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Vonsiatsky, Former Czarist Officer Maintains Armed Force, Arsenal— Trotzkyists His 'Allies'

By Harry Raymond

[This is the first of two articles.]

THOMPSON, Conn., July 15.—Anatase A. Vonsiatsky, monarchist and leader of the Russian National Revolutionary Fascist Party, admitted to the Daily Worker here that he is hatching a plot in the gun-room of his palatial estate for destruction of the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics, a nation friendly with the United States.

He also boasted that he had used his organization to destroy democratic liberties in America and said he had supplied tear gas from his well-stocked arsenal to break a Connecticut textile strike.

Seated in his military-appointed chamber, where I saw him and spoke with him for more than an hour, the fascist chieftain openly discussed his plans for using American soil as a base for a sinister campaign of assassination, terror and wrecking against the workers and farmers government of the Soviet Union.

In this campaign, Vonsiatsky said, Leon Trotzky is "my automatic ally."

"Trotzky is my ally in a certain way," he said. "We are both working against the Stalin government. We are automatically allied."

I arrived at the Russian Monarchist-Fascist headquarters—a veritable fortress, stocked with rifles and tear gas bombs—shortly after Vonsiatsky's party had concluded a convention of 50 fascist chiefs from several countries.

Wandering at the time across the rolling lawns of the estate, which serve as military drill grounds for Vonsiatsky's private brown-shirt army, was Prince Theodore, nephew of the late Czar Nicholas, who came here from Windsor, England, to attend the fascist confab.

RIFLES, TEAR GAS STORED

A brown-shirted guard wearing a white swastika on his left arm met me at the door of the Vonsiatsky military house. He looked at me quizzically when I told him I was a reporter from the Daily Worker and would like to speak to "the chief." The guard disappeared through the heavy stone portals. Four minutes later, with the guard walking behind me, I was ushered into the presence of the Russian fascist chief.

"Your paper won't print what I say," Vonsiatsky said as he motioned me to a chair directly in front of him.

"Well, say something and see," I said. "Tell me what's the idea of you organizing a private fascist army in this country?"

"I am building an army of propagandists and agitators," he said.

"And you're stocking up with guns and tear gas. What's that for?"

Vonsiatsky admitted he owned a stack of 36 military rifles, two cases of tear gas, two tear gas guns, several pistols, daggers, knives and trench helmets.

Russian Fascist Plotting in U. S. Claims Trotzkyists as His Allies

(Continued from Page 1)

"But," he said, "my organization is not for American people. We do not propose to interfere in the American scene. We are organized to overthrow the Soviet government in Russia."

HELPED ATTACK STRIKERS

"You are an American citizen," I insisted. "You were naturalized here after you ran away from Russia, weren't you?"

"Yes," he said, "and I was a first lieutenant, a reserve officer, in the U. S. Chemical Warfare Department. But I resigned my commission when Roosevelt recognized the Soviet government."

"And what about the report that you supplied tear gas from your arsenal to Connecticut State Police to be used against strikers at the Lawton Textile Mills in Plainfield?" I asked. "That was interfering in American affairs, wasn't it?"

Vonsiatsky's eyes roved around the room. His gaze centered on a picture of Czar Nicholas II. He seemed to find inspiration there and turned to me and said: "The police always use humane methods in this country. They use tear gas. One time they were short of gas and I was perfectly willing to give them some of mine."

PREDICTED KIROV DEATH

Vonsiatsky said he did not think he was violating the official American spirit of friendliness to the Soviet Union by plotting a counter-revolution against that government on United States territory.

He continually referred to his paper, the Fascist, published on his estate once a month in the Russian language. One issue of this paper openly boasts of how the Russian Fascist Party sent orders to agents in the Soviet Union to assassinate leaders of the government and wreck industrial enterprises. Another issue predicted the murder of Kirov only a

few weeks before the Soviet official was shot to death in Leningrad by a fascist-Trotzkyite combination of plotters.

"Yes, I predicted the death of Kirov," Vonsiatsky declared boastfully and added that the next issue of the Fascist would predict the death of two more Soviet officials.

Asked what form of government his party advocated, Vonsiatsky replied quickly, "A totalitarian state."

AGREES WITH TROTZKYISTS

And on the question of the economic situation in the Soviet Union, where the workers and peasants have made giant strides improving their welfare under socialism, the fascist chief said he disagreed with Walter Duranty and other famous observers and was inclined to agree with the statements of Max Eastman, Trotzkyite writer, who said in a counter-revolutionary article in Harpers Magazine that there was no Socialism in the U. S. S. R.

"Yes, I find myself in agreement with the Trotzkyites many times," Vonsiatsky said.

Although Vonsiatsky declined to discuss the source of financial income for his terrorist movement, it is well known that \$50,000,000 fell into his lap through his marriage in 1922 to Marion B. Ream, heiress of the Norman B. Ream U. S. Steel fortune.

Marion Ream picked up Vonsiatsky in Paris after he had fled from Russia, where he, the son of a Czarist police official, had served in General Wrangel's white army fighting against the Soviet Government.

Mrs. Vonsiatsky entertains lavishly on the big Thompson estate and sees to it that her husband Anatase has all the funds he needs for guns and gas and motor cars and newsprint and printers' ink to propagate his anti-democratic plot.