

TROTZKY ASSASSIN FREED

Flown Secretly from Mexico to Cuba

2 CZECH EMBASSY AIDS GO WITH HIM ON PLANE

Slayer's Prison 'Wife' Tells of His Hopes

BY MARION WILHELM

(Chicago Tribune Press Service)

MEXICO CITY, May 6— Jacques Mornard, who murdered Leon Trotsky, the exiled Bolshevik leader, 20 years ago, was spirited out of Mexico Friday on a Cuban air liner.

The man who killed the arch rival of Josef Stalin in the struggle for power in Russia was spirited out of prison 3½ months before his sentence was slated to end on Aug. 20.

Deported as Undesirable

The Mexican interior ministry announced that Mornard was ordered deported as an undesirable alien. Unofficially it was learned that Mexican authorities feared he might be slain by embittered Trotskyites, or possibly by the Kremlin agents who hired him for the murder because he knew too much.

Mornard was taken to the



Leon Trotsky

suburb of Tehuacan, where he was put on Cubana Airlines flight 465, the 1:30 p. m. plane for Havana.

This reporter saw him board the plane, and saw his name, listed as Jacques M. Vandendreschd, on the plane's passenger list. He was traveling on a Czechoslovakian passport No. 0033542, issued several months ago.

Czechs Accompany Him

Accompanying Mornard were two officials from the communist Czechoslovakian embassy. One was Novicky Oldrich, an embassy attache, and the other was Eduard Fuches, first secretary. They are expected to take Mornard along with them to Prague, the Czech capital.

His "wife," or prison sweetheart, Roquelia Mendoza, 40—the Mexican penal code allows wives or sweethearts to visit prisoners once a week—said she thought he was going to France.

"Poor Jacques," she told this TRIBUNE reporter in an exclusive interview, "he could not even call and tell me. The only important thing is that he's free now to live his own life. They will give him asylum in Czechoslovakia.

"Now he can go where he wants to go, to France. France is more cosmopolitan than the United States. There is more freedom of thought. Wednesday was the last I saw

of him, and he said nothing." She said she had no plans at present to accompany him. She became his "prison wife" four years after he was jailed for Trotsky's murder in 1940, and no one knows if they ever were married legally. They were known to be common-law husband and wife.

She is only 5 feet tall, and wears her short, wavy brown hair in a page-boy bob. She is very attractive, and recently has been working for the city government.

Watching Television

When interviewed, she was sitting in her living room in a modest apartment, looking at television. She was dressed in striped flannel pajamas of blue and white, covered by a blue house coat.

She was holding two little dogs—terriers—on her lap.

"I was listening to the television, to Mornard's lawyer, Eduardo Ceniceros," she said.

"He has arranged for getting Mornard asylum in Czechoslovakia. I don't know how they did it."

Asked whether she would join him later, Miss Mendoza said only, "Maybe." Then she added:

"I'll see what the lawyer says tomorrow, and what plans Jacques left for me."

Mother a Red

Mornard's mother, Eustasia Maria Caridad Mercado del Rio, a Spaniard, originally got him involved in communism, and she reportedly now is living in France, one of his reasons for wanting to go there. She allegedly was an agent for Stalin and engaged her son to assassinate Trotsky.

For reasons never definitely established in long court proceedings, Mornard hacked Trotsky to death here in the late summer of 1940.

Trotsky, old partner of Lenin in carrying out the Bolshevik revolution in Russia, had been cast out by the Stalin leadership and finally settled in Mexico in 1938.

Posed as Canadian

Mornard first appeared on the scene in 1939. He met and won the love of a blonde Brooklyn girl named Sylvia Ageloff, who later joined Trotsky's secretarial staff. He said his name was Frank Jackson, of Toronto, Canada.

He thus met Trotsky about 12 times, expressed his dedication to the revolutionary, and offered to write articles for him.

He gained entry into the mansion with no more than a friendly nod to a guard on Aug. 20, 1940, and fatally injured Trotsky with an alpenstock, a mountain-climbing ax.

Trotsky at Height of Power



Leon Trotsky (saluting) at height of power in Russia. As peoples commissar of war, he is shown reviewing Red army. His slayer was released from prison in Mexico Friday.



Leon Trotsky's office where the exiled Russian leader was fatally attacked by Jacques Mornard in 1940. Disorder of room shows struggle that took place as Trotsky tried to fight off slayer.