

for he had been arrested only once, on June 12, 1935, during a routine round-up of Communist youth groups in the city. Through lack of experience, he had given his real name to the authorities who then fingerprinted him as a matter of routine.

The murderer's use of a Canadian passport, illegally acquired and deliberately altered to give false information, made the slaying possible, for it enabled del Rio to travel unmolested from Europe through the United States to Mexico. Originally, the passport used by del Rio, number 31377, was issued on Mar. 22, 1937 to Tony Babich, a naturalized Canadian citizen born in Lovinac, Yugoslavia. Babich proceeded to Spain where he served in the Civil War with the Mackenzie-Papineau battalion, a Communist-organized Canadian unit of the International Brigade. He was subsequently killed in action, one of more than 600 Canadian citizens who lost their lives in that strange struggle, and his passport fell into the hands of the Russian Secret Police.

A letter from the F.B.I. to the RCMP sums up the passport situation that existed in Spain during the Civil War:

"... all the passports held by those killed in the Spanish War were collected by the agents of the Comintern and forwarded to Moscow. We (the F.B.I.) are also informed that, in the majority of instances, the passports were taken away from the volunteers upon reporting to the agencies in control of the International Brigade in Paris, France. These passports were never restored to the original holders, and no doubt are now in the hands of the Comintern Officials. It is thus estimated that at least 800 passports issued to the volunteers proceeding to Spain are now held in Moscow."

As nearly as it is possible to estimate, over a thousand Canadian volunteers served with the Mackenzie-Papineau battalion, and recruiting was sponsored by the Communist Party of Canada.

Babich himself was a member of the party.

A further check of records reveals that Babich received his naturalization certificate, number 77226-A, at Princeton, British Columbia, on Mar. 27, 1931. But, the certificate found in the passport used by the assassin was number 18506-E. The mystery of this discrepancy was solved in a report from the Under-Secretary of State, Naturalization, dated Aug. 23, 1940. This report stated in part,

"... that more than 100 certificates of naturalization had been issued fraudulently, most of the cases of misrepresentation being based on the alleged relationships between the applicant for naturalization and an alleged father who was said to have been naturalized many years previously."

The certificate found in the passport used by del Rio was one of those fraudulently issued. More specifically, on Nov. 26, 1929, a Frank Jackson applied for naturalization in Montreal. He claimed his father was Herman Jackson who had been naturalized in Montreal on Jan. 25, 1915. On Dec. 14, 1929 naturalization certificate number 18586-H was issued to Frank Jackson. Just who Frank Jackson was, or what became of the person that received the certificate, is not known.

Some time during the two years following the issue of this certificate, the system of illegal issues was discovered. After a Court hearing, Judge James Gamble Wallace wrote a report dated May 19, 1931, dealing with the way certificates were illegally obtained. On June 10, 1931 the naturalization certificate issued to Jackson was revoked by Order-in-Council PC 1324.

During the preparations for the assassination, the Russian Secret Police, realizing that Jackson's certificate had been officially nullified, altered the number from 18586-H to 18506-E. This certificate was then inserted in the passport originally issued to Tony Babich, and the name on the passport was suit-