

REPORT FORM NO. 1

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REPORT MADE BY: **A. E. STEVENSON** PLACE WHERE MADE: **NEW YORK CITY** DATE: **Sept. 12, 1918** PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: **Aug. 5-date**

TITLE OF CASE AND OFFENSE CHARGES OR NATURE OF MATTER UNDER INVESTIGATION:

ALBERT COHEN - RADICAL SOCIALIST MOVEMENT

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS, EVIDENCE COLLECTED, NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF PERSONS INTERVIEWED, PLACES VISITED, ETC.

Division Superintendent, Charles De Woody, referred to the Division of Propaganda for investigation a photostatic copy of extracts of a letter from A. Cohen, Spanish Jewish Journal "La America", 197 Eldridge Street, New York City, to Mr. Jacques Amariglio, c/o Societe Anonyme Industrielle et Commerciale de Salonique, Greece., copy of which is hereto annexed. This is a partial report of the findings. Investigation is still being continued.

"La America" is a daily paper published under Post Office permit in the Ladino language which is the language spoken by Leventine Jews. Some difficulty was experienced in procuring a translator. Even the Post Office Translation Bureau had been unable to find any one to translate this tongue. The Division of Propaganda however succeeded in procuring a reliable translator and it was found that "La America" was not an offensive publication.

Copies of "El Proletario" were also procured. This was a by-monthly publication, Volume I, No. 1 being dated May 1, 1918. This is also published in Ladino and is an extremely radical paper.

Agent Stevenson is informed by William H. Maxwell, Jr. of the Post Office that the paper has been denied the use of the mails. It is interesting to note that the editor of this paper is Mr. A. Cohen referred to in the document under investigation. His name is Albert Cohen, 65 Rivington Street, New York City. The paper is an extremely offensive one and attached hereto is a summary of the translations by the Translation Division of the Bureau of Propaganda. A notice in one of the issues states that a branch of the radical organization of which El Proletario is the organ is being formed in Salonique, Greece. Attention is further called to the fact that the translations submitted under oath by Albert Cohen, the editor, to the Post Office Department under the Trading with the Enemy Act are not accurate. In the case of a number of articles bearing upon the war no translations were furnished to the Post Office Department.

Special recommendations in this case will be made in a later report.

Michael E. Shrawm
SPECIAL AGENT.

COPY OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO:

Hon. John Lord O'Brian, Asst. Attorney General, Washington, D.C.

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Form No. 2

FROM: A. Cohen, Spanish Jewish Journal "La America",
197 Eldridge Street, New York.

TO: Mr. Jacques Amariglio, c/o Societe Anonyme In-
dustrielle et Commerciale de
Salonique, Greece.

Date of letter: March 16th, 1918

This writer states that he is working hard for the Separatist Section of the Socialist party of New York. The writer's organization became fused with another organization and furniture of a value of \$600.00 has been secured. A fortnightly journal called "El Proletario" is being published in issues of 500 numbers. The organization has 150 members. The writer states: "Unfortunately our friends continue to work in factories. They have never been free to leave them at will. Naturally they ask nothing better than to return. Of course, I also wish to return as soon as possible. Only, until that happy moment arrives, I shall have been less subject to the hardships of factory life than they; I owe this advantage to my extensive practical knowledge in addition to being familiar with not less than 10 languages, of which I may say everyone has had a certain use here."

It appears from another portion of the letter written by a person named Albert Moire that some of the other persons associated in this socialist group are T. Cohen (or Kohen), A. Moire, I. Sasson, etc.

EL PROLETARIO

May 17, 1918

To start with, it may not be amiss to note that the translations submitted to the authorities by the editor agree with the Ladino text in as far as the ideas are approximately the same in both, the order of sentences and paragraphs and certain parts of sentences, are not quite the same in the original and translation, so that the editor's translations cannot be said, strictly speaking, to be an exact or true one. This may be seen from a comparison of the translations submitted by the editor and the literal translation according to the original text.

p.3, col.4 (War Article #1) The Red Flag in Berlin

The German government, in answering the protests of the members of the Conservative Party, who asked for the removal of the red flag from the Russian Embassy at Berlin, said:

"It is impossible to demand the removal of the flag, since it has been recognized as the emblem of the New Russian Republic".

p.3, col.4 (War Article #2) The Exempt Men Must Work

Washington.- All the men who were exempted by being placed in the 1st, 2nd, 3d, 4th or 5th class, will be mobilized for government war work; this is the plan prepared by General Crowder.

All those who were exempted by reason of dependents will be compelled either to engage in war work, or to go to fight. Moreover, all those engaged in work not essential to the war, or who may be replaced by women will be transferred to war work.

The plan was submitted to Secretary of War Baker.

(Your attention is respectfully invited to last two underscored passages. In one the original has, "All those who were exempted by reason of dependents" while the translation submitted by the editor reads, "Crowder proposes first to weed out loafers hiding behind women's skirts through dependency exemptions." Secondly the paper speaks of work "not essential to the war" while the original speaks of "non essential industries" without specifying their relation to the war. This may not be important, and these observations are given for what they are worth.)

p.1 col.1;(the columns being counted from right to left)

The Truths of Socialism

In order to escape militarism, wars, and suffering the laboring class throughout the world must take hold of everything and regulate the actions of mankind with justice for all; while we witness in despair the latest cruelties of militarism we are convinced that on the laboring class alone depends whether humanity shall live in peace and happiness,

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or whether she will keep on taking from time to time baths of blood, according to the whims of emperors and capitalists. While a great many people, out of interest or ignorance, try to make us believe that man is black by nature and that his egoistic wishes will never be stamped out, while they declare that the weapons will never be abandoned and that capitalistic competition between merchants and nations will last forever, we socialists believe just the opposite of what these people say.

(The editor then says that the socialists believe in ideals of peace, and equality for people as for individuals; they believe in progress. Man is born neither good nor bad, but the environment, the prevailing conditions of labor render him egoistic; and socialism aims to change these conditions. The guilt for the workingman's suffering attaches to no one in particular, the working man being victim of a wrong social régime of capitalism. These are the truths of socialism, which thus shows the way of salvation for the proletariat). At the end of this (present) conflict socialism will triumph, socialism which will insure work for all, and with work also liberty, happiness and education.

Abraham Cohen.

"Socialism
demands happiness for the worker's justice for men;
equality for women; peace among nations; avoid armies.

col.3 "May First Thruout the World."

America.

In New York the socialist James Uniall (?) said: "We cannot tell what good the new year will bring us. We hope that the first of May 1919, will see an emancipated world, the workingmen free from all exploitation not only in the Central Empires but also thruout the world".

Joseph Schlossberg, Secretary of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, said concluding his speech:

To all the peoples of all the countries we send our most fraternal greetings, to those of the allied countries as well as of the enemy. To the latter we say ; We have no quarrel with you. We know that you are the victims of autocrats, just as we are; come let us organize industrially, nationally and internationally and we shall conquer the world for the people."

The first of May was observed thruout Russia etc. The German Ambassador and the Turkish were present at the manifestation (in Moscow). The minister of War, Trotsky, reviewed the troops.

col. 4 The Socialist party of Austria on the 1st of May published a manifesto wherein it declared that the people was very tired of the war which causes untold suffering to all the proletariat.

England. The socialist M.P., Ramsey Macdonald, was saved by the police from the attack of certain nationalists for having addressed the public on the occasion of the 1st of May.

p.2 col.1-2 The proletarian in America can never make both ends meet.

In one of its latest bulletins the well known "Babson Statistical Organization" gives out some statistics of the cost of essential commodities. (Extracts are published in the paper. It concludes that they show the critical situation of the workmen, who cannot buy what they need, in spite of the increase in salaries.)

p.2 col.2-3 (The Ball of 5 May organized by the circle to which Proletario belong was a great success. They played the International.)

col.3 The reason why the ants, wasps and monkeys fight is because they have stores of property to defend.

col.3-4 (It may be worth while noting that courses in Ladino and socialism are given by an "Educational Committee" of the supporters of this paper)

col.4 The Republicans and Democrats have decided to unite in the coming campaign against the socialists. But as, Bebel has said, the victory future belongs to ourselves.

p.3 col.1-2 Comrades organize in a syndicate.

(Explains what is a syndicate, and the means at its disposal for obtaining better wages, hours, etc., viz. the strike including a general strike.)

Why do not the Spanish working men and women do not also organize themselves? Why should they be the prey of the bosses and shamelessly exploited. Let our comrades awake and understand once for all that their salvation is in their own hands and that the formation of syndicate is necessary that they succeed in the struggle for life. In our next issues we shall show how such syndicates can be arranged.

p.3. col.3 Syndicalist movement in Salonica.

col.4 The war news (as translated above)

p.4 Poems; 1 Our paper "El Proletario"
Its program is union and solidarity
It constitutes our defensive weapon.

2. The socialist barber of 25 Rivington Street is recommended to the comrades.
Advertisements (including one for Socialist buttons)
Rules for contributors' copy.

(N.B. in some of these articles there was a more or less indirect reference to the war, but they were not translated by the editor)

EL PROLETARIO

New York, May 1, 1918.

p.1 col. 1 (counted from right to left)

Policy of the "Proletario"

"El Proletario begins to day its appearance with a view to spreading among Jewish Spanish working people socialist ideas and theories.

We do not know whether this paper will be able to fulfill successfully its ends. Yet all our efforts will be directed toward them. Where there is a concerted movement results are bound to follow where there is agitation, something is accomplished.

col.1-2 Fusion of the "Sephardim Social Club" with the "Socialist Sephardic Club"

(By Sephardim are meant Spanish Jews)

At the same time we publish this our first number we have the pleasure to announce the formation of a Sephardic group of the Socialist party. Our new organization is established at 64 Rivington Street and in a few days it expects to begin its educational work.

col.2 Our organization will have a festival on the 5th of May, the 100th anniversary of the birth of Karl Marx.

col.3 Poem: The first of May (insignificant)

We wish for 1000 readers.

The first issue we begin with 500 copies. This is very little and expenses are big. (More readers are needed")

col.4 The Socialist Federation of Salonica

From the correspondence received from Salonica we learn that despite the great fire, the socialist federation has not lost its life; rather its energy and activity are redoubling. To us is an occasion for rejoicing, owing to the long history, full of glories and persecutions of the Salonica Socialists. The "Avante", the Federation organ, is being regularly issued. With this occasion, we may mention that to the "Avante" were sent \$100 from New Brunswick after "El Emigrante" has ceased its apparition.

The United Hebrew Trades and Lionism.

Following the example of the English Labor Party, the A. Federation of Labor, the United Hebrew Trades, numbering 200,000 members passed a resolution in favor of a Jewish party in Palestine. (The resolution follows in the original article)

p.2 col. 1 Editorial: First of May

(Translation submitted by editor: there are however, some omissions and condensations in 4th paragraph, the original

has: "We now witness the ruin of the present economic system, based on competition and countless acts of exploitation, a system which closes the door of the future to all men", but the words underscored do not appear in translation.

Again, the next sentence, translated as "Although the present moments are sorrowful, we keep alive our faith in the future of the working people of the world," whereas the original is more prolix:

"Despite the trouble and sorrow of the present moments in our mind the conviction takes place borne out by the present events, and the belief grows stronger, stronger in the existence of a better day for international proletariat, taking possession of the heart of every faithful disciple of socialism."

p.2 col.2 American Proletariat earns less than \$1000 a year

"From official statistics of the government, factory and shop workers, etc. in New York earn less than an average of \$584 a year.

(Follows a description of the average workman's life) The necessity for higher pay and less working hours give birth to syndicalism.

The proletariat holds in his hands the greatest fighting weapon man ever obtained, the right to vote. .. Only a minority of workmen, however, understand the importance of the vote, and one of the chief efforts of socialism in every country is to show the proletariat what they would gain if they voted like one man for the socialist candidates.

SS. (A(braham) C(ohen)

The History of May First by A. Schoen

After recounting the history of May 1st from its first anniversary in 1886 to 1890 it is said;

"IN France, as in Germany, England and the U.S. the 1st of May anniversaries were not without occasional baptism of fire.

The blood shed in Chicago, France and other countries will forever proclaim the shame of the present regime.

Year after year until 1914 the mass of people knocking off on the 1st of May were always organized.

Until the beginning of the European War the manifestations on the 1st of May kept their courageous and revolutionary character and the bourgeoisie saw "the day" approaching with terror.

The first of May then had double importance (Bold type in the original)

It was the menace of the great mass of the producers of wealth against its owners, who were trembling for their possessions. It also was the time when across the barriers of every country despite the race hatred which the present regime endeavors to maintain, all workmen shook hands and promised to help one another against the common enemy, viz; capitalism. And now the hope of humanity lies in the awakening of the workmen for whom the First of May was formerly a day of revolt. Above everything else the hope of humanity was pinned on the German proletariat whence was by all expected to start the

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revolution which was to check Kaiserism and destroy capitalism.

Together with all the peoples we wish that the German workers give the signal for redemption, these days, and we with full hearts will join our humble voice to that of the world's proletariat.

(N.B. No translation was filed of the above.)

col. 4 In Socialism lies Salvation
(Translation filed)

This is inaccurately translated by the editors. The above headline in the translation filed being:

"Hillquit urges Socialists to renew efforts.
Socialist tells audience they must work to
end system."

Follows a literal translation of the original.

Before a crowd of 4000 people who applauded and acclaimed him comrade Morris Hillquit declared in the New Star Casino, last Sunday, that the true hope of human salvation for the world lay in socialism. We as socialists maintain and shall maintain in time of war as in time of peace that there will be no end to the war as long as the present capitalist system prevails."

p.3 col. 1 Come to us.

"The young people of Turkey coming to New York are for the most part ignorant of modern ideals, due to the Turkish Government ban on progressive movements. This is why they need to be educated. In every advanced country our comrades group themselves around a powerful syndicalist organization."

(The Judeo-Spanish young men are urged to enter the organization of the "Proletario") SS. (Alberto Low)

col.2 Contributions to "Proletario"

This paper was founded with money contributed voluntarily. The first list of the donors is given below.

(N.B. It is impossible to transcribe the spelling of these people's names as it would appear in English)

Jack Fishman	\$5.
Isidor Kamhi	3.
Raphael Dasa	2.
Albert(o) Cohen	
Isaac Cohen	
Ernest(o) Schon	
Albert Algid	
Albert Meyer	
Maer Masarano	
Shebatthai Cohen	\$1. each
Michel Saporta	
Salomon Alaluf	
Gabrill Ehezer of New Brunswick	

Note From certain stray references to New Brunswick there would appear to be a colony of these people in that locality.

Sadi Pasa	}	\$1. each
Ali Pasa		
Alberto Loew		
Morris Nisim		
Jehuda Iscaloni		
Isidor Mano		
Jack Hasid		
Morris Gatiniev		1.
David Ashkenazi		1.
Meyer Cohen		1.
Jack Amon		.50

Total \$30.50

Col. 2 #3 (translation filed) Socialist movement in America

(The translation as filed is somewhat condensed from the original, but variants are not very important.)

Col.2-3 Organization Fund

An entertainment at the house of Benjamin Haliguab brought the sum of \$1.50.

p.3 #4 Socialist party and the war.

(Translation filed has: Socialists reach no decision)

The 100th anniversary of the birth of Karl Marx by Isaac Cohen.

(A biography of Marx in anticipation of the centennial of 5 May).

p.3, col.4 The strike of the 1st of May in Austria

Trans. #5 as "Socialists here to aid Teuton strikes."

First sentence in original: The socialist party and the syndicates of New York are ready to aid in every way the laborers of Austria and Germany, who wish to express their desire for peace on this First of May.

col.4 bottom: The following was not trans. for the govt.

In Germany the independent socialists all voted against war credits in the Reichstag's session of May 22. Comrade Bernstein declares that the policy Germany follows in Poland, Belgium, Rumania contradicts the principles of the peoples' self-determination.

p.4 Advertisements (including one for socialist buttons)

At 42 Rivington Street is the restaurant frequented by our friends.

Another "Sephardic" restaurant advertised at 56 East 115 St. J.S. Shalthill, prop.