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(Received April 1, 1977)

[On WRP letterhead]

22.3.77

B. Grogan  
General Secretary IMG  
97, Caledonian Road  
London NL

Dear Comrade,

Your public meeting on January 14, 1977 under the title 'Defend Workers' Democracy from Healy's Slanders' did not allow any questions or discussion on the issues which the speakers raised. Many of those who attended considered such procedure as unsatisfactory, since the problem of 'Security and the Fourth International' was only dealt with in a very inadequate way by the platform.

The Political Committee of the Workers Revolutionary Party proposes a public debate with the International Marxist Group on 'Security and the Fourth International' under conditions which would allow time for questions and discussion from the floor. All expenses of the debate would be shared by the WRP and the IMG.

For our part the debate could be held any time during the month of April.

We await your reply,

Fraternally,

s/M. Banda  
General Secretary/WRP.



X-PC

# Workers Revolutionary Party

British Section of the International Committee of the Fourth International

General Secretary: M. Banda

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March 15th 1977.

Dear Mr. Grogan

On the evening of March 8th a public meeting was held in Paris to discuss the activities of the GPU in the Trotskyist movement.

The meeting was presided over by Michel Raptis (Pablo) a former secretary of the Fourth International from 1946 to the 1950s. The main speaker was Mr Jean Van Heijinoort, a former secretary of the late Leon Trotsky and secretary of the Fourth International until 1946.

In reply to a question as to whether or not J.P.Cannon's secretary Sylvia Franklin was an agent of the GPU, Van Heijinoort replied, 'everything in my mind at the present time goes in the direction that Sylvia was an agent of the GPU'.

Replying to a similar question Mr Raptis declared: 'I think she was, yes, an agent. I think so. And I think that they must admit it. That's my position. The Socialist Workers Party must admit it.'

Since May 1975, the International Committee of the Fourth International represented in Britain by the Workers Revolutionary Party, has been advocating the setting up of an International Commission of Enquiry to investigate the experience of the Fourth International in security in relation to the assassination of Trotsky, his son Sedov, and many others. Abundant written information concerning Sylvia Franklin, ne Callan, ne Caldwell is in the possession of the Workers Revolutionary Party to prove to the hilt that she was an agent of the GPU.

Yet Joseph Hansen, George Novack and others have emphatically defended Franklin as an 'exemplary comrade'.

In a section of the book 'James P. Cannon, As We Knew Him' published early in 1976, Reba Hansen wrote on P.233.

'Sylvia and I became close collaborators and good personal friends. She was a warm human being.'

'When Sylvia left New York in 1947 because of family obligations Jim asked me to take her place in the national office. Since this work included working closely with Jim, I felt a little nervous, but Sylvia helped me through the transition from business manager of the "Militant" to my new assignment.'

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'At that time Rose and Jim lived in 126 West Eleventh Street, seventh floor. The apartment building was modern - it had an elevator - and the rooms were large by New York standards. The front room, facing on Eleventh Street, was big enough for two desks, several filing cabinets and a worktable. Sylvia took me there to work with her and learn the ropes.'

and P.282.

'In another case, a rumour circulated by the Schachtmanites and others outside the party against the integrity of a National Office secretarial workers was thoroughly investigated by the Control Commission which, after taking stenographic testimony from all available sources, declared the rumours unfounded and cleared the accused party member to continue her work. There were other cases in which charges were found after investigation to be substantiated and appropriate action recommended."

'The secretarial worker Jim refers to was Sylvia Caldwell. Rumours like that one, proved by the investigation of the Control Commission to have been unfounded, were periodically circulated by sources interested in disrupting the SWP.'

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It is for such covering up for agents such as Franklin that we have indicted Hansen and Novack as accomplices of the GPU.

Last Autumn you, together with Van Heijinoort and Raptis signed a statement circulated by Hansen which amongst other things accepted unequivocally that Franklin was an 'exemplary comrade'. You rejected the call for a Commission of Enquiry.

Perhaps in the light of the Pablo-Van Heijinoort statements you may wish to consider the position.

Yours fraternally,

M. Banda *M. Banda*

General Secretary/Workers Revolutionary Party.