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**MEXICO CITY, Sept. 13 – A letter sent by Natalia Trotsky yesterday, thanking President Cardenas for a personal visit he and Mrs. Cardenas had made, was released today by the Presidential Palace and published in the press.**

The text of the letter follows:

Mr. President: Permit me to offer to your wife and yourself my most profound appreciation for your visit, for your sincere sentiments, for your unalterable conviction in the honor of Leon Trotsky and for the contempt manifested by you toward calumny and lie. Calumny and lie are not weapons sufficient to assure a definitive victory to those who are using them. My meeting with you on August 24th constitutes for me a moral support for the rest of my life.

There has never been in history an epoch as overshadowed by lie, calumny, crime and inhumanity, as that today. Honorable fighters fall as victims. Their memory, nevertheless, will be eternal.

Unfortunately my husband could not know you personally. Our life, despite that, was linked with yours by the bonds of your generous disposition and by your aid in our days of difficulty, which were so frequent. In Norway, we found ourselves imminently menaced with death, and not a single country in the world ventured to aid the disinherited. The exception came from legendary Mexico, with its generous people, expansive and independent. You prolonged the life of Leon Trotsky for 43 months. I carry in my heart my gratitude for those 43 months. Not only I, but hundreds of thousands of incorruptible fighters, who struggle for the emancipation of humanity.

Your tender attention sustained us in the sorrowful moments of the loss of our son in February, 1938. And again you came to help us after the perfidious attack of our enemies against our house on May 24. Saturday (August 24) once more you proved your activity in favor of him who had from you the possibility of living on Mexican soil. Permit me, Mr. President, to repeat here the expression of my deepest gratitude to the people of Mexico, to its government and to you particularly.

*Natalia S. Trotsky*

(Natalia's Letter to Cardenas, from: Natalia Sedova Trotsky, to: Lazaro Cardenas, Written: 13 September 1940, Source: Socialist Appeal, Vol. 4 No. 38, 21 September 1940, p. 1. Online Version: Natalia Sedova Internet Archive, August 2020. Marxists Internet Archive) <https://www.marxists.org/archive/sedova-natalia/1940/09/letter.htm>

# The Mexican Communist Party:

The Mexican Communist Party: Founded 100 Years Ago—Gone Since 1981 | by Dan La Bo...  
Dan La Botz · Dec 18, 2019 · 33 min read

## Founded 100 Years Ago — Gone Since 1981

During the Comintern's Third Period, the PCM had at first characterized Cárdenas as a "fascist." But by mid-June 1935 the line had changed and he had become a progressive deserving of Communist support. At the same time, the new president ended the government's repression of the Communist Party whose prisoners were liberated from the penitentiaries. Communists could now organize openly and they built significant worker and peasant organizations in the midst of a national working class upheaval comparable to those in Spain, France, and the United States in the same period.

The Mexican Communist Party played a key role in the emerging National Union of Petroleum Workers and its clash with Standard Oil and Royal Dutch Shell, a conflict used as the pretext by Cárdenas to buy and to nationalize all of the foreign oil companies in Mexico. The PCM also supported and participated in Cárdenas' expropriation of hacienda land and its distribution to indigenous and peasant ejidos, state-owned lands leased in perpetuity to those who worked them.

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The Popular Front strategy called upon the Communists to become part of a political alliance, such as it had done in France in May of 1936 in forming part of the coalition that elected Léon Blum. In Mexico, however, Cárdenas had reorganized and renamed the ruling, now calling it the Party of the Mexican Revolution (PRM). The PRM was based on the four pillars of the labor unions, the peasant leagues, the public employees and self-employed, and the army. Unlike France, there was no parliamentary coalition, so the PCM did not fit into this schema.<sup>[15]</sup>

There was no popular front to join and in any case the Communists had no parliamentary delegates and no way to directly influence the PRM leadership or shape the PRM program. The Communists did run for office though some were elected as member of the Confederation Mexican Workers (CTM), not as Communists. Even then they succeeded in electing just two federal delegates and several local delegates.<sup>[16]</sup> Nevertheless, the Mexican Communists enthusiastically supported Cárdenas, who rewarded them with secondary government posts in a few government agencies, such as the Education Department.

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By 1938, the Communists had nearly 20,000 members, most of them industrial workers, teachers, peasants, students and government employees. The Communists represented a real force in the labor movement, though they sometimes collaborated with and at other times

• Botz is a writer. His ('The Mexican Communist Party: Founded 100 Years Ago – Gone Since 1981', Dan La Botz, December 18, 2019) <https://danlabotz.medium.com/the-mexican-communist-party-83a3f5ffbc1>

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Reviews

DAN LA BOTZ formerly taught at the School of Labor and Urban Studies of the City University of New York. In the 1970s, he was a founding member of Teamsters for a Democratic Union (TDU). From 1994 to 2014, he was the editor and principal writer of *Mexican Labor News and Analysis*, a publication supported by the United Electrical Workers Union (UE), a U.S. union, and the Frente Auténtico del Trabajo (FAT), a Mexican labor union. He is a member of both Solidarity and the Democratic Socialists of America and a co-editor of *New Politics* (newpol.org). In 2010, he was the Socialist Party candidate in Ohio for the U.S. Senate. He <https://marxedproject.org/event/trotsky-in-tijuana-a-new-novel-by-dan-la-botz/>



## The Expelled Members of the Communist Party

In its official declarations the Communist Party reiterates that individual terror does not enter into its system of actions, etc. No one supposes that the assault was organized by the Communist Party. The GPU makes use of the Communist Party but is not at all merged with the Communist Party.

(Stalin Seeks My Death, Leon Trotsky, Written: 24 May, 1940, First Published: The Fourth International, Vol. 2 No. 7, August 1941, pp. 201-207, Translated: By The Fourth International, Marxists Internet Archive) <https://www.marxists.org/archive/trotsky/1940/05/stalin.htm>

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### THE DIES COMMITTEE<sup>116</sup>

December 7, 1939

In the Mexican press yesterday, dispatches from the United States reported that I might appear as a witness before the Dies Committee of the House of Representatives of the United States and make depositions concerning the activities of the Mexican and Latin American Communists, particularly in connection with the oil question.<sup>117</sup> These dispatches are so worded as to imply that for several years I have turned documents over to the agents of this committee, that I was visited in Mexico by the committee's representatives, and so on. These implications represent a pure invention from beginning to end.

On October 12, I received the following telegram from the committee:

"Leon Trotsky, Mexico City,

"Dies Committee of the United States House of Representatives invites you to appear as witness before it in the city of Austin, Texas. City designated with view to your personal convenience. . . . The Committee desires to have a complete record of the history of Stalinism and invites you to answer questions which can be submitted to you in advance if you so desire. Your name has been mentioned frequently by such witnesses as Browder and Foster.<sup>118</sup> This Committee will accord you opportunity to answer their charges. . . .

"J. B. Matthews, Chief Investigator, Special Committee on Un-American Activities."

Independently of the political tendency of the chairman of this committee, I could not find it permissible to avoid appearing as a witness in a public investigation. My answer was:

"I accept your invitation as a political duty. . . ."

It was a matter thus of my testimony about the "history of Stalinism" but in no case about the inner life of the Latin

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(The Dies Committee, Leon Trotsky, December 7, 1939, p. 1. In: Leon Trotsky Collected Writings, 1939-1940. In: archive.org <https://archive.org/details/leon-trotskii-collected-writings-1938-1939/leon-trotskii-collected-writings-1939-1940/page/n129/mode/1up>