera, Leftist Mexican muralist, may come to Texas in a few days to testify on Communist inroads in Latin America, Martin Dies, Democrat, of Texas, chairman of the House un-Americanism committee, disclosed today.

If permission can be obtained from the State Department for Trotsky to enter the United States, a committee hearing will be held before Jan. 3, probably on the Mexican border.

Dies's secretary, Robert E. Strippling, said the hearing would be aimed at authenticating documents obtained by committee investigators who have conferred with the exiled Russian and Rivera. One document purportedly discloses Soviet instructions to its agent in Mexico aimed at giving all belligerent nations access to Mexico's oil resources.

The purpose of this policy, Strippling suggested, would be to insure the ultimate destruction of Western nations through warfare, after which the Stalin government could extend its power. Trotsky and Stalin have been bitter foes for years. The present Soviet dictator exiled his enemy after the death of Lenin.

"We have come into possession of information strongly indicating evidence of Soviet activity in Mexico

and other Latin-American countries," Strippling added.

"The committee has no intention of becoming a sounding-board for Trotsky and his theories, but we know he has access to accurate information on the work of Communists in Mexico and other countries, and the committee hopes to establish the authenticity of the document it has.

"The Communists, our information indicates, are making a concerted effort in Mexico, and their plan to spread from there to other countries seems to constitute a threat to our peace and security."

Chairman Dies is under physicians' orders to rest for thirty days to recuperate from his strenuous work in recent month. The chairman said, however, he might have to disregard the orders in order to conduct the hearing.

Rivera, partly Mexican whose murals have been received with acclaim and controversy, formerly was on intimate terms with Trotsky. Recent reports have told of a break between them. In Mexico City today, both said they had not received invitations to testify before the Dies committee.

Trotsky came to Mexico after he had been denied permission to stay in numerous other countries. He was a collaborator with Lenin and Stalin in the 1917 revolution but

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Dies Aims to Get Trotsky's Story At Texas Border

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after Lenin's death was shorn of power and exiled by the present Soviet dictator.

Neither Yet Invited

MEXICO CITY, Dec. 6 (AP).—Leon Trotsky and Diego Rivera said today that they had not received invitations to appear before the Dies committee investigating un-Americanism.

Trotsky, through a secretary, said he knew "nothing about it." Rivera said: "I am unable to say whether I would appear if invited until I have learned the details. I have expressed viewpoints from time to time in the American press because in my opinion the greatest danger for the working people of this continent and progress in general is the Stalinist penetration of Latin America."

Amazement at Capitol

From the Herald Tribune Bureau
WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—Amazement at the Capitol and perturbation in the State Department were the first reaction here today to the announcement of Chairman Martin Dies that his House committee investigating un-American activities will soon make a "Texas border-town" examination of Leon Trotsky, Russian exile now in Mexico, and Diego Rivera, Mexican painter of murals.

The three members of the committee now in Washington apparently had not been forewarned of the Trotsky-Rivera program. One of them, Representative Noah Mason, Republican, of Illinois, said: "I don't believe it—the report is made out of whole cloth." Representative Joe Starnes, Democrat, of Alabama, and Jerry Voorhis, Democrat, of California, both indicated they knew nothing about it.

The State Department declined to comment today on reports that an attache of the committee had recently sought to facilitate the movement of Trotsky and Rivera into the United States if they choose to appear before the investigating committee.

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