

THE MILITANT

873 BROADWAY NEW YORK, N.Y. 10003 TELEPHONE 533-6414

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Dear Comrades,

Joseph Hansen and Helena Hermes were arrested by the de Gaulle regime Friday night, June 14, and after being held for 27 hours were expelled from France. Our other reporter and photographer, Mary-Alice Waters and Brian Shannon, were forced to leave France also.

The repression directed against our co-thinkers has become more severe. We do not yet know the full extent of the police actions, but we are reasonably sure that both Pierre Frank and Gerard Verbizier, the editor of the JCR magazine Avant-Garde Jeunesse, have been arrested.

The capitalist press is virtually blocking out news of these actions taken against our comrades. We may expect the radical press outside of our own to do little better, if that. The Militant will be virtually the only source of information about these attacks. We will feature the full story in our next issue. The upcoming issue is thus the most important thus far in our campaign in this country to organize support for the French workers and students, and to defend the French vanguard now under attack.

The capitalist press continues to distort the events in France in general. We will continue to be the major source of accurate information and analysis on France. We have further first-hand material from France, some written by Mary-Alice and Joe Hansen before they were forced to leave, and other material on what actually happened and is happening in France. An account of their arrests by Joe and Helena will appear as well as all the information available on the Gaullist repression. An important article by K.S. Karol on the behind-the-scenes deals between the CP and Pompidou will be included, as well as excerpts from British papers that give a picture of the role of Trotskyism in the recent events, which is absent from the capitalist press here.

The open letter to the American left from Fred and Paul relating the French events to the election campaign which had been scheduled for last issue will appear in this one.

Paul had a very successful tour of England, and spoke to a huge meeting of 4,000 at the Mutualite in Paris last Thursday. We hope to have reports on both.

The next installment of the SMC discussion, an article on the student demonstrations in Yugoslavia, and others, will also appear.

(continued)

This will be an especially important issue, and we should make an effort to reach as many people as possible with the truth about France and to intensify our campaign on behalf of our French comrades.

Comradely,

Barry Sheppard

Barry Sheppard,
Editor