

THE EDITORS

LETTER FROM MEXICO

Sirs:

We want to thank *PARTISAN REVIEW* most warmly for publishing the letter to President Camacho of Mexico, signed by more than two hundred American intellectuals and trade unionists, protesting against the campaign of slander and threats launched against us by the Communist Party of Mexico. The letter was immensely helpful, and has forced our persecutors—for the moment, at least—to abandon their attacks.

Though the readers of *PARTISAN REVIEW* are probably acquainted with the general nature of our writings and our politics, it may be useful to note here the

real nature of the whole affair and its moral and psychological character. As to the former, we have all of us posed, in various ways, always with moderation and with regard only for the interests of truth and freedom, the serious problem of Stalinist totalitarianism and the democratic rights of the Russian people. We have stood for free thought as against regimented thought, and have opposed methods which demoralize the workingclass movement. That is the only reason we have been hated and persecuted—some of us for many years—by the Communists. Two of us, in the prisons of the U.S.S.R. and in the GPU prisons of Loyalist Spain, have considered these questions at our leisure—with the executioner's revolver in the background.

As to the moral-psychological methods used in this affair: there is something humiliating and degrading in being forced to defend one's self against accusations that are literally insane, charges which could not stand the slightest examination, put forward without a shadow of proof, but dangerous just the same, since no one would believe that slander could be manufactured on such a wholesale scale.

These methods, on a larger stage, served for the Moscow Trials, and, in Mexico itself, for preparing the ideological groundwork for the murder of Leon Trotsky. Our own experience confirms us in our belief that the fight against the poison of totalitarianism requires first of all psychological hygiene. We must patiently try to cleanse social and ideological struggles of slander, of vicious lies fabricated to order, of incitements to pogroms, of such low political tricks as to use the suffering and heroism of the Russian people as a cover for the machinations of the GPU abroad.

May we, finally, through your magazine, express our thanks to all the individuals whose friendly support has been so precious and comforting to us in this affair.

Sincerely,

JULIAN GORKIN

MARCEAU PIVERT

GUSTAV REGLER

VICTOR SERGE

MEXICO CITY

P.S. It has not been possible to get in touch with Grandiso Muniz, but we are sure he would be in general agreement with this letter.