

Literary Time Bomb Explodes With Trotsky's 'Biography' of Stalin

Leon Trotsky has been dead for six years—lacking four months—but he left behind him a literary time bomb in the form of a "biography" of Josef Stalin which exploded with publication of the book Wednesday.

In the volume Trotsky charged that Stalin may have provided poison to V. I. Lenin to enable the stricken leader of the Soviet revolution to end his life. He also claimed that Stalin was instrumental in ordering the execution of Czar Nicholas II and the imperial family.

Trotsky offered no evidence in support of either allegation.

The allegations were two of dozens which the late collaborator of Lenin made in his final literary work which he left in unfinished

form when he died a his refuge in Mexico Aug. 20, 1940.

The unfinished "biography"—actually a running indictment and attack on Stalin—was completed by Charles Malamuth, one of Trotsky's associates, in 1941 and was due for publication shortly after Pearl Harbor.

Postponed by Publishers
The publishers, Harper & Brothers, held up publication at that time, apparently because of Trotsky's vitriolic invective against Stalin. The book bears the title "Stalin."

Slightly more than half the book was left in semi-completed form by Trotsky. The remainder was assembled from notes, files and literary fragments found in Trotsky's archives by Malamuth. Tro-

sky's own account carried through 1917. The years of his deep conflict with Stalin have largely been reconstructed by Malamuth from Trotsky's notes and files.

Trotsky alleged that just about a year before Lenin died in January, 1924, Stalin mentioned at a meeting of the politburo—inner circle of the communist party central committee—that Lenin who had been ill for some months called him in and asked Stalin to provide him with poison. Lenin had suffered an attack of arteriosclerosis May 26, 1922. After improving for some time he suffered a second stroke in December, 1922, and at the time of the alleged incident reported by Trotsky—February, 1923—physicians were doubtful of his recovery.

No Vote Was Taken
Trotsky reported that Stalin mentioned the poison request to the politburo 'after the departure of the secretary.' Present at the meeting in addition to Stalin and himself were Gregory Zinoviev and Lev Kamenev, Trotsky's brother-in-law. Both these men were executed during the famous purge.

"No vote was taken," Trotsky reported, "since this was not a formal conference, but we parted with the implicit understanding that we could not even consider sending poison to Lenin."

Eleven months after the alleged incident Lenin died.

"Whether Stalin sent the poison to Lenin with the hint that the physician had left no hope for his recovery," said Trotsky, "or whether he resorted to more direct means I do not know. I am firmly convinced that Stalin could not have waited passively when his fate hung by a thread and the decision depended on a very small motion of his hand."

Trotsky quoted Grigori Bessedovsky, a former Soviet diplomat "who had heard various tales in second- and third-rate bureaucratic salons," as his authority for Stalin's alleged part in the execution of the czar and his family.

Bessedovsky quoted Stalin as saying: "Under no circumstances must the czar be surrendered to the White Guards" and added "these words were tantamount to a sentence of death." Trotsky added the cryptic comment: "My plan: trial—radio—documents." He didn't indicate how he proposed to utilize radio in 1918 at a time when not only in Russia but throughout the world only a few "ham" operators were in possession of spark sets.

Trotsky quoted Lenin's so-

Yugoslav Envoy



Sava N. Kosanovitch, above, Minister of Information of Belgrade, has been appointed Yugoslav ambassador to the U. S. following Washington's decision to accord full diplomatic recognition to the Tito government.

called "testament"—a letter of guidance to the communist party, written about a year before Lenin's death—as warning the party against Stalin, urging them to pick someone as party secretary "more loyal, more courteous and more considerate to comrades, less capricious." He did not quote Lenin's comment on Trotsky as a leader afflicted with "too-far-reaching self-confidence and a disposition to be too much attracted by the purely administrative side of affairs." Nor did he mention Lenin's warning to the party that one of its chief threats was a split between Stalin and Trotsky.

Trotsky's death interrupted his biography 10 months before Russia—and Stalin—began their most grueling test, Hitler's attack. In almost the final note of the collection of Trotskyisms which concluded his work he noted that the czarist government, in its final days, had arrested its minister of war at a moment when it "was on the verge of collapse."

"The Soviet Government," concluded Trotsky, "not only arrested and executed its actual minister of war, Tukachevsky, but over and above that it exterminated the entire senior commanding staff of the army, navy and the air corps. Aided by accommodating foreign correspondents in Moscow, the Stalin propaganda machine has been systematically deceiving public opinion the world over about the actual state of affairs in the Soviet Union.

"The monolithic Stalinist government is a myth."

Dancer Believes Waltz Returning

HOLLYWOOD (AP)—Dancing teacher Kenny Williams predicts that jitterbugging is on its way out and the waltz is on its way back in.

It's about every 50 years, Williams has observed, that the waltz returns to popularity, then slips back into second or third place behind some hot jumpy dance.

His conclusions were strengthened by his experiences teaching the Charleston to high school hep-cats for the 20th Century Fox technicolor musical, "Margie," starring Jeanne Crain, Alan Young and Glenn Langan.

"The kids had no trouble learn-

ing the Charleston steps, but they complained that the music was too fast. That indicates to me that dancing is slowing up again."

Williams said the waltz first became popular in 1850.

"It caused plenty of talk at the time. It was the curse of the generation and the dance of the devil, according to thousands of ministers."

"But people kept right on waltzing until 1860, when the first of the 'hot' dances—the polka—was introduced. It kept the jitterbugs of the period jumping until 1880 when a dance called the can-can was taken out of the dives of Paris and made respectable."

Reaction Sets In
But a reaction set in after that, he said, and by 1900 the waltz

again was the top favorite. "As usual, the people couldn't keep their feet on the dance floor long, and by 1910 they were jumping again to the cakewalk. It held its own until the one-step, foxtrot, maxie, bunny-hug and so on became popular."

Those fads gave way in 1925 to the Charleston, the dance craze of the century, he said. Theaters all over the country sponsored Charleston contests and no vaudeville show was complete without a couple of the leg-knockers.

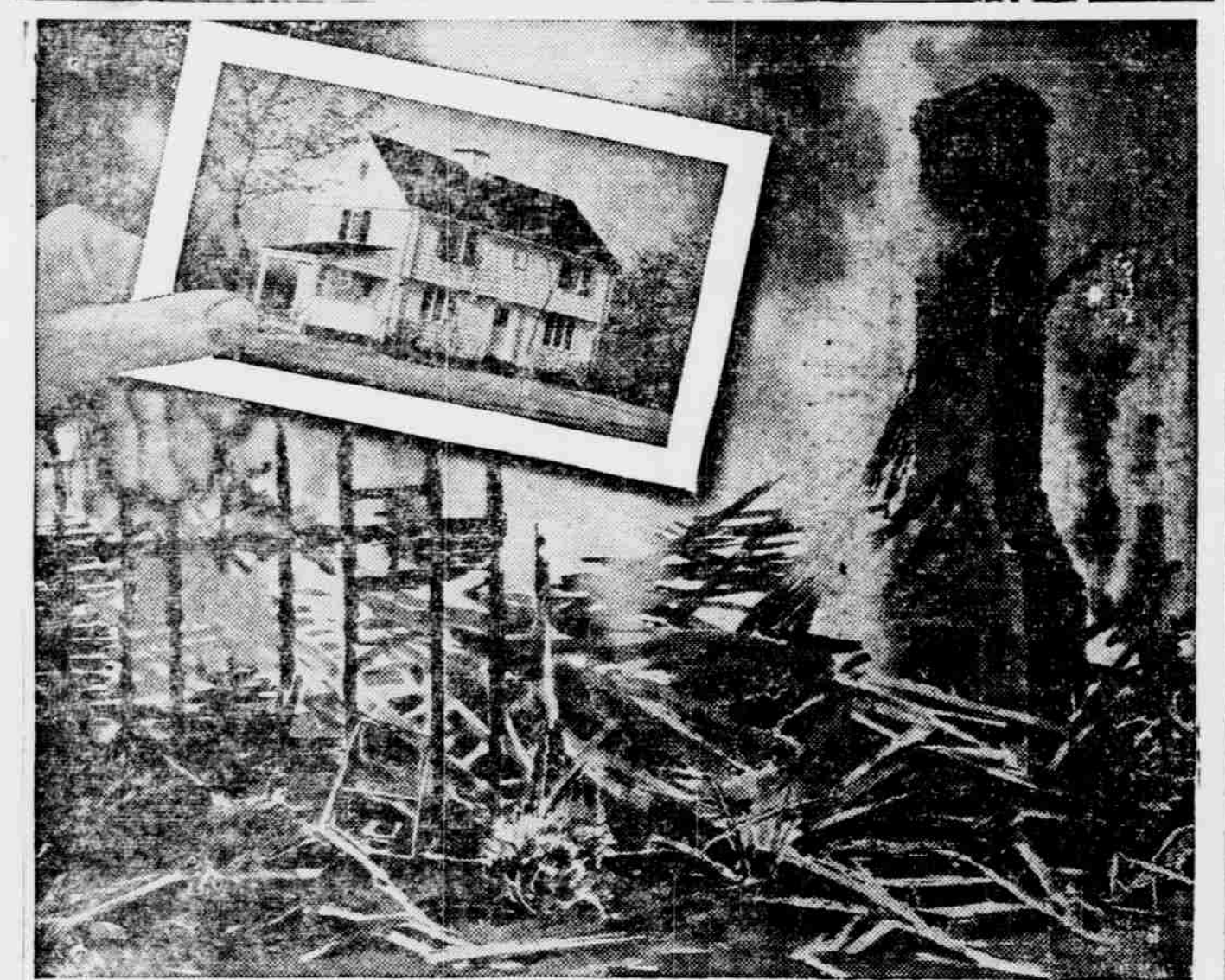
"Since then, the dancing has been slowing down," he said. "And I'm looking for the regular 50-year revival of the waltz quite soon."

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