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400 SOCIALIST SCHOLARS PLEAD FOR PERUVIAN PEASANT LEADER

NEW YORK -- A petition signed by almost 400 participants in the Second Socialist Scholars Conference, held in New York September 9-11, was today handed to the Peruvian Consulate-General. It called upon President Fernando Belaúnde Terry to grant amnesty to the celebrated peasant leader Hugo Blanco and his twenty-eight co-defendants now on trial in Tacna, Peru. It is feared that the judges will hand down a death sentence for Blanco, who has already been imprisoned for three and a half years.

The signatories were headed by the two main guest speakers of the conference, Isaac Deutscher, world-famous historian, and Professor Conor Cruise O'Brien, Albert Schweitzer Professor of Humanities, New York University.

The signers included such distinguished academic figures and left American intellectuals as the newly elected president of the conference, Professor Eugene Genovese of Rutgers University, New Jersey; Paul Booth, a leader of Students for a Democratic Society; Herbert Aptheker, historian and leading theorist of the American Communist party; Harvey Swados, novelist; Paul Sweezy, editor of Monthly Review; Professor Franz Schurmann, University of California, Berkeley; Professor Andres Gunder Frank, Sir George Williams University, Montreal, Canada; James Petras, University of California, student of Latin-American affairs; Professor Marvin Gettleman, Columbia University, New York; James O'Connor, economist and writer on Latin-American affairs, San José State College, California; Professor Nathan Hare, Howard University, Washington, D.C.; Professor Robert S. Brown, Fairleigh Dickenson University, New Jersey.

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Also, Ruth Gage Colby, Woman's International League for Peace and Freedom; Professor Oliver Loud, Antioch College, Ohio; Joseph Hansen, editor of The Militant; Victor Rabinowitz, civil-liberties attorney; William Ash, philosopher; Alfred Evenitsky, editor, Science & Society; Emile Capouya, literary critic; Alex Munsell, publisher; Joseph M. Gilman, economist; Professor Aileen Kraditor, Rhode Island University; Dr. Annette Rubenstein, author and literary critic; George Novack, Marxist theoretician.

Also, Frank Kofsky, historian, University of Pittsburgh; Professor David Herreshoff, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan; Lew Jones, National Chairman, Young Socialist Alliance; Manuela Schleicher, Columbia University; Saul Landau, writer; Bettina Aptheker, Berkeley student leader.

This group asked the Peruvian president to exercise clemency and immediately liberate Hugo Blanco and his co-defendants. Their voices lent support to the appeal made by the national Pro-Amnesty Committee of Peru to free all the political prisoners now behind bars in that country.