The Kossuth Massacre before the Courts.

By Oldner (Prague).

Towards the end of the month the communist deputy Comrade Major will come up for trial in Bratislava in connection with the massacre of Slovakian landworkers carried out by the police in Kossuth. Comrade Major is the leader of the Slovakian workers and peasants and was at the head of the Slovakian and Hungarian landworkers when the murderous police volleys shot down many of their number.

The police bullets were fired at landworkers who had just won a strike for improved pay and conditions. The bullets were intended to intimidate other landworkers who were about to strike. However, the moral effect desired by the authorities was not obtained. Since the Kossuth bloodbath another 2,000 landworkers have won their strike under revolutionary leadership and obtained wage increases up to 30 percent.

As was the case in Dux, the Czech police fired at members of an oppressed national minority in the interests of the ruling classes. The importance of this circumstances was stressed in the Czech parliament by the Minister Dr. Slavik who blamed the Communist nationality policy for the resistance of the oppressed minorities in Czechoslovakia to their national and economic oppression and exploitation at the hands of the Czech bourgeoisie. The Kossuth bloodbath was an act of bloody oppression carried out by Czech imperialism against Slovakian and Hungarian workers. The attitude of the Hungarian and Slovakian capitalist and social democratic press and its approval of the bloodbath, show that the bourgeoisie of the national minorities are at one with the Czech bourgeoisie in its policy of national oppression and exploitation.

In view of the great importance of the Kossuth process, the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia is organising a broad protest campaign against the Kossuth massacre and for the release of Comrade Major and his fellow-accused. In the neighbourhood of Bratislava where Comrade Major is being held, deputations from the factories, from the villages and from the proletarian mass organisations are being elected to visit him in prison and demonstrate the solidarity of the masses with him and his fellow-accused. The authorities did not dare to refuse permission for these deputations to visit Major and his friends. When the authorities threatened to prohibit visits to the wounded in hospital, the wounded men declared that they would leave the hospitals immediately, whereupon the authorities gave way.

All sessions, meetings and conferences of proletarian organisations adopt resolutions demanding the release of Major and his friends and send messages of protest to the authorities in Bratislava and messages of greeting to Comrade Major. Socialist workers are being called upon to declare publicly that they have nothing to do with the attitude of the social democratic press which expresses approval of the murderous attitude of the police.

The main form of the protest action is to be the demonstration strike immediately prior to the opening of the proceedings.

The Communist Party, the Red Aid organisation, and the Central Committee of the Workers Correspondents Movement have appealed to a number of international organs and foreign newspapers for support in the campaign. Information has already been received from abroad showing that these appeals have not fallen on deaf ears. The international proletariat must support this protest campaign with all possible means.