

CONCERNING SLANDERS AGAINST THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL—

We don't take "I don't know" for an answer!

By MARGARET GUTTSHALL

At the recent Young Socialist Alliance Convention we asked YSA and Socialist Workers Party members: "Do you want to be in the same organization with the slanderer Lambert?"

This may seem like a very strange question. In fact, it's a very important POLITICAL question, a CLASS question.

With the 1972 rally of 5,000 youth in Essen, Germany for workers unity against imperialism and Stalinism, for the Fourth International and the foundation of the Revolutionary Youth International, the International Committee went farther than ever in its struggle to rebuild the International.

Nevertheless, Lambert, with the rest of the leadership of the French Organisation Communiste Internationaliste (OCI), refused to continue this struggle. They capitulated to the Stalinist apparatus which had announced in June 1972 that it planned to fight for power in France. A lie to fool the workers.

At the July 1972 Pre-Conference, called to make final preparations for the International Committee's Fourth Open Conference rebuilding the Fourth International, as a world democratic centralist center AGAINST Stalinism and the pro-Stalinist United Secretariat, Lambert and Co. decided to dissolve the International Committee. They formed a loose federation of groups with diverging views (which they dishonestly called the Organizing Committee for the Reconstruction of the Fourth International—OCRFI) and INDEFINITELY postponed the rebuilding of the International.

Our comrades, led in particular by Michel Varga, a leader of the Hungarian Revolution and member of the International Committee for ten years, opposed this. They formed an international faction within the OCRFI for the maintenance and development of the International Committee and the completion of the task of rebuilding the International. When it became clear that this was one view that Lambert and Co. wouldn't tolerate in their "federation," our comrades broke with them and formed the International League — Rebuilder of the Fourth International.

What did Lambert do? Defend his positions? No. He suddenly discovered "a police provocation." He described and denounced it at length in INFORMATIONS OUVRIERES Nos. 617, 620, 637, 638, and 641, a brochure entitled "A Provocation in the Fourth International," and internal bulletins.

What was the provocation? Denouncing comrades to the police? Stealing money? No — the political struggle Michel Varga and the rest of our comrades led at the 1972 Pre-Conference against Lambert's attempt to liquidate the International. This was the ONLY contemporary activity to which Lambert referred in his mountain of literature.

And they suddenly discovered a "provocateur," Michel Varga. What was the evidence? MICHEL VARGA'S POSITION AT THIS SAME PRE-CONFERENCE and a lengthy falsification of his political history designed to further back-up the slanderous charge.

Since that time, Lambert and Co. have continued to dedicate themselves to the destruction of the Fourth International. The major organizations of the US came to their aid, formed a commission to whitewash them and their Stalinist slanders. And today, as we've reported in previous issues of TRUTH, Lambert is dissolving what's left of the OCRFI into the pro-Stalinist United Secretariat, reunifying with the Socialist Workers Party.

We, on the other hand, have continued the revolutionary struggle. Formed the Revolutionary Youth International, rebuilt the Fourth International, fought the political agents of Stalinism who dishonestly call themselves Trotskyists. Above all Lambert who is twice a criminal. First, for trying to destroy the Fourth International in 1972. Second, for trying to cover himself with the same sort of slanderous attacks on the Fourth International in 1973, that Stalin used against Trotsky and his comrades in 1933.

You'll hear a lot about the "Varga affair" from the centrists. How Michel Varga's a CIA-GPU agent; how he took money from the CIA; how he's a "dubious figure." But you'll never hear about the political struggle Varga and the rest of our comrades waged against Lambert and Co.'s treachery at the 1972 Pre-Conference. Nor will you ever hear that Lambert's principal accusation against us has always been that the fight at exactly this Pre-Conference was a police provocation.

And this isn't a matter of opinion. It's a matter of historical record, documented in THE WHITE PAPER of the Inquiry Commission Against the Slander.

Why won't you hear this? Because with this information anyone who wants can see what's up. A POLITICAL FIGHT WHERE ONE SIDE'S LOSING SO IT HITS BELOW THE BELT. Just as THE WHITE PAPER says: "This accusation ("provoca-

tion in the Fourth International," SWP does; therefore, you, not Lambert nor the SWP, are the slanderer.") And of course there were also the miniature Lamberts: the Canadian OCRFI member who hissed "Vargaite spies" at us, the Detroit SWP member who perennially does the same; together PROVING our whole point.

So when we ask the question -- "Do you want to be in the same organization with the slanderer Lambert?" -- we're asking: Which side are you on? Is our struggle "a police provocation"? Are we "provocateurs"? Or is this Lambert's slander, inspired by and serving Stalinism?

While Young Socialist Alliance and Socialist Workers Party members claim to be revolutionary politicians, to represent the Fourth International in the US, to be against Stalinism; almost every one of them answered our question with: "I don't know; I can't say." Very few in the course of the four-day convention bothered to find out anything about it.

Of those who did, most formally disassociated themselves from Lambert's grossest slanders, but refused to fight them. Other dismissed Lambert's attacks on us as a thing of the past, as an error, said we should "let by-gones be by-gones," after all, "he 'stands' on the program of the Fourth International."

Still others accused US of slandering the SWP. ("The SWP has never said in writing it supports Lambert's campaign; you say the

SWP does; therefore, you, not Lambert nor the SWP, are the slanderer.") And of course there were also the miniature Lamberts: the Canadian OCRFI member who hissed "Vargaite spies" at us, the Detroit SWP member who perennially does the same; together PROVING our whole point.

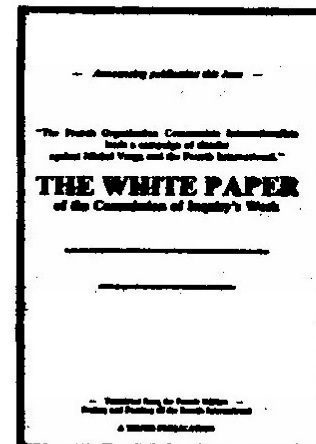
So concerning a question like this — slander against the Fourth Fourth International — we don't take "I don't know" for an answer. And we don't think anyone else should.

The imperialists and Stalinists use the same kinds of slanderous lies to mow down young workers every day, calling them "trouble-makers," "splitters," "criminals," "terrorists," "provocateurs."

We've started a campaign to finance publication of the English Edition of THE WHITE PAPER of the Inquiry Commission which tells the truth about the Fourth International's struggle and shows Lambert and Co.'s campaign for what it is — lies in the service of Stalinism.

We ask all young workers and honest militants who agree that on a question like this nobody should take "I don't know" for an answer, to join us and subscribe to the WHITE PAPER. January 22, 1979

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