

SPANISH INFORMATION

SERVICE texts

and documents

A WEEKLY RÉSUMÉ OF OUR DAILY "SERVICIO ESPAÑOL DE INFORMACION"

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Spanish rebel leaders frequently declare that the miseries which Spain is suffering are the result of having allowed the people to learn how to read and write, and of permitting progressive ideas to be «imported» into Spain.

MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENCE

Number of Planes Brought Down in 1937

The Ministry of National Defence has made public the following figures giving the results of air battles during 1937:

GOVERNMENT PLANES BROUGHT DOWN BY THE REBELS

January: 3 bombers, 1 pursuit plane, 1 observation plane; total, 5.
February: 2 bombers, 3 pursuit planes; total, 5.
March: 2 bombers, 3 pursuit planes, total, 5.
April: 4 pursuit planes; total, 4.
May: 2 bombers, 6 pursuit planes; total, 8.
June: 3 bombers, 5 pursuit planes, 2 seaplanes; total, 10.
July: 7 bombers, 12 pursuit planes, 1 seaplane; total, 20.
August: 4 bombers, 6 pursuit planes; total, 10.
September: 3 bombers, 6 pursuit planes; total, 9.
October: 3 bombers, 1 pursuit plane; total, 4.
November: 3 pursuit planes; total, 3.
December: 3 bombers, 6 pursuit planes; total, 9.

Total number of republican planes lost, 92.

REBEL PLANES BROUGHT DOWN BY THE GOVERNMENT AIR FORCE

January: 3 Junkers bombers, 13 Fiat pursuit planes, 3 Heinkel pursuit planes, 5 planes of unknown type; total, 24.
February: 4 Junkers bombers, 11 Heinkels, 6 planes of unknown type; total 21.
March: 1 Fokker bomber, 1 Junkers bomber, 14 Fiat pursuit planes, 2 Heinkels; total, 18.
April: 2 Junkers bombers, 5 Heinkels, 5 sea-planes, 8 Fiat pursuit planes; total, 20.
May: 4 Fiat pursuit planes, 2 planes of unknown type; total, 6.
June: 36 Fiat pursuit planes, 1 Junkers bomber, 2 planes of unknown type; total, 39.
July: 9 Junkers bombers, 13 Heinkels, 5 observation planes, 3 planes of unknown type, 48 Fiat pursuit planes; total, 78.
August: 2 Junkers bombers, 1 twin-engined plane, 15 planes of unknown type, 12 Fiat pursuit planes; total, 30.
September: 3 Junkers bombers, 3 twin-engined planes, 3 Romecs, 15 Fiat pursuit planes; total, 24.
October: 2 Junkers bombers, 1 Savoia, 14 Fiat pursuit planes; total, 17.
November: None.
December: 4 Junkers bombers, 1 sea-plane, 1 Meisserschmidt, 10 Fiat pursuit planes; total, 16.

Total number of planes lost by the enemy, 293.

THE MILITARY SITUATION

The only front where there has been any activity of importance during the past week is that of Teruel. There the rebels made a large scale attack in order to free themselves from the pinchers movement in which the Republican forces threatened to encircle them following the capture of the heights above Singra. In fact so precarious was their position that the rebels had only two alternatives open to them. Either they must retire from the southern extremity of the Teruel salient or they must try and broaden the base of that salient in order to assure their communications. The former move, although undoubtedly the wisest from a strategic point of view, was out of the question for moral reasons. Therefore the insurgents decided to attack the Republican positions in Sierra Palomera.

The attack, which began on February 5, was carried out by four rebel divisions who outnumbered the Republican defenders by six to one. In

spite of the tremendous odds against them the loyalist troops put up a stiff resistance and even launched several counter-attacks. But eventually they were forced to retire and to yield their positions in Sierra Palomera which, in view of the lack of roads to their bases were extremely difficult to defend.

Naturally the rebels are attempting to exploit this tactical success to the full in order to raise the lowered morale of their army. In fact they have done so to such an extent that the number of prisoners they claim to have taken in their offensive exceeds the total number of troops who were defending the entire sector. This is not to mention the number of dead the insurgents claim to have picked up. Indeed, it is certain that, had there been such a large number of soldiers in Sierra Palomera and had these soldiers had at their disposal the large quantity of arms and am-

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Economy

Organization of Exports

The Under Secretary for Economy on 6 February, 1936, issued the following note regarding the export of onions:

«The first results of the Government's policy, which aims at centralising the export of agricultural products through the proper organisations under the inspection of the State are beginning to be felt.

«The Centre for the Export of Onions was one of the first organisations of this kind to be set up. It is worth while giving a brief description of its functioning in order to show how this type of export organisation can centralise exports, regulate foreign markets, obtain better prices in foreign currency and guarantee that this foreign currency eventually finds its way to the Spanish Treasury.

«The Centre for the Export of Onions, like all new organisations set up in the midst of the evolution which it has been our lot to experience, at the beginning had to overcome many difficulties. These difficulties were increased by the fact that former methods of procedure still existed and brought about a lack of confidence abroad and the withdrawal of persons and firms who in the ordinary way took part in the onion trade. The chief feature of this trade was the shipment of products in consignment to be sold by auction. It was necessary to begin the export campaign, but at the same time an attempt was made to distribute the shipments wisely in order to maintain good prices on the market.

«The policy pursued by the Centre for the export of Onions was that of eventually suppressing the sale by shipments in consignment and substituting the system of sales to order. This policy has enabled the method of selling to be changed so as to accustom purchasers to buy to order. And indication of the progress made in this direction is that while in the first half of August 1937 only 2,500 boxes were sold to order, in the second half the number rose to 19,300.

«At the beginning of the campaign the financing of the export of onions was aided by a loan of 1,500,000 pesetas from the Foreign Bank of Spain. This sum has not merely been repaid, but on 31 December 1938 the Centre for the Export of Onions had a favourable balance of 1,212,625 pesetas.

«An even more interesting fact is that although, owing to a poor crop and to the increased internal consumption of onions, the amount of this vegetable exported in 1937 was less than in the preceding year, the amount of foreign currency obtained from the sale of onions abroad was greater in 1937 than in 1936.»

Social Welfare

THE REFUGEE POLYCLINIC OF VALENCE

The Refugee Polyclinic in Valencia, recently established by the Government of Spain, is an institution which gives medical assistance to refugees from the various war zones and to those who fled from rebel territory and are temporarily living in Valencia. Its head is Dr. Angel Laroca. The clinic is equipped with modern material. There are several consultation rooms, an X-Ray department, a department for children's diseases, a dental department, etc.

The rooms where children are received are decorated with Walt Disney creations: The Three Little Pigs, Mickey Mouse, the Big Bad Wolf, etc. This has been done to make the children who come to be examined feel at ease.

The dental department is also perfectly equipped.

To give an idea of the intense activity of the Refugee Polyclinic, the following figures were supplied by Dr. Laroca:

Cases treated during the month of December, 1937:

General Medicine	322
Child deliveries and women's diseases	61
Mouth diseases, including teeth	52
Ophthalmology	373
Nose, ears and throat	128
Children's diseases	412
Skin and venereal diseases and syphilis	345
Cures and injections	420
Visits to homes	19

Total cases 2,132

All articles and items in this weekly may be reprinted

THE MILITARY SITUATION

(Continued from page 1)

munition which the rebels claim to have captured, they would never have yielded their positions.

But unfortunately it is impossible to maintain a large concentration at every point along the entire front, which is approximately a thousand miles in length. When the enemy attack in overwhelming odds an immediate retreat is inevitable until reserves can be brought up. That is what happened in Sierra Palomera.

But while granting the rebels a tactical success, it is important to remember that in order to carry out this action, which was essentially a defensive one undertaken primarily to ensure their communications by road and railway with the southern extremity of the Teruel salient, they were obliged to use men and war material which, under other conditions, they might have been able to use on another front for offensive purposes.

The fact remains that today, two months after the original Republican attack was launched against Teruel, the principal fighting still continues to be centred on that front, which is the

fighting ground chosen by the Republican, and not the rebel, command. What the Spanish People's Army took in a week the insurgents, despite all their German and Italian aid, have been unable to recapture in two months.

And if the insurgents decide to try once more to retake Teruel it will be just a further proof of the fact that for the first time in the course of the war the Republicans are in a position to force the pace and that the rebels are obliged to pick up the glove when and wherever it is thrown to them.

At the time of writing the initiative has passed once more into the hands of the Republicans who have taken important positions near Vivel del Río on the Aragon front, several heights near Valdecuenca to the west of Teruel, a hill in the Granada sector and who are at this very moment advancing on the Extremadura front where they have already captured Sierra del Aguila, Puerto de la Nava, Sierra del Acebuche and Sierra Quemada.

Before Leaving Spain, M. Emile Vandervelde Expresses his Satisfaction and Confidence in the Republican Cause

"I have asked my Government to help Spain in the same manner in which Spain helped Belgium in the past"

The great Belgian Socialist leader, M. Emile Vandervelde, who is also member of the Council for Foreign Affairs, before leaving Spain made the following statement regarding his experiences and observations during his visit to Spain and also explained the object of it. He was accompanied by Mme. Valdervelde, who shares his views regarding Spain.

I am interested in Spanish affairs for several reasons. When the military rebellion broke out, the leaders announced that the victory would be theirs within eight days, and many people believed it. I did not. And to my great satisfaction today, on returning from Madrid, I am able to express my conviction that not only did they not attain victory in eight days, but that it is impossible for them ever to attain victory. Only the Republic will be victorious in this war in spite of everything and above everything.

I RESIGNED MY POST IN THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT ON ACCOUNT OF SPAIN

I resigned my post in the Belgian Government of which Mr. Van Zeeland was Premier last year due to the fact that my views regarding Spanish affairs greatly differed from those of my colleagues. I preferred to leave the government than to agree to the absurd and unjust policies adopted by the Van Zeeland Cabinet regarding the Spanish Republic. I do not regret it today. I am proud that I took that stand.

After being present at the historical session of the Spanish Cortes at the old Montserrat Monastery, I made a tour over the largest part of Loyalist territory. On my way to Valencia I visited the hospitals of the International Brigades. I spent a little over a day in Valencia, and then I went straight on to Madrid, where I visited the fronts, especially that of the Casa de Campo. I returned from Madrid via Albacete, stopping at Onteniente. From there I went to Valencia again and then to Barcelona.

This is not my first to Spain,

but Spain today where so much blood is being shed in defense of freedom, where the effects of the monstrous crimes committed by the bombing of the civilian population are to be seen, has impressed me very deeply. My indignation was not diminished by the precedent of my own country which was invaded in 1914.

A TELEGRAM TO THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT

I have sent the following telegram to the Belgian Prime Minister: "On seeing the cruel sufferings caused by the criminal bombing of the civilian population of Madrid, Valencia, Tarragona, and Barcelona and by the scarcity of foodstuffs which is aggravated by acts of piracy against merchant ships, I request the Belgian Government to join the democratic governments in condemning the bombing of civilians in Spain who are subjected to criminal massacres with no military objectives and to organize the sending of food supplies and to help Spain in the same manner in which Spain helped to send provisions to Belgium in the past."

I sincerely hope that the deep feeling with which I have appealed to my Government will decide them to take favorable action. But at all events I venture to express my conviction, after being engaged in activities to help Spain for eighteen months, that the Belgian working class will not wait much longer for the Government to decide, and our working class which has been actively helping Spain, will do honor to their tradition.

THE PASSIVITY OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENTS

I am convinced that if the Democratic governments had adopted a bolder policy after August 1936, we would not now be faced with the prospect of a war which is destined to be prolonged more and more, constantly causing death and destruction.

I am deeply moved by two different sentiments. The first is my sympathy and admiration for the heroism and stoic resistance of the civilian population who do not waver before the barbarous

fascist attacks from the air. And the other is my profound indignation at the murders committed by bombing civilians, and my condemnation of the Governments which tolerate acts of piracy that render the transportation of food supplies more difficult every day.

Madrid has proved to me that

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the situation, as far as food supplies are concerned, is particularly difficult. Only the very efficient measures adopted by the Government of the Republic have alleviated the sufferings of the civilian population. The cruel suffering of the civilian population of Madrid is a glaring accusation against the passivity of the those governments which I have already mentioned.

Madame Vandervelde broke in:

"The heroism of Madrid will certainly have its results, but such suffering is unjust, more so because it could be avoided."

M. Vandervelde added that the heroic resistance of Madrid brings to his memory the resistance of those peoples of the Netherlands who in the XVI century, like Madrid today, preferred to die rather than to submit to foreign domination.

I visited the military hospital at Onteniente which our two Internationals have established in cooperation with the Government

of the Spanish Republic. I think it would be interpreting the general feeling when inviting all those who come to Spain in the future to visit these magnificent hospitals, where the medical organization is really magnificent. It is an admirable proof of the efficiency of the Spanish Republic.

In Valencia I dined with some of the Spanish soldiers who took part in the conquest of Teruel. The cheerful optimism of these brave soldiers made me realize that every one of the soldiers of the Republic is certain of victory, and it is only necessary to be with them for a few moments to acquire that faith and belief in the triumph of Spanish Democracy.

These heroes of Teruel, with a song ever on their lips, bring to my memory those militiamen who marched on to the road of immortality singing these magnificent lines:

«La victoire en chantant
Nous ouvre la carrière.»

The Wool Industry

One of Catalonia's most important industries, well-known in Spain and abroad, is the wool industry. Soon after the war broke out this industry was practically paralysed because of the lack of raw material. This situation had been brought about by the fact that the «General Association of Livestock Owners», with headquarters in Madrid, which supplied most of the Catalan wool industries with wool, was dissolved as most of its members sympathized with the rebellion and, at the first opportunity, left Government Spain.

The enterprise which suffered most from the flight of the members of the «General Association of Livestock Owners» was that of the «Spanish Wool Producers», in Sabadell (Catalonia), the most important woolcleaning and combing factory in the whole of Spain. The «General Association of Livestock Owners» had supplied most of the raw material for the factory and had held shares in it as well. It was natural, therefore, that the level of production should fall rapidly.

An end was put to this situation when in August, 1936, the «Association of Livestock Owners» was confiscated by the Ministry of Agriculture, through the General Administration of Livestock. The «Association of Livestock Owners» was reorganized under the Ministry of Agriculture, which immediately began to buy the wool which had been stored up by the peasants and collective organizations for some time, since it had been impossible for them to put it on the market as a result of the flight

of the members of the «General Association of Livestock Owners». During the 1936 season the General Administration of Livestock of the Ministry of Agriculture acquired the following amounts of wool in various places of loyal Spain:

Province of Badajoz:

Cabeza de Buey . . .	321,931 kg.
Castuera	89,228 "
Villanueva de la	
Serena	26,381 "
Campanario	59,443 "

Province of Cordova:

Belalcázar	30,567 "
Pedroches	4,473 "
Villanueva de Cor-	
doba	86,159 "
Pozoblanco	40,425 "
Alcaracejos	9,832 "

Province of Ciudad Real:

Chillón	10,552 "
Almadén	8,705 "

Provinces of Cuenca and Toledo:

	76,440 "
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Total 746,116 kg.

The season was entirely successful. More wool was acquired by the General Administration of Livestock than had been acquired in previous seasons by the «General Association of Livestock Owners».

The wool obtained was immediately handed over to the «Spanish Wool Producers», an enterprise run by a Workers' Council composed of employees and workers of the «Association of Livestock Owners» in Madrid and Sabadell and a delegate of the Government, which is under the guidance of the General Administration of Livestock. Wool

began to appear on the market at prices not much higher than those which existed before the war.

The «Spanish Wool Producers» Factory is now working intensively. Sufficient wool is prepared for the Catalan textile industries. This season will probably be even more successful. In the first two months of 1938, 300,000 kilograms of wool have been obtained. It is expected that this year the figure will be over one million kilograms.

What has been the result of this intensive work of the Ministry of Agriculture? The ruin of one of the most important Catalan industries has been prevented. Hundreds of textile factories will be able to continue production normally and even compete with foreign products in foreign markets.

The largest wool factory in Spain, which was previously the property of the Royal Association of Livestock Breeders of Spain which was taken over by the State in August 1936, has not only been able to maintain its former level of production, but even shows an increase as compared with the amount of wool produced during the years 1933-36. During the 1936-1937 season this factory turned out 700,000 kilograms of wool, to be used in turn by the textile factories. So far this season 300,000 kgs. of wool have been produced. It is important to note that 95 % of the wool processed in this factor is supplied by the General Administration of Livestock Breeding to whose work the increase in the production of wool is in great part due.

General Batet in Burgos

by ANTONIO RUIZ VILAPLANA

July 17, 1936.

At nightfall four Army chiefs are deliberating in the office of Lt. Colonel Aizpuru. General Dávila gives his colleagues an account of the instructions received from General Mola. They are nervous and hesitate.

General Batet, who had arrived in Burgos that same day, was on the floor above. He was working preparing a report on the military situation in Burgos. He was not acquainted with it yet and wished to proceed very carefully with the utmost calmness.

Batet had not as yet solemnly taken possession of his post. Some officers, the Colonel of the Civil Guard and members of the General Staff, had visited him that very afternoon. They regarded him suspiciously, and he had to explain that he had not come to carry out a drastic purge. He did not wish to harm any one. He had come to collaborate loyally with the Republican Government and to defend the prestige of the Army, which people considered to be disloyal or at least to have adopted a strange attitude.

The officers frown and shake the loyal hand of the General. Knowing that they would be permitted to continue in their posts, they offered to become worthy of the trust the General bestowed on them and to help him in his work.

General Batet trustingly showed them his office. «Too big for himself», he comments with frank humor. The officers took leave affectionately, and General Batet was let alone to prepare his work and to get used to his very large rooms.

«The Army is only a large family», he must have thought. «They had cautioned me... All the rumours must be false. They have all offered to collaborate with me in the most affectionate manner.»

Batet had two great passions, the Army and Catalonia, and at this time he must have thought fondly of both. He had also a more intimate, immense love which has filled all his life. With tenacity and energy and with a strong fervour for his work, he worked intensely in front of a large pile of papers on his desk, on which also stood a framed photograph from which he never separated.

Major Gavilán — small, nervous — expresses his intransigence. The others put up a timid opposition to violent action. The cordial, frank words of General Batet are still resounding in their ears.

Gavilán insists hot-headedly: the time is passing, and it is necessary to act quickly.

«You are thinking of a military coup with gloved hands, in a romantic manner, and that cannot be done. Besides, Batet is no fool, and as soon as he suspects anything, he will take action against us. Remember what he did in Barcelona in 1934.»

Fear forced the others to accede. The chief of staff, Colonel Aizpuru, still offered to mediate. He would speak to the General and explained the situation to him, and the latter would certainly

ly join them. After all, although Batet was a Republican, he was also an Army man, and he would profit by the triumph of the Army.

Right in front of Batet's office door, Aizpuru still hesitates:

«Come in, Aizpuru, come in», General Batet cordially invites him.

«My General», he says hesitatingly, «there is something very important, and I thought to warn you.»

General Batet was astounded when the military plans for the rebellion were disclosed to him with full details and all their dramatic sinuosity. He refused to believe it. Perhaps he believed it was only a dream. He does not understand it all, he cannot understand it.

«But, Aizpuru, it cannot be possible. This military coup with no foundation at all will certainly fail. The Republic has been confirmed and is supported by the people. This was clearly shown only a few days ago in a heated election contest. There is no doubt about it. It would be monstrous to rise against it at this time.»

«The Army is disgusted, My General.»

«You are upset, Aizpuru. Enough!» he added with the utmost correction. «Consider that you haven't said a word to me about all this. Think it over, and you will see I am right.»

«My General», insisted Aizpuru. «Everything is prepared already and it may break out any moment.»

«If it breaks out, we shall put it down», said Batet energetically, somewhat vexed.

Aizpuru saluted and took leave in a confused manner. When he recounted to his brother officers what had happened, Gavilán said:

«Don't you see? You don't want to listen to me. We must arrest him, or we are lost. He will notify Madrid and will spoil everything for us.»

While General Dávila and the other chiefs were preparing the edicts to declare martial law and giving orders for the troops to take to the streets, the other officers increased by a few others who joined them and by Major Pastrana, went to Batet's office and broke in violently.

Batet turned pale, but he faced them with great energy. One of the officers spoke:

«My General. The Army has revolted all over Spain. A Military Government will be established. The Committee which has taken command here wishes to know whether we can count on your loyalty.»

«Officer», Batet said, «you are under arrest. Report to the officer on guard duty.»

«The officer on guard duty is here with us, the same as all the garrison officers. For the last time we want to know whether you are with us or against us.»

«It's only a loss of time», a cavalry said. «He is against us, don't you see. Arrest him and send him to prison. The officer who was going to take charge of the prison must be there by now. You take care of him.»

Batet tried to get up, but the officers drew their pistols. Co-

vered by the officer's guns, calm and dignified, Batet was taken at then o'clock that same night to the Burgos prison.

«The defendant Domingo Batet Mesa, found guilty of an act of military rebellion, is sentenced to death with all corresponding accessories, and the sentence must be carried out, etc. etc.»

Batet listened unperturbed while the sentence was being read. When the military judge — a Cuban who had been recently nationalized in Spain — asked the «rebel» if he wished anything, General Batet asked only for sufficient time to write a note and make some orders to serve as his will.

As was customary in the Burgos prison, General Batet's cell was lighted all night long. This was done to distinguish those who were to make their last journey at the break of the day.

From the road which leads to the prison one could see every night the illuminated windows, and every one knew their ominous meaning.

General Batet spent a long time writing.

Calm and tranquil at dawn he prepared his papers and messages, but the day passed and nothing disturbed his nervous wait. The following day he was taken from the prison and, in an official car, transferred to Pamplona. Batet, who was acquainted with the peculiar method of taking people from prison, must have thought that he was making his last journey. It was not so, at six o'clock that afternoon he arrived at the famous Saint Cristobal fortress, the ghastly prison of Pamplona, where he was delivered in exchange for a «receipt».

Batet spent twenty seven days in the fortress, and then was taken back to Burgos. When he returned, it was visible that his energy and physical integrity were beginning to waver. The terrible trial of watching the days and nights go by, and expecting each one to be his last, caused great havoc in his virile spirit.

At last (!!) seeing that his spirit registered moral pain, but did not submit, orders were given for his execution.

He was shot on January 22, 1937. Besides the soldiers, only a small group were present. Very few knew that that dignified white headed man was the noble General Batet. He stood before the shooting squad without making a gesture of protest, and without a sign of weakness. He had a virile and dignified death.

In the dry folios of the records of the Burgos court which may some day have historical value, there is an entry which reads as follows:

Surnames: Batet Sastre.

Name: Domingo.

Date of birth: 8-3-72.

Date of death: 1-22-37.

Causes of death: Wounds produced by firearms.

Not even in death did the rebels show any respect for General Batet. The Civil Governor and the Commission for the Confiscation of Property started proceedings to confiscate the proper-

CULTURE

The Rebels Destroy Culture

Spanish rebel leaders frequently declare that the miseries which Spain is suffering are the result of having allowed the people to learn how to read and write, and of permitting progressive ideas to be «imported» into Spain.

They contend that sanitation, measures for improving and preserving the health of the nation, schools and such nuisances may be all right for foreign countries, but not for Spain. The Spanish people are only happy when properly kept in their traditional way of living.

Once they learned about education, sanitation, working hours and the such, their happiness vanished, because then they wanted more education, better working conditions and more health measures. That was wrong. The people should have never learned about these things.

It also seems that as the people were able to get their ideas from books, they lost respect for those whom they should have always regarded as their true leaders and guides, the priests of the Roman Catholic Church. The principal agent promoting this moral disruption of the Spanish people has been the Republic, Azaña's Republic, which has been teaching the Spanish people progressive ideas and thus uprooting them from their traditional and happy ways of living. So the rebels are repairing the damage done suppressing the following colleges:

Astorga, Lucena, Tudela, Algeciras, Baracaldo, Cazalla de la Sierra, Fregenal de la Sierra, Inca, Medina de Rioseco, Peñaranda de Bracamonte, Sanlúcar de Barrameda, Toro, Villanueva de Lugo, Béjar, Noya, Trujillo, Aracena, Burgo de Osma, Cervera del Río, Guernica, La Robla, Miranda del Ebro, Portugalete, Santoña, Utrera, Málaga, La Estrada, Priego, Arévalo, Bentanzas, Carmona, Acharria, Eibar, Haro, Medina del Campo, Nerva, Reinosa, Tafalla, Vélez Málaga, Seville Ecija, La Línea, Mérida, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Rivadeo, Morón, Molina de Aragón, Monforte de Lemus, Talavera de la Reina, Zafra, Oñate, Santander (Menéndez Pelayo), Peñarroya-Pueblo Nuevo, Ronda.

Numerous primary schools have also been suppressed. Many others have been turned over to the Church and priests and nuns put in charge of them. No statistics are available about the number of schools closed and the number turned over to the church.

The Spanish Republic built more than 27,000 new schools in five years (1931-36).

During the war, in 1937, 10,000 new schools were opened in the territory under republican jurisdiction.

The sums allotted for the salaries of public schools teachers by the Republic totalled 3,724,000 pesetas in 1936 and pesetas 91,832,000 in 1937.

In 1937 14,000,000 pesetas were allotted by the Republic for the buying of school furniture.

40,000,000 pesetas were allotted by the Republic for the building of new schools.

ty of the dead «rebel». Batet had been in Burgos only a few hours before he was arrested, and he only possessed his clothing and some objects of personal use. Everything, including his private letters and that picture which he always carried close to him, were confiscated.

A few days later, «El Castellano», a newspaper which was a true exponent of the Burgos spirit, in referring to the October, 1934 rebellion, stated:

«The Military Command of Barcelona at the time was held by General Batet who, by the way, it seems died around here recently.»

American Gift to Spain

A mobile operating theatre, donated to the Government of the Republic by the American people, was handed over on 9 February, 1938, to the General Inspection of the Medical Service of the Army. The operating theatre was officially presented by Doctor Barsky and Doctor Bush of the American Medical Unit to Señor Fernández Bolaños, Under-Secretary of the Ministry of National Defence.

Franco's Forces

F. G. Stork writing in the Norwegian newspaper, «Arbeiderbladet» estimates Franco's forces as follows:

Italians:

120,000, divided into 4 divisions, entirely Italian. There is also a fifth division entitled «Black Arrows», 70 % Italian and 30 % Spanish.

Germans:

20,000 technicians and experts.

Foreign Legion:

15,000, divided into Banderas of 1,000 each. 40 % of these are volunteers. 60 % are Spaniards who have entered the Legion because they are better paid (3 pesetas daily).

Requetés:

80,000 men.

Falangists:

45,000 men, only 10 % of whom are volunteers.

To the above must be added the Moors and several hundred thousand Spanish conscripts.

Open Letter to the President of the Rotary International

To the President,
Rotary International,
Chicago, Ill.,
U. S. A.

My dear Sir:

I take the liberty of writing to you in order to submit for your able judgment certain opinions which, on different occasions, have been privately expressed to me by various friends. I am only transmitting to you the doubts and feelings of persons who have been in more or less direct relationship with rotary activities in Spain.

Since April, 1936, I am no longer a member of the Rotary Club of the city where I formerly lived. Nevertheless, I believe that I am in a position to write to you not only because I have confidence in your justness but because my only purpose in so doing is to serve my country and my fellow-citizens.

When one has during twelve years lived constantly in Rotary circles, when one has belonged to a Rotary Club and been first an active member, then secretary, and finally president,

When one has been acquainted with a whole series of national clubs and with some foreign ones, and attended every single meeting for several years,

When one has spoken and read various talks and speeches, all related to real and vital problems of national and international interest,

When one has been in contact with various leading persons in international Rotary circles and has read a large part of its extensive literature for propaganda,

Is it permissible to ask in one's own name or in the name of other persons what part the Rotary International has taken in this struggle which is staining Spain with blood, in order to lessen the misfortune of its inhabitants or even to mitigate somewhat their hardships as inhabitants of a civilised country?

Has the Rotary International taken into consideration that Rotary influence was very widespread in Spain and that there were ultimately about 30 clubs, with a membership of some 800, and that Spain constituted one of its most enthusiastic districts?

For the sad truth is, Mr. President, that Spanish Rotary circles have not been informed either by the foreign press or through other channels that the Rotary International has been in the least concerned or interested in the life, welfare, and country of their own members or in their most peremptory needs and, finally, in their problem.

For eighteen months we have been fighting in a devastating struggle which we did not initiate, which was secretly planned against a Government which had been legally constituted and officially recognised by all the nations of the world, with which it maintained the best relations; a struggle which was cautiously and treacherously prepared against the nation by elements which it trusted, military and civilian elements which abrogated peace because of hunger for power and because of foreign plotting; those elements which the people trusted because they were being paid to defend them and their

Country, and also because they had promised obedience and loyalty to the Government which this people had freely elected.

During this long period, in the course of which we have not many lives and seen the destruction of many of our cities which contained the best treasures of our artistic patrimony, there has not been the least intimation that the Rotary International has taken an active or passive, direct or indirect part in our affair which, as all the world knows, has ramifications of an international character on account of the intervention of countries with which we had no differences of any sort to settle.

Is the Rotary International able or willing to reply to this?

It would afford us pleasure and moral satisfaction to see that the Rotary International is dedicating some thought, formulating some policy with regard to us, that it says something in favour of our country where on so many occasions similar problems relating to other countries were taken up with so much enthusiasm and where, finally, with no less enthusiasm and good faith, the ticklish question of peace was discussed and recourse to war as a strong solution in solving external and internal questions anathematised.

Our problem, our case, Mr. President, is clearer and more evident when one considers that it is a question of giving support without strong feeling or hate, that it is the natural attitude of one friend who takes an interest in another friend when misfortune or calamity falls on him.

Has the Rotary International shown any desire to learn something about our fortunes? We must confess that we are completely unaware of any action.

Has it reported to or negotiated with other Governments? Has it contributed at all any food, clothing, and medical supplies? Has it contributed funds for the purchase of indispensable necessities which we lack? Has it offered to care for women, children, and old men, to finance a colony in a safe place where they could find a home far from the echoes of the struggle?

Has it done this without publicity? Or has it not done so and does not wish to confess it?

In any case, the position of the Rotary International is very delicate with relation to those who will some day want to analyse its conduct closely, because no matter how the war goes, no matter how much harder it may become, there will always be some Rotarian or a relative or a friend of a Rotarian who, once the struggle is over, will put this question to the Rotary International:

What was your attitude toward the Spanish conflict?

Is there an explanation for this comfortable position, or do not the Spanish Rotarians deserve even an explanation?

There is in Zürich a leading member, Dr. Alex. O. Potter, who is the representative of the Rotary International in Europe and who, by the way, recently visited the Portuguese clubs. Why has it not occurred to him or why has he not given instructions to come to Spain to study our situation, as distinguished

foreigners well-known in the field of journalism, commerce, industry, and parliamentary life have done?

I can assure you that he would be well-received by Spaniards of all classes and would obtain official data on everything which he would like to study and that, furthermore, it would not be necessary for him to negotiate with «Russian» officials.

No one could be suspicious of such a decision. We who live here hold that it should be the concern of this organisation to learn the truth; and to do this, it is not necessary, it must be understood, to enter upon details of a political, party, trade union, religious or international character. But the fact that we, Rotarians or sympathisers, do not know what is the opinion of an organisation such as the Rotary International concerning our problem, in which it seems to have lost all interest, or how it interprets it, may be judged in various and not very flattering ways.

These, in short, Mr. President, are the doubts which are present in the minds of friends who have spoken to me about the Rotary International and which I set forth here with the greatest clearness in the hope that the Presidency, which has always shown a correct attitude, will be able to interpret exactly what has been said and to pardon what was said in the natural heat of patriotism.

In short, Mr. President, we

ECONOMY Internal Revenue for January 1938

The official figures for revenue from taxation for the month of January confirm the progressive increase which was already reflected in revenues during the last six months of 1937.

With the sole exception of Almería, where revenue figures were smaller, there has been a marked increase in revenue in all the provinces of Loyalist territory for the month of January as compared with the same period last year. The increases in revenue in the different provinces are as follows:

Province	Pesetas
Albacete	1,835,145
Alicante	854,511
Barcelona	7,835,183
Castellón	706,526
Ciudad Real	3,406,932
Cuenca	2,028,183
Gerona	1,605,883
Guadalajara	579,451
Jaén	677,390
Lérida	6,601,554
Madrid	22,376,545
Murcia	3,104,909
Cartagena	1,202,915
Tarragona	2,109,651
Valencia	5,851,698
Aragón	28,893
Mahón (Balearics)	68,957

After compensation being made for the decrease of 195,176 pesetas for the Province of Almería, the net increase in January, 1938, as compared with the same period last year, is 60,391,256 pesetas.

are interested in ascertaining whether we did well to join the Rotary International or whether we should forget the enthusiasm with which we did this, as one who tries to eradicate the vision of a bad dream.

Respectfully yours,

Aniceto Mascaró Doménech

Barcelona, January 15, 1938.

Galicia Under the Rebels

Father Nieto of the Society of Jesuits was an active propagandist of the rebel cause. His principal field of action was the prisons. In the month of August he came to visit us at the Fronton prison in Vigo:

«You are going to die, anyway», he said to the prisoners, «so you might as well make up your mind to make peace with God. You may then choose the best way to die, the best way to be exonerated from your past sins.»

With this convincing argument he expected to coerce the prisoners to enrol in the Foreign Legion to defend Franco's cause.

He used to harangue the prisoners in this way almost daily, but he also addressed his propaganda to individual prisoners. He spent several days trying to convince two Czechs, Oscar Loedenek and another by the name of Jean, to enlist in the Legion, but he failed.

All the prisoners who had no cause to be brought up for trial were singled out by Father Nieto to be recruited for the Legion. He put the question bluntly to them:

«Either you enlist to fight for Franco in the Legion or you will be turned over to the Falangists to be taken for a ride.»

As is only natural, all the prisoners thus approached preferred the Legion, and in this manner several large contingents of «volunteers» were taken from Vigo to the fronts. But the results were not satisfactory.

Especially at Talavera de la

Reina, the «volunteers» indulged in all kinds of passive resistance. Many went over to the loyalist side, and the rest were withdrawn from the first lines and sent back to Vigo, to the prison.

Father Nieto's work as recruiting agent for the Legion did not yield very positive results. Nor was he very successful in administering the last sacraments to those who were about to die. He was too rude and would lose his self control at the slightest contradiction, and would insult the prisoners and threaten them with all kinds of punishments.

I remember a particularly repulsive case, that of a boy of about 20 years of age who was sentenced to death by a court martial. As soon as Father Nieto knew about the sentence, he practically fell on the boy.

«You must make peace with God», he said. «You will lose nothing by it, see? They are going to kill you, anyway, and it will be better for you, see?»

The boy only wanted to get rid of Father Nieto, to be left alone, to have his last hours in peace. In order to get rid of him, he said:

«Please leave me alone now. I will confess, for I want to die at peace with the Church, but I will only do it at the last moment, when they are going to kill me. But now, please leave me alone.»

Father Nieto was satisfied with this promise. On his way out he wanted to make sure at what time the shooting was to take place, and he was informed that it would be in the fortress of El

Castro at dawn. He went home to sleep.

When the condemned man was taken to El Castro very early the morning, Father Nieto was already there waiting for him. When he approached the boy, repulsed Father Nieto with great energy.

«Please don't bother me. I am firmly determined to die without confession.»

«So, that's how it is», Father Nieto roared.

«I have told you already. Please leave me alone. I want to die in peace.»

«Ah, dog!», Father Nieto said. «And for this you made me get up so early, and come up all the way from Vigo. Ah, no! That cannot be. I won't have it. I won't have this joke played on me. I will not tolerate it.»

He was still cursing him, hitting the air with his umbrella when the boy was led away before the firing squad.

The soldiers still heard Father Nieto complaining that he had come all the way up for nothing.

Education Work of the Culture Militia

On 26 January a Madrid newspaper published a resume of the work of the Culture Militia from their inception up to the present time. They have given 362 individual classes and 53 collective classes, 20,077 talks and lectures, and 2,576 speaker talks to the enemy trenches. At the same time they have established 2,047 schools in the trenches and barracks of 167 Soldiers' Clubs. The Culture Militia have also held courses for improving the technique of officers and political legates. They have founded 4,223 wall newspapers and the travelling cinema has given performances on various fronts. They have staged 68 puppet shows and they are at present running 20 soldiers' academies. Twelve members of the Culture Militia have been killed at the front. The number of men present working in the Culture Militia on the Centre front is 8