
THE ANTI-SOVIET CONSPIRACY IN THE UNITED STATES*

BY EARL BROWDER

I WISH to speak about the Ehrlich-Alter case in the United States.

This case originates in a conspiratorial effort of American citizens, organized on American soil, to overthrow the government of the Soviet Union, an Ally of the United States, at a moment when our own government has declared the defense of the Soviet Union is vital to the national interests of the United States. The government of the United States had pledged itself to the Soviet Union, in the agreement of December, 1933, that it would prevent the operation from United States soil of any organization directed toward the overthrow of the government of the Soviet Union. But the U. S. government has closed its eyes to this conspiracy, has tolerated its continued operations, and now permits a mass campaign in this country in defense of the conspiratorial agents who were apprehended and executed in the Soviet Union.

We do not know the evidence upon which a Soviet Court condemned Ehrlich and Alter. But we have enough evidence of the conspiracy

in the United States, of which Ehrlich and Alter were agents, to confirm the findings of the Soviet court.

If Ehrlich and Alter were true to the teachings and decisions of those men in the United States who are their sponsors, then we know that they were as guilty as Benedict Arnold. And their American sponsors testify publicly that their agents were true to them.

A chief leader of the anti-Soviet conspiracy in the United States is a certain Mr. N. Chanin. This gentleman operates as a leader of the so-called "Jewish Labor Committee." For years he has collected money in this country to be used for secret conspiratorial work inside the Soviet Union. What was the nature of that secret work? Mr. Chanin has himself described it, writing in the magazine *Friend*, issue of January, 1942:

"The last shot was not yet fired. It will still be fired. And the last shot will be fired from free America—and from that shot the Stalin regime, too, will be shot to pieces."

Mr. Chanin was expressing the political line of the Social-Democratic Federation of the United

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States. This line was publicly expressed in a detailed thesis, published under date of July 1, 1941, in a pamphlet entitled *War Aims, Peace Terms, and the World After the War*, by the Rand School Press. It is signed by leading members of the Social-Democratic organizations of emigré Germans, Austrians, and Russians, as well as by the Americans, all long associated with every effort to overthrow the Soviet Government. The central thought of this declaration is the destruction of the Soviet Union. It calls for the destruction of the Soviet Government in the course of the war; in case that government "should survive the war," it demands preparations for removing this "source of danger" by the "armed force" of Britain and America; it links the Soviet Union with Nazi Germany as equally "totalitarian regimes"; it declares for a new League of Nations to which Russia shall be admitted "once she has been freed from totalitarian rule."

This group of American conspirators, with their allies from the emigration, appointed as their representatives in the Soviet Union Messrs. Ehrlich and Alter, and heavily financed them through the channels of the Polish government-in-exile, which are most extremely anti-Soviet and anti-Semitic. These agents, Ehrlich and Alter, were informed that "the Stalin regime, too, will be shot to pieces," and that the "last shot will be fired from free America."

Evidently Ehrlich and Alter took the teachings and decisions of their paymasters in New York at their

face value, and tried to put them into action.

But everyone who goes into the Soviet Union for the purpose of destroying the Soviet Government is in grave danger of being himself destroyed. That is what happened to Ehrlich and Alter, in company with a few million Nazis and their Rumanian, Finnish, Hungarian, Italian, and Spanish vassals.

The Government of the United States has declared that America's national interests also lie in preserving the Soviet Government from all current attempts to destroy it. Our country is devoting a few billion dollars in lend-lease materials to carry out that declaration, we signed the Pact of the United Nations, we pledged to open the Second Front.

But Mr. Chanin, together with Mr. Dubinsky, Mr. Abe Cahan, and others of Russian origin who think they should rule the Soviet peoples from afar, from New York, raise a great howl about the loss of their two agents inside the Soviet Union. They organize "protest meetings," denounce the Soviet Government in the most unmeasured and slanderous terms, and even inveigle a few misguided governmental figures to lend their names to this outrageous campaign.

It would be well to recall that these same gentlemen put up a protest even more unconditional in defense of Mr. Leon Trotsky. They were the defenders of Zinoviev, Bukharin, Tukhachevsky, and the rest of the "fifth column" in the Soviet Union, whose execution deprived Hitler of his Quislings. Now

they defend Ehrlich and Alter in the same terms, though without the same energy and confidence.

And how do they "defend" their two agents? Do they say that Ehrlich and Alter in the Soviet Union were actually helping the Red Army win their glorious triumphs which saved world civilization from destruction? They do not dare make such a claim, for it would fly in the face of all their own declarations.

Do they claim that the Soviet Union is not intelligent enough to know its friends from its enemies, and that it executed the wrong men? They do not dare make such a claim, for they themselves are not friends but enemies of the Soviet Union.

What they really say, boiled down to its essence, is to claim for their agents in the Soviet Union the status of "extra-territorial rights" accorded to ambassadors, together with the right, not accorded to any one, even ambassadors, of organizing to overthrow the government of the Soviet Union in the midst of life-and-death war.

Senator Mead loaned his name to the Chanin-Dubinsky-Cahan conspiracy in connection with a public meeting last Friday. Mayor La Guardia did the same. Several labor leaders also allowed themselves to be smeared with the mud of this political underworld. Of course, none of these men knows Ehrlich and Alter as anything but names. None of them has been told that Ehrlich and Alter were working in the Soviet Union to prepare "the last shot"—to come from America—by which the "Stalin re-

gime" was to be "shot to pieces." None of them speaks for the American trade unions in expressing hostility to the Soviet Union.

It is not my role to speak here in defense of the Soviet Union. Our great Ally needs no defense from me. I speak in defense of my own country, the United States, which is more endangered by this miserable conspiracy hatched on its soil than is the Soviet Union. For it is a conspiracy against the United Nations, against victory itself.

Let me ask Senator Mead, Mayor La Guardia, and those responsible labor leaders who fell into the anti-Soviet net of conspiracy, to turn for inspiration rather to Thomas Jefferson. If they have no personal knowledge of Ehrlich and Alter, and they have not, they could at least have maintained the position Jefferson took when he faced the conspiracy of Aaron Burr, the traitor who had even more respectable friends than Ehrlich and Alter. Jefferson told us how to handle such conspirators in the following immortal words:

"I did wish to see these people get what they deserved; and under the maxim of the law itself, that *inter arma silent leges*, that in an encampment expecting daily attack from a powerful enemy, self-preservation is paramount to all law, I expected that instead of invoking the forms of Law to cover traitors, all good citizens would have concurred in securing them. Should we have ever gained our Revolution, if we had bound our hands by manacles of the law, not only in the beginning, but in any part of the revolu-

tionary conflict?" (*Writings*, Vol. XII, p. 183.)

In the case of Ehrlich and Alter, there is no reason to deplore their execution, except upon the part of those who share their aim to destroy the Soviet Union and its socialist system.

The whole democratic world has reason to rejoice that the socialist state has always had the courage to strike hard and accurately and ruthlessly at its counter-revolutionary conspirators.

But there is reason to deplore the rise of anti-Soviet agitation in the United States. This agitation comes at a moment when the whole war is at a turning point. The Nazi armies are being whittled down, pushed back, and prepared for the final blow of destruction, by the amazing heroism and fighting capacity of the Red Army and the genius of its leadership headed by Salin. Herr Goebbels made his frantic appeal to the "gentlemen of the West" who understand "the menace of Bolshevism." The *New York Times* and William C. Bullitt have launched their campaign for the "carrot and club" method of dealing with the Soviet Union, and openly threaten to carry America to the side of Hitler. The hullabaloo about Ehrlich and Alter is a part of this response of the appeasers and defeatists to delay the Second Front and to pre-

pare the ground for negotiations with Hitler. It is a part of the preparations for what Vice President Wallace warned against as a "double-cross" of the Soviet Union.

The people and government of the United States, however, have learned the lesson that the Soviet Union is not our enemy, as the anti-Soviet agitators try to make it appear, but on the contrary the great country of socialism is our natural ally, and all the stronger our ally because it is a socialist country.

The people of the United States do not want any "protests" to our great Soviet Ally, but they want expressions of deep friendship and appreciation for the immeasurable benefits the Soviet Union has conferred upon us by cracking the Nazi armies, and saving the world from Hitler domination.

The people of the United States want to have nothing to do with any one who conspires to overthrow the Soviet Government; on the contrary they want a long-term treaty of alliance and friendship between the Soviet Government and our own, they want a real coalition war.

For this, however, it is necessary to clean out the Ehrlich-Alter conspiracy from American soil. For this conspiracy is directed toward breaking the Anglo-Soviet-American coalition.

The future of our country, and of the world, is at stake.