

Schoenman Expelled From Iran

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

LONDON, March 15 — Ralph Schoenman, the self-styled "radical lawyer" and long-time political associate of the revisionist Socialist Workers Party, was kicked out of Iran this morning, charged with being a CIA agent engaged in counter-revolutionary activities against the new anti-imperialist government.

Also up for deportation is Kate Millet, the reactionary women's liber who has been organizing right-wing demonstrations against the Iranian revolution.

Upon arriving in London, Schoenman gave an airport press conference which consisted of a series of gross slanders against the Iranian revolution, designed to make the month-old republic seem like a concentration camp. He made an abusive attack on the revolutionary committees, saying that they were "arresting people without warrant, executing people in the middle of the night without trial, and functioning as a kind of paramilitary organization."

He said that a "reign of terror" was underway and that people were being denied their basic rights. Schoenman denounced the executions being carried out by the revolutionary courts, condemned the revolutionary committees and strongly defended the bourgeois clique of Bazargan that opposes the revolutionary measures undertaken by Khomeini's committees.

Asked at the press conference about reports that he was in fact a CIA agent, Schoenman replied: "It's such an absurdity that it boggles the mind."

But in Teheran, here Schoenman's expulsion was announced, government spokesman Amir Entezam

SWP-HANSEN COLLABORATOR CALLED COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY



Joseph Hansen—FBI agent, collaborated with Schoenman against the Trotskyist movement.

stated: "We lost our temper. We wouldn't put up with him anymore."

Referring to the proposed expulsion of Millet, Entezam stated: "We have many problems and these people are adding to the problems."

On Wednesday Ayatollah Khomeini made a vigorous attack on "foreign criminals" who are trying to create disunity in the revolution.

The 78-year-old leader told a meeting in Qom, "The foreign criminals, those who use our oil freely, have not given up. You must remain alert. You must foil these plots. Their agents want to create differences among us, organize un-Islamic demonstrations and create disunity among us."

Schoenman told today's press conference he had gone to Iran last December to study "human rights violations." He explained, "You know, for many years I have been involved in the United States in a Committee for Artistic and Intellectual Freedom in Iran (this is a revisionist front backed by the revisionist Socialist Workers Party of the late Joseph Hansen, proven FBI agent) we had been invited there by prominent members of the opposition, including the man who is now minister of the interior and the chairman of the Committee of the Defense of Democracy and Human Rights in Iran was at that time the present prime minister Medhi Bazargan. "I had not originally intended to stay as long as I have, but events moved so quickly I felt that I wanted to stay."

Surprise

Schoenman said that his abrupt departure came as a "total surprise." He said he was picked up at a hotel in Teheran on Wednesday afternoon by two men in plain clothes and taken at gunpoint to the airport. He was held incommunicado and without food until he was put on board the London-bound flight. Before leaving the military authorities went through his suitcase, removed tape recordings, photographs, documents and



Mass welcome for the Ayatollah Khomeini.

notebooks, he said.

Schoenman added that he was not given any reasons for his deportation but they appear obvious. In the past month—since the overthrow of the Shah's dictatorship—Schoenman has given two press conferences in Teheran on so-called "human rights" and was in the middle of planning a third when he was booted out. At the first, Schoenman denounced a top army officer as "an imperialist agent" and accused him of

plotting a coup in which half-a-million leftists would be liquidated. He was Colonel Nasrollah Tavakoli who was the top military advisor to Khomeini's revolutionary movement before the revolution and appointed in charge of the general command headquarters in Teheran after it.

politically speaking religious elements. They have control of these so-called revolutionary committees.

Official

Schoenman told the press today that the Colonel talked to him because he assumed that he, Schoenman, was a United States official. "For reasons that are very difficult to understand, this colonel made the assumption that I had some connection with the United States authorities and could transmit proposals to them. I gave him no reason to believe such a thing and anyone who is familiar with my public activity would agree that it is rather an absurd assumption for him to make. This Colonel made the assumption that since I was travelling with such prominent company from the Opposition I must be an American, well-connected or assigned to the Embassy or some such thing."

Schoenman said that in a second press conference he had exposed the activities of a General and a Colonel and was preparing a third to denounce the chief of the Air Force and the Chief of Staff when he was arrested by the police. Describing the situation in Iran, Schoenman said, "There is a reign of error, carried by reactionary, more backward

have always stank to high heaven — for example his secret three hour session with the Rockefeller Commission on CIA activities in 1975 — he has been in continuous consultation with SWP leaders. In August 1977 he was a guest of Joseph Hansen and the SWP at the revisionist national conference in Oberlin. This conference was held just days after the International Committee had exposed Joseph Hansen as an FBI agent. During the conference Schoenman was to be seen in a company of Hansen and other prominent leaders of the SWP. It should be noted that another guest at the conference was the well-publicized poet-in-exile, Reza Barahuni who is presently pursued with allegations of SAVAK connections. Schoenman's presence at the Oberlin conference in 1977 takes on an especially ominous significance in the light of his activities in Iran. Just nine weeks after the conference a leading member of the Workers League, Tom Henahan, was assassinated in a political murder. This crime has never been condemned by the Socialist Workers Party, which at the present time is desperately opposed to the Workers League's campaign for an investigation into the killing.

Asked about the revolutionary courts and the death sentences against high-ranking army officials and SAVAK torturers, Schoenman said, "They are an outrage." He said that women's rights were being trampled by the government. Statements made by Khomeini were meant to "terrorize women who don't conform," Schoenman said. "Women who march don't deserve to be knifed and beaten up." This hysterical rubbish was enthusiastically taken down by the capitalist press journalists at and its international associates in the Unified Secretariat.

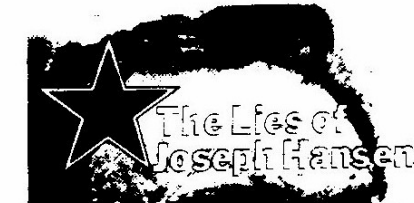
Hansen

Schoenman is an old friend of the SWP and, in particular of its long-time leader, the late Joseph Hansen.

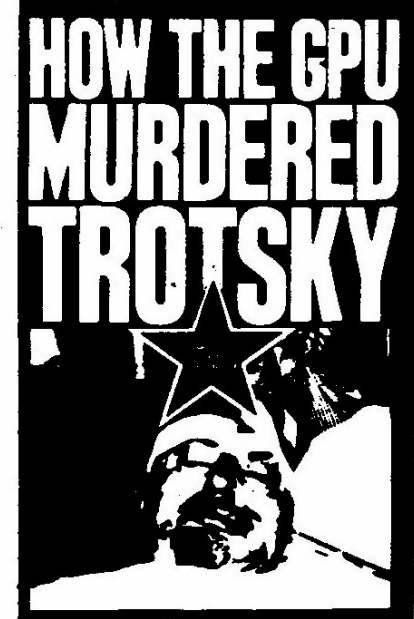
Since the early 1960's Schoenman has worked behind the scenes with the SWP to organize sinister political provocations against the International Committee of the Fourth International. Though Schoenman's political activities

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