



The VOLUNTEER FOR LIBERTY

organ of the international brigades ★

**All The Peoples Of The World Are On The Side
Of The International Brigades And The Spanish
Republican Government**



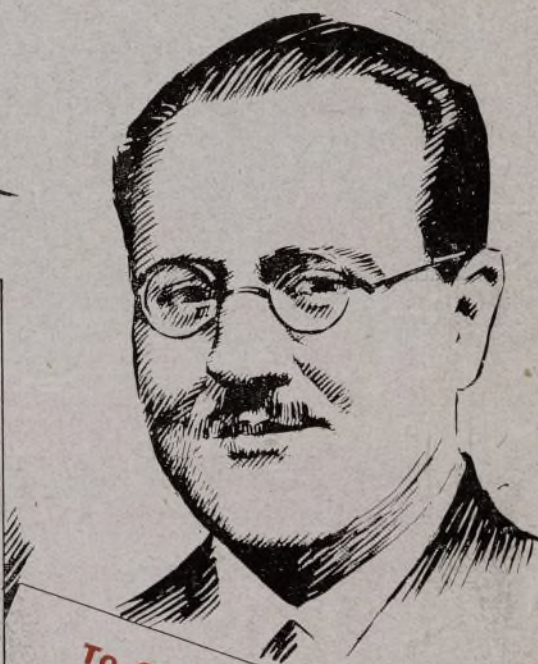
To Sr. Prieto, Minister of the National Defense

The officers and representatives of the Garrison of Albacete, met together under the Presidency of the Under-Secretary of War, Lieutenant Colonel Bolaños, to celebrate the first anniversary of the arrival of the Volunteers of the International Brigades, greet the illustrious Minister of National Defence who with his untiring organisational activity and leadership is leading the Spanish Army to glorious victory.



To Don Manuel Azaña, President of the Re- public

The officers and representatives of the Garrison of Albacete, met together under the Presidency of the Under-Secretary of War, Lieutenant Colonel Bolaños, to celebrate the first anniversary of the arrival of the Volunteers of the International Brigades in Spain, send to the illustrious President of all the Spaniards the expression of their admiration and reaffirm their unshakable support for the cause of the Liberty and Independence of Spain.

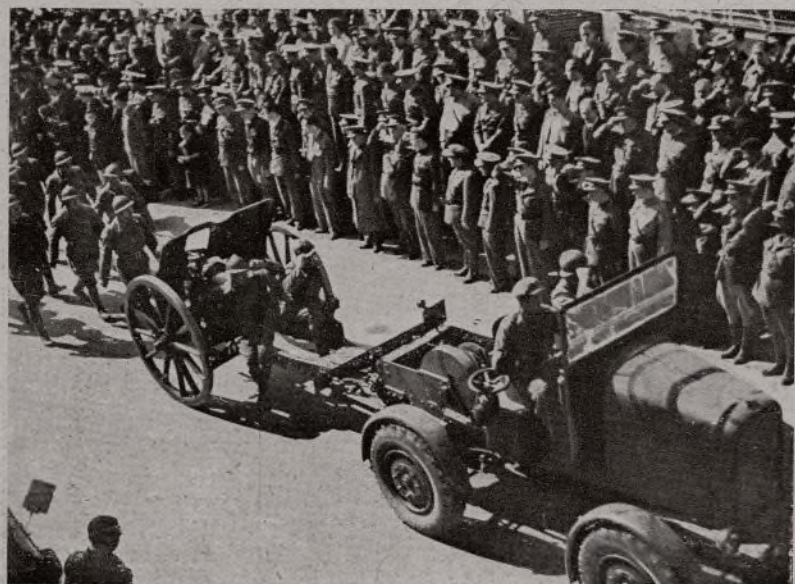


To Sr. Negrin, President of the Council

The officers and representatives of the Garrison of Albacete, met together under the Presidency of the Under-Secretary of War, Lieutenant Colonel Bolaños, to celebrate the first anniversary of the arrival of the International Brigades, greet the President of the People's Front Government of the Republic with its firm and determined policy of the unity of all honourable Spaniards will lead Republican Spain to victory over Fascism.



A VIEW of the parade of the troops.



OUR Artillery.



A GRATEFUL tribute to our dead.

IN Albacete A Whole People Fervently Celebrate The Anniversary Of The International Brigades; Banners Lowered In Honor Of Our Dead.

Albacete was bedecked with banners, posters and placards. The whole population was celebrating October 17th—the anniversary of the arrival in Spain of the first Volunteers for Liberty—with a magnificent and enthusiastic fête. The Park, filled with many-coloured triumphal arches, rang from early morning with the cheers of the crowd. All the centres of the parties and organisations were adorned with banners and streamers and slogans affirming solidarity with the International Brigades. The balconies of the official buildings were ablaze with colour.

The whole town lined the streets and the great avenue where the troops were to parade. This vast mass formed a living wall of people who cheered themselves hoarse greeting the international fighters, a river of tireless hands from which rose great bursts of applause.

The military review began at 11 a. m. The troops were inspected by the Under-Secretary for Defence, Lieutenant Colonel Bolaños, representing the Government; the Under-Commissar General of War, Comrade Pretel; the Military Governor of Albacete, Lieutenant Colonel Mangada; the Civil Governor, Comrade Cazorla; the Commissar-Inspector of our International Brigades, Comrade Gallo; and the Commander of the Base, Comrade Bielov. The Madrid People's Front had sent a delegation consisting of its Secretary and Comrade Ovidio Salcedo of the Socialist Party.

The C. N. T. had sent a telegram expressing its warm support of the commemoration and apologising for being unable to be represented at the ceremony. The Delegation of the Spanish Communist Party consisted of Comrades "Pasionaria", Delicado and Checa.

Magnificently equipped, the different units of the International Brigades paraded in impressive order. It was a great demonstration of strength, unity and discipline. The sight was breathtaking.

The Park appeared geometrically divided by rifles.

The Republican flags floated in the breeze and the bugles gleamed in the light. The various sections paraded: infantry, artillery, assault battalions, services of the rear. The people's emotion cannot be described. There was a ceaseless storm of applause. Our volunteers did not hide their enthusiasm as they passed before the Spanish flag.

At the end of the military parade Lieutenant Colonel Bolaños, Under-Commissar Pretel, the Military Governor Cazorla, Lieutenant-Colonel Mangada, and the Inspector of the International Brigades, Comrade Gallo, spoke to the people. With deep feeling they greeted the anniversary of the International Brigades. They spoke of the meaning of the solidarity of the peoples and they expressed their unshakable confidence in victory. In the name of the International Brigades Comrade Gallo made a moving speech which we print on another page. He ended by addressing "vivas" to the People's Front Government, to the Army of the Republic and to the International Brigades, which were taken up by the crowd with long applause.

A banquet followed at which all the leading personalities were present, together with the officers who had come from all the different units. Lieutenant Colonel Bolaños made a brief speech of greeting on behalf of the Government and its Army and expressed his

great satisfaction of being among comrades all inspired with the same spirit and the same determination. Then Lieutenant Colonel Bielov addressed the Government, the parties and organisations of the People's Front, and the Republican Army. He showed that the organisation of victory demanded the ceaseless creation of reserves and the maintenance of enthusiasm and discipline. His entire speech was a demonstration of confidence in the leaders of Republican Spain whom he presented as men capable of inspiring the final struggle against fascism. The



THE HUMAN tide pours through the streets...



LIEUTENANT COLONEL BOLANOS, representing the Minister of National Defence. On his right is comrade Pretel, Under-Commissar General.

Under-Commissar Pretel then paid a tribute to "Pasionaria", the symbol of the glorious struggle of the Asturian fighters.

He concluded with an appeal for the rapid realisation of unity and proposed the sending of the telegrams which we publish on the first page.

"Pasionaria" greeted the International Brigades in the name of the Spanish wives and mothers who cannot express their gratitude to those who have come to defend the liberties of the world on Spanish soil. She paid a tribute to the loyal military men who unreservedly supported the Republican cause, who joined with people's fighters and mingled with them whole-heartedly. She recalled the first days of the struggle, when the Antifascists had only

their faith and their enthusiasm, together with a handful of officers who had remained faithful, and when in their need they had made an anguished appeal to the democratic governments.

"Only the people in all the corners of the earth heard that call", she said. "But Spain will raise in her heart an eternal monument to them!"

The afternoon was occupied by a magnificent meeting which took place in the Bull-ring, and was preceded by a splendid parade of the International Brigades. The Secretary of the Madrid People's Front greeted the International Brigades in the name of all Antifascists, and pointed to the Bri-

(Continued on page 15.)



Left: Comrade Pretel, Com-
missar for War.

Left center: Crowd salutes as
National Anthem is played.

Right center: The Medical
service is well represented.

Left bottom: A view of the
endless demonstration.

Right bottom: Workers,
peasants, soldiers cheer as
Internationals parade.



"The International Brigades Will Be Worthy Of The Glorious Epic Of The Spanish People"

Declares Comrade GALLO In Moving Speech

The Under-Secretary of State for National Defence.

Political and military leaders of the Spanish Republic.

Comrades and Volunteers.

A year ago the first volunteers of our glorious International Brigades arrived in Albacete.

They came from all corners of the globe, from all sections of political opinion, inspired with the same enthusiasm, with the same determination: to fight at the side of their brave Spanish comrades who had already made immortal history.

They had only one aim: to put themselves at the disposition of the People's Front Government, to fight under the orders of its General Staff.

They knew that the cause of the liberty and the independence of Spain was their own cause, the cause of all advanced and progressive humanity.

A year has gone by.

A year of battles, victories and sacrifice.

A year in the course of which the Spanish people, under the leadership of its Government, closely united around its glorious Army, has written epic pages in the annals of the peoples.

A year during which international solidarity has expressed itself in the sublime sacrifice and heroism of thousands of our volunteers.

In the trenches of Madrid and Jarama, in the battlefields of Guadalajara and Pozoblanco, in the irresistible offensives of Brunete and Belchite, the Spanish People's Army has barred the way to fascism, has inflicted sharp defeats on Hitler and Mussolini.

It is our pride and our honour to have been able to play our part, shoulder to shoulder with our Spanish comrades, in such great battles; to have been able, in the trenches of liberty, to save the honour of our countries betrayed by fascist dictators or by hesitant and feeble Governments.

In the struggle and in battle we have been able to learn great lessons from our contact with our Spanish comrades—lessons which will help us and our peoples in the

struggle in our own countries.

We have been able to learn the great political lesson which all the Spanish people, which all its leaders have given to the whole world:

—In face of reaction it is necessary to unite in a block of steel all the forces of the people who, alone, can defeat reaction and foreign invasion.

We have learned how it has been possible, thanks to the sacrifice of the people and the ability of the leaders, to call up, almost from nothing, a new Army able to defeat the best Divisions of Spanish and International Fascism.

We have learnt that in the fight to the death between reaction and progress, between slavery and liberty, there is no sacrifice, no heroism which is beyond a people ready, like the Spanish people, to conquer or die.

Spanish comrades, Representatives of the Government and Military Commanders.

We thank you for the immense help which you are giving to the cause of the liberty and independence of all peoples.

We thank you for all that you are teaching the world in the struggle against fascism.

We shall know how to profit by your lessons.

Comrades, Volunteers for Liberty.

Delegations from our five glorious Brigades.

Raise high your banners of battle and victory!

They are the banners of the glorious resistance at University City and Las Rozas.

They are the banners of Teruel and Lopera, of the Almeria and Jarama Fronts.

Raise high your banners, which saw the enemy in flight at Pozoblanco and Guadalajara.

Raise your banners of the glorious offensives of Guadarrama and Belchite.

Your banners are fanned with the breath of our fallen heroes, of Beimler and Lucasz, Parovic and Picelli, Ralph Fox and De Brougères.

Your banners are the hope and the pride of our peoples. They are the symbols of the heroic epic through which we have lived here in Spain.

What do they say, our banners, waving in the breeze of glory and victory:

—People of Spain.

The International Volunteers, your adopted sons, will be worthy of you and of your magnificent epic.

They have only one ambition: to be able to count always among the bravest and most disciplined soldiers in your great Army.

We want to act so that our wives and our children can be proud of us, as every Spanish wife and child can be proud of husband and father fighting on the fronts of freedom.

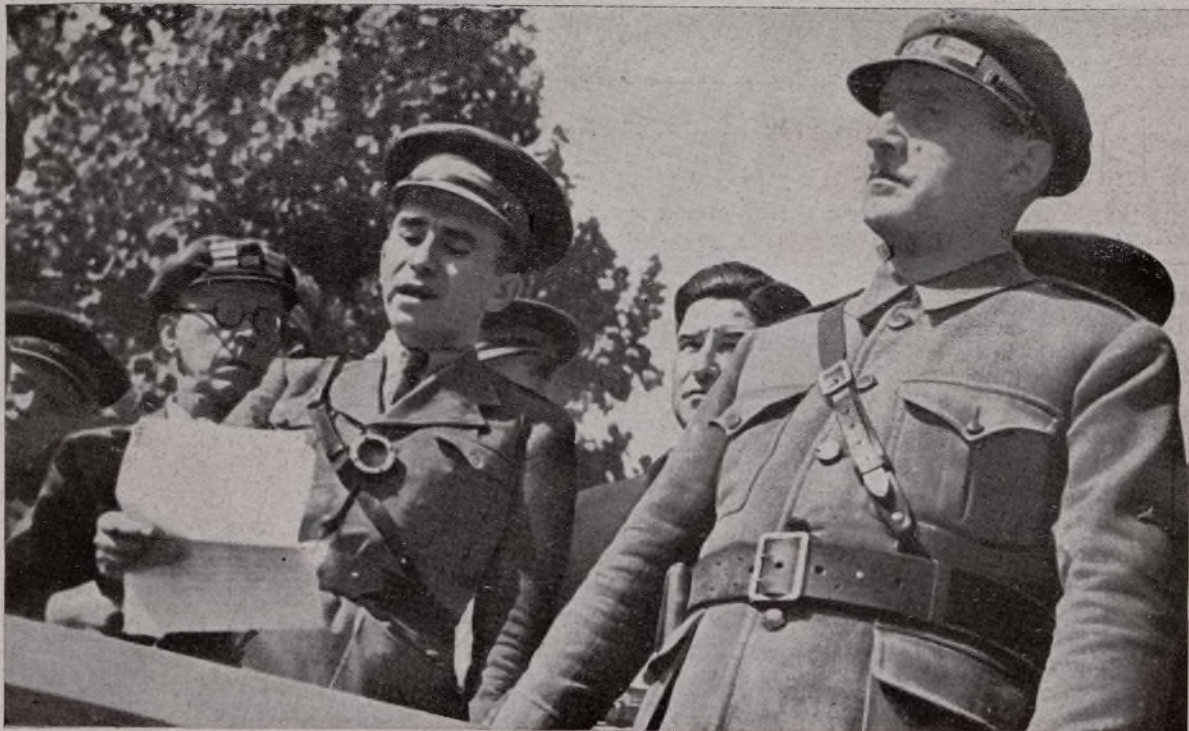
Forward, Spanish comrades, fighters of all lands!

Forward, always united as one man, to defeat fascism and inaugurate an era of peace and brotherhood among all peoples.

Long live our glorious People's Army!

Long live the People's Front Government!

Long live its representatives and delegates at the anniversary of our glorious International Brigades!



OUR COMMISSAR INSPECTOR of the International Brigades, Comrade Gallo. On his left Lieutenant Colonel Bielov, Commander of the Base.



The International Fighters For Freedom Show That The Path To Victory Lies In Antifascist Unity



By ANE MARTY

"They marched towards sunrise and sunset, to south and to north.
Old guns weighing down on their shoulders, those heroes went forth,
Passing rivers and hills,
Without rest, without sleep, ragged and hungry,
They went joyous and proud...
And a glorious freedom burned bright through their thoughts."

VICTOR HUGO.

Such were the soldiers of the Year II of the great French Revolution. Such were the Volunteers for Liberty in the past twelve months — Volunteers who had hastened to Republican Spain from all countries in the world.

A year has passed... already! So many great events have filled these twelve months. October 14th. Railwaymen, workmen and country people in a little town which was exposed to all the inclemencies of the weather saw the arrival of some hundreds of men, talking French, German, Italian, Polish and Bulgarian. The first Volunteers... Nineteen days later a complete Brigade started for Madrid, and five days afterwards a second took the same road. The International Brigades were entering the Spanish people's great war of emancipation...

1.

WHY THEY ARE THERE

There were millions of workers who, from the first day of the fascist rebellion in Spain, felt a lump in their throats and a stab in their hearts. In Paris and in New York, in Brussels and Prague, from the Arctic Ocean to the Rio de la Plata, over the whole surface of the immense Soviet Union, the workers, and all who valued freedom, were living through the anguish of the July days. They greeted the rapid victory of the workers and peasants of Spain, who within a week had freed all the big towns and most of the villages from the bloody fascist horde and the traitorous, perjured generals.

There was painful anxiety again when Mola's Army was going to

come down through the Sierra towards Madrid. Then fresh enthusiasm; the battalions of militia-men, all volunteers, hastily formed and hastily armed, were barring the road against the fanatical *requetes*. Already dozens of brave military and political leaders were rising from the mass. The loyal Republican officer and the worker had both become commanders of militia of battalions. There were "Campeño", Riquelme, the Galan's, Ortega and many others barring the way against the criminal generals and their profess-



ANDRE MARTY

sional officers. Then there was stupefaction and rage. While fighting planes of the Italian air force came down in the Mediterranean and in Oran, terrible proofs of one of the greatest acts of brigandage that history has known, the

French and British Governments, on the pretext of holidays — which are still proceeding — carried out a *de facto* withdrawal of their ambassadors from Spain. A moral blow which would have been very heavy for the fighting antifascist people and their Government if the great and powerful Soviet Union had not then declared before the world its entire solidarity with Madrid. While the Basque Country was being attacked by a rebel army which daily received more arms, planes, tanks, Italian and German officers, and then whole military units, the democratic Governments of France and Britain were organising the boycott of the lawful Government under the name of non-intervention, and the United States Government was declaring itself neutral as between the murderer and his victim! It was clear that the most reactionary elements of

finance capital in France, Britain and America wanted the defeat of the Spanish people and their Government. Some individuals were explaining that it was necessary to avoid 'provoking' those in Berlin and Rome who were pulling the strings of the Burgos puppets, and these same individuals were claiming that this was the only possible attitude to adopt to defend peace.

But the workers at least had not forgotten Mussolini and his blood thirsty gangs, and still less had they forgotten Hitler and February, 1933. They knew that the fascist wolves were untamable and that whoever offered them his hand would leave them his arm. If the brutes' teeth had been broken at the time of Abyssinia, it would not have been tearing at Spain today. Capitulation in the face of the fascists had let loose the war in Spain... while waiting for the next to follow. And so we came to August 14th and the massacre of Badajoz. Already taught by February, 1934, French workers — ex-soldiers — hastened to Irun and Catalonia. Later they formed the Paris Centuria. The Gastone Sozzi Centuria — Italians and Poles — was formed at Madrid and the German Antifascists grouped themselves in the Thaelmann Centuria in Catalonia.

Irun fell for the lack of the trucks of munitions from Barcelona, which were held up by Franco. Then there was San Sebastian, Talavera! Non-intervention was victorious; foreign invasion was pouring its forces into the valley of the Tagus. That magnificent people, suffering fresh reverses every week, did not capitulate. They did not want fascism. With each fresh retreat, fresh battalions of volunteers set out singing. Their rifles were old and they had very few bullets. Too often it was with their own bodies that they barred the way against an enemy daily better armed. But already a great military force is rising; the Fifth Regiment of People's Militia. New leaders are coming forward: Castro, Lister, Mo-



A minute's silence.

desto, Carlos, Cartón... sometimes officers, sometimes commissars. They are both commanders and agitators. In this way 80,000 combatants with military organisation were given to the Republic in five months. Throughout the whole world thousands of workers, and hundreds of free spirited men understood what the democratic Governments, in complete opposition to the peoples they claimed to represent, did not want to know. Franco's victory meant a new impetus to fascism all over the world, and above all in France. Franco's victory, because of decisive economic and strategic positions meant a fearful war speedily launched by Hitler and Mussolini, brought to bay by economic bankruptcy. It meant war devastating the loveliest countries in Europe, machine gunning, burning and gassing millions of human beings — from the cradle to the grave.

Those workers, those exiles from fascism hunted down in all countries, realised that what was at stake in the Spanish struggle was the liberty of their own countries and of the whole world.

Toledo fell — September 25th. There was only a swarm of militiamen before Madrid. The blockade of Republican Spain, against all the principles of human justice, after handing over Irun to the bloodthirsty Jesuit Mola, was going to throw Madrid, with its

magnificent people and its art treasures, into the hands of the fascist bandits, drunk with blood — and the Madrid women were already promised as the spoils of war to the sadistic mercenaries of Queipo de Llano.

Then in all countries ordinary workers rose in thousands. They left their wives, their children and their parents. Well-known surgeons and famous writers left "good jobs". Forced in the past by capitalism to become experienced soldiers, to defend its interests, they at all events understood what the people of Spain needed to defend their interests, to defeat a rebel army which was already being transformed into an army of invasion. It was not heroism; it was arms, military equipment, and the men who knew how to use them and understood the very complicated technique of modern warfare. That is why they hastened to offer their lives together with their military knowledge. The highest example of what international solidarity can be...

Blackshirt and army divisions under orders, Capronis, Henkels and their crews were arriving ceaselessly on Franco's side. Then the Spanish Republic, which would have crushed the rebels in a few weeks if the latter had relied on their own resources, accepted these "Internationals", workers, peasants and intellectuals.

It armed them with difficulty with rifles of fifteen different types and with a few old machine guns of about ten different types.

The Paris Commune had its small international battalion and so did Dombrowski. The little "International Legion" fought under the banners of the Russian Revolution. From the workers of all countries the Spanish Revolution received International Brigades with all their services, including aviation. A small, a very small military force. But a heroic living proof of the real solidarity with the Spanish people who were being treated like pariahs by the democratic Governments which were going against the will of their peoples. Thus the mere presence of the International Brigades was a most powerful moral factor; so powerful that thousands of brave Spanish women wept with emotion as the Volunteers passed through many of the villages in the Peninsula.

2.

THOUSANDS, UNITED AS ONE

The International Brigades have given valuable help in the magnificent antifascist struggle of the Spanish people. Madrid on November 7th, Cerro de los Angeles, Teruel on November 13th, at Lopera on the Cordova Front, at Jarama — each of these names marks the date when one of the international forces moved into the line, not to mention the different units sent to various decisive points every week for four months. Ceaselessly united in comradeship with the new Spanish Brigades, they broke the desperate attacks of the fascists or delivered heavy counter-attacks against them. Day by day, with great organisational effort, the international units were being constituted under the attentive, benevolent and fatherly direction of the President of the Cortes, Martinez Barrios, who was charged by the Government with forming the Brigades — those basic units of the new Republican Ar-



THE INTERNATIONALS are now the Spanish people's brothers.

Ayuntamiento de Madrid

my. All the complicated organizational structure of modern warfare was coming into being and developing — from a road transport service with its workshops and a modern medical service to radio and anti-aircraft defence transmissions. In line with all this, great modern hospitals were being formed and the political section was growing up with its press, communiqué and literature services in twelve languages and its network of politically conscious soldiers.

The heroism of the International Volunteers. We have said little about it. How can one speak of it after having seen Madrid? Madrid in October, when Getafe and Carabanchel fell — which meant that from one moment to another the enemy might burst into the heart of the capital. Madrid, which all the military attaches of the capitalist world declared to be lost. Madrid, whose last hours the reactionary journalists, in the pay of Hitler and Mussolini, were intending to describe. But Madrid, whose working men and women took up the challenge and barred their streets with the famous streamers: "Madrid shall be the grave of Fascism." Madrid, whose people rose in one mass at the appeal of the "Junta de Defensa", uniting all the parties and trade unions. There was Miaja, the old general loyal to the Republic — and Antón, the young Commissar, a revolutionary worker — at the helm night and day, never weakening.

The decimated battalions were reorganised. New ones were formed. They were all there, the young and old commanders and commissars of the Fifth Regi-

ment. The building workers were digging trenches. Women were making bombs and cartridge pouches. The streets were barricaded. Tank traps were dug. Children piled up paving stones and stretched out barbed wire. They worked at night in the darkness and during the day under fascist bombing planes. When the Moroccans appeared at the Manzanares between two bursts of shrapnel, the "No pasaran" of the old and the new soldiers of the people rang out. "No pasaran". They have not passed, and Hitler's snout still bleeds for it. And for 2 months the magnificent people of that city which numbers its dead in thousands old and young, women and children have worked and fought, trained and organised under the bombs and the shrapnel. They have cleared away the ruins of their houses and begun to build the new Madrid. After that, how is one to speak of the heroism of the International Volunteers, when however great it was — and it was great — we have seen every day so many magnificent actions and when we have seen this magnificent people of Spain who for the last fifteen months have preferred "death standing to life kneeling", a noble appeal to the world struggle against fascism. And so we have forgotten to make known the innumerable examples of the heroism of international soldiers — old revolutionaries and young antifascist fighters. Today it will be enough to say: from the Casa del Campo to Andújar, from Guadalajara to Belchite, from Almería to Jarama, there is not a battle in which the Internationals have not taken part.

Nevertheless it is not the heroism which the International Brigades have taught the Spanish people. That has not been necessary. The Spanish people have enough and to spare, and in fighting a fascist army better armed, and organised in Italy and Germany, heroism is not enough.

The Spanish Republic would have been crushed long ago if it had not put a great People's Army into the field, firmly disciplined and led by a unified command. The International Brigades have been one of the foundations of this new army, thanks to their high technical qualifications and their firm discipline. That is one of the essential services which the international Volunteers have rendered the Spanish Republic.

On the fascist side there is a mass of picked foreign troops — blackshirts and regular Italian divisions, tank divisions and aviation squadrons from the German and Italian armies, regiments of legionaries Moroccans — all these have invaded that country, and without their help Franco and Gil Robles would be powerless to hold it under their dictatorship. They make up for the deficiencies of an army which Franco cannot raise in Spain because the majority of the people are against him.

On the other hand the International Brigades have simply been units in the new Republican Army. They have fought under the single command of the Republican Government, whereas Hitler and Mussolini dictate from Berlin and Rome, even to the point of giving orders for the conducting of operations. The commanders of the Army to which the International Brigades belong are not called Von Faupel, Teruzzi or Bergonzoli, but Miaja, Pozas and Rojo. In this army, to the sound of the songs of freedom of all countries, the Brigades have been the first modern military forces of the Spanish Republic. And so after the disasters of August, September and October, when those heroic militia battalions which had done marvels in the street fighting in the early days of the rebellion, were defeated in oper-



PASIONARIA, the symbol of brave Asturias, greets the International Brigades with the Delegation of the Spanish Communist Party.

3.

THE VOICE OF UNITY

The International Brigades have given another example which is even greater.

They came from 25 different nationalities. They represented all kinds of different political trends: Socialist, Communist, Republican, Anarchist, Liberal even. Together with the workers, who formed the overwhelming majority of the fighters, there were mingled intellectuals and sometimes some ex-officers. And in spite of the differences of political views and language, antifascist unity was immediately and permanently maintained. The Republican Commander, his Socialist Adjutant, the Communist Commissar, each coming from different countries is a frequent combination. Yet political conflicts have never broken out on the General Staffs or in the military units.

A hundred times, French and German Volunteers have made the discovery that somewhere in the Great War they were face to face. Today they are in the same antifascist People's Army, and their only rivalry is in vying with one another in the fight. A former British sailor, a leader in the Invergordon mutiny, was the su-

perior officer of a British Admiral's son. French ex-sailors, who had taken part in the Black Sea Mutiny or who had come from the Calvi military prison are section leaders who are models of discipline under the command of ex-soldiers who fought in the Great War. The hatred for barbarous fascism, the great ideal of Peace and Freedom, have soldered into one impenetrable force these fearless men who have come from all the different political horizons. Moreover they are daily fusing more and more with the Spanish people. Between two battles, cleaning their arms, with their wounds just dressed, they are to be found bending down over the village children whose fathers are at the front and who remind them of their own little ones. Hundreds of times, after distributing toys and sweets levied from their meagre pay, they have found time to organise happy fêtes for the children.

Firm unity of action — that was the second example they gave, the most important at this time. The International Volunteers have shown that the secret of victory lies in antifascist unity, a unity without political or national distinctions.

Today there are no International Brigades in the sense in which we understood them a few months ago. These Brigades with their glorious banners no longer contain more than a small proportion of Internationals. They have been definitely fused in the young People's Army to which they have brought more than their military experience. Italians, Germans, Frenchmen, Belgians, Poles, Britishers, Americans, and others have all seen the fascists at work with their violence and demagoguery. They know that to break antifascist unity is death and defeat, and they have treasured this precious weapon, unity of action, as they treasure their own eyes. The essential strength which they have brought the new Republican Army lies in this antifascist unity, not only maintained, but strengthened after every battle.

This is so true that the enemy,

being unable to destroy the International Brigades by military means, has done everything possible to break that antifascist unity. In the first place they have tried to set certain sections of the Spanish people against the Internationals.

"Anarchist comrades", they have printed. "Beware of the Brigades of the Communist International who are fighting by our side to defeat fascism. They will constitute the army corps which the Catalanian and Spanish Communists will send against you, as they did against the Anarchists in the Russian Revolution".

This was written in Spain, and in France, England and other countries. It was not signed "Franco" but "P. O. U. M." Internationalist Communist Party — i. e. Trotskyist. An unspeakable action on the part of the scum who stealing the arms needed at the front. An insult to the heroes who had fallen in the struggle such for example as one of the commanders of the Henri Barbusse Battalion, who was an Anarchist and a model of discipline, and who died as a result of wounds received at the Jarama.

There is not a single son of the noble Spanish people who does not know how comradely and moving the relationship has always been between the Volunteers of the international forces and the military commanders of the Republican Army, with the different officials of the Republican Government, with the municipal authorities, the People's Front Committees and with all the political and trade union organisations without exception.

But the wretches have done more than that. They have sought to break the military unity, the

antifascist unity of the Internationals. Against the organisation in Brigades constituted in accordance with the plans of the War Minister and directed by a single responsible body, the Commander assisted by the Commissar and the Chief of Staff (or Adjutant Commander) — they have supported the system of isolated militia battalions directed by irresponsible committees! In other words, they support the system which has been irrevocably condemned by the defeats of the Summer of 1936 against the military organisation which has given the first victories. Whom do they expect to serve in that way, unless it is Franco and Hitler? What a melancholy sight it is to see French Socialism upholding the same deadly theory in the official organ of the Socialist Party, and using this argument to maintain that one ought not to send the Republican Army the arms it has been prevented from receiving during the last fifteen months! The efforts of those fascist agents had no success. Then they turned to open crime. And not merely to sabotage in an automobile workshop or in loading grenades.

Two Frenchmen — a Trotskyist and a police provocateur, expelled as such from the French Communist Party — tried to break up a battery at the moment when it was setting out for the front by taking from it all its gun-layers and all its sergeant-guns. Under the command of a French Socialist ex-officer, who had fought in the Great War, this battery has subsequently revealed itself as one of the best in the Spanish Army. Who are these men working for? It is a French Trotskyist too who, together with the fascist French Consuls of Valencia,



THE SECRETARY of the Madrid People's Front speaking at the meeting in the Bull-ring. On his right: Comrade Lampe. Left: Comrade Walter.



THE CHILDREN are there, too...

Ayuntamiento de Madrid



COMRADE CAZORLA, Civil Governor of Albacete, speaking on behalf of the people at the commemoration.

Barcelona and Alicante, under cover of their diplomatic immunity, has been trying to organise the break-up of the International Brigades as a whole. He has been defended by the Hitlerite Doriot. If this had succeeded the Republican Army would have been weakened as a result. Magnanimously the Republican Government has limited itself to expelling these people, whom all the evidence shows to be agents of Franco and Hitler. The working-class in their country will not forget their foul crimes, despite even a Fenner Brockway's protection. The working-class will nail them and their infamy to the pillory for spies and provocateurs in the pay of the bloodthirsty torturers of the people, in the pay of German and Italy, in the pay of the worst enemies of the working-class.

But the most remarkable thing is that their efforts were in vain. *There is no Military Police in the International Brigades.* In spite of that, the efforts of these criminals have failed. The attack made by the Fifth Column and carried through above all by the Trotskyists has done everything possible to break up and demoralise the International Brigades. In December at the Base, in January at Teruel, in February in the hospitals of Valencia, in April on all the fronts and in all the services. The attack was supported simultaneously by a violent campaign by the Hitlerite Doriot in France, by Degrelle in Belgium and by the most reactionary of the British Conservatives, but it broke like glass, not against a police barrage, but against the firm antifascist determination of the Volunteers. That is the great lesson which stands out after the Inter-

national Brigades' year of struggle. That is the great example which the Spanish people have received from them—these Brigades in which one might have feared that the enemy would be able to develop fatal differences between political trends and nationalities, have remained firmly united in face of the enemy of the human race.

It is to be regretted deeply that in many countries a few reactionary labour leaders persist in not wanting to understand the lessons of the Spanish epic—just as earlier they refused to understand the German tragedy.

It is highly dangerous when these same reactionary leaders of the Socialist International and the International Federation of Trade

Unions persist in ignoring the appeal for unity from those whose bonds of brotherhood have been made fast in blood and suffering—Spaniards and Internationals. It is madness for them—after these last 15 months—still to refuse that international united front which would raise an irresistible wave against the intervention of Hitler and Mussolini in Spain. It would take them by the throat through the boycott of dockers, sailors and railwaymen throughout the world. It would break the steel circle of the democratic states which is stifling the Spanish Republic more than Franco's bombs, "Made in Germany" are slaughtering it.

It is tragic that they refuse to listen to the voice of the old Socialist leader De Brouckère, who is appealing for the rapid and immediate realisation of international unity of action. It is not words that will stop the metal rain of shells, shrapnel and bombs which is torturing a brave people and the best sons of the International and Spanish working-class. Only deeds will do that. This is the urgent demand of those who have sealed that unity among the dead bodies of those of our dearest friends and comrades. Unity will ensure the antifascist victory in Spain and in the world. There is still just time enough to hear.

4.

AN IRRESISTIBLE FORCE

However, the time has come to tell what that force is which

among a chaos of men, unable to understand one another, has given rise to and has led in battle that little modern army which was constituted by the International Brigades and has defended them against the stab in the back.

The moment has come to say what that irresistible force is which is rising among the noble Spanish people and will give them victory.

That force is the antifascist spirit and the will to unity of the workers, gathering together and urging forward the whole of the people.

The International Brigades have never been non-political. Far from that. Not a unit has gone to the front without the Political Commissars being appointed by the side of the Brigade, Battalion, Company, Battery and Squadron Commanders. These Commissars have relied on the workers who formed the majority in the units, and among them on the mass of Socialists and Communists who now in reality form one united body. It is here that the essential strength lies.

Among a thousand examples, who can fail to remember that of the XIIth Brigade when, on the morning of November 9th, the order came for it to be sent to Madrid at the latest on the 10th. What a condition it was in! The first-comers among its Volunteers had been at the Base ten days. The latest arrivals had been there for 24 hours. Only the Garibaldi Battalion was formed, but it was armed with 25 rifles and one machine-gun. No equipment. Half the other Volunteers were in civilian clothes. Not one of them had his equipment. The rifles were of four different types. The Brigade had three types of machine guns. The artillery had not even a quarter of the trucks they needed. They could not carry out manoeuvres with the guns because the lack of material. It was impossible to work at night: the light had been cut off because of the danger from the air. To form the Brigade in 36 hours seemed an impossibility. Nevertheless, Lukacs and the international General Staff—military and political—accepted without hesitation, for they knew they did not have to rely only on a military leadership however highly qualified—which was scarcely formed! They could rely on the antifascist spirit of the Brigade, on the rank and file of the worker-soldiers, the great majority Socialists and Commu-



COLONEL MANGADA

ists, on the Commissars who would be equal to all difficulties and would prove on the spot, the necessity for solving them, at whatever cost, in order to defeat fascism. By marvels of initiative they succeeded. There was not a mistake made in the distribution of the different rifles. A lack of trouser-suspenders — they used canvass. A lack of cartridge pouches — they cut up sacks. The carpenters prepared supports for the cannon. The section leaders formed fighting groups while supplies were being distributed. The artillery officers were studying firing tables with dictionaries in their hands. The horses were being shod while the saddles were still



missing. While the doctors and surgeons were hastily collecting the indispensable medical instruments and supplies, carpenters were preparing stretchers. And in the midst of an enthusiastic and unheard of hubbub of the frantic preparations two Renault assemblers were testing the engines of trucks of every make in the world, as calmly as if they were in a model workshop. Before the final review and the departure there was still time to call together a big meeting to commemorate the glorious nineteenth anniversary of the great Socialist October Revolution and to present to the whole Brigade their Commander, Lukacs, their Commissar, and the Commanders and Adjutants of the General Staff. And what the bourgeoisie would call a miracle was performed: at 8 p. m. on November 10th, the XIIth Brigade, fully organised and equipped, provided with artillery, cavalry, motor-cyclists, a political section, medical and supply services, set out for Madrid, singing the *International* in Spanish, Italian, German and French.

The antifascist spirit of the proletarian soldiers had overcome all difficulties.

Many, many times, in the most difficult and sometimes in the most tragic moments, this, high antifascist political consciousness, always maintained and increased,

has been the creative and organising motive force that worked real miracles. Today the great joy of the fighters is to see that in all countries and throughout the Spanish Army this force of the united workers is growing greater drawing closer together, and is ensuring the victory.

Their greatest happiness would be to see it develop faster, much faster throughout the whole world. All have worked well. But none the less a fundamental truth must be stated: the Communists can be proud that in these tragic moments, they, who have constituted the majority of the working-class group in each unit—and they would have been happy to have been put in a minority by more Socialist comrades—they have been equal to the great historic task which faces them.

In these twelve months of heroism they have been worthy members of that revolutionary workers' Party of a new type, the world Party of the Bolsheviks. They are worthy sons of that Party, which formed and led by the greatest minds of our times, Lenin and Stalin, has overthrown the old world and is about to celebrate with joy 20 years of real liberation for a whole people. All are worthy of that great Antifascist and Communist fighter, George Dimitrov, whose magnificent example of proletarian firmness and vision, of political realism and antifascist hatred in face of death, put in check the butchers of the German people, and has been and remains their guide at each stage in the struggle.

FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM

The workers of the whole world, all men of unfettered spirit, will always pay a tribute of infinite gratitude to those who have given their health, their blood and their lives for the antifascist cause in Spain which, as Stalin said, "is the cause of all advanced and progressive humanity."

Lukacs, the great Hungarian revolutionary writer, Commander of the XIIth Brigade; Hans Beimler, the steeled German revolutionary, Commissar of the XIth Brigade; Alfred Brugère, a Paris building worker, Commander of the Machine Gun Company of the Paris Commune Battalion; Ralph Fox, the English writer and soldier, Company Commissar in the Barbusse Battalion; Parovic, the Jugoslavian Commissar of the XVth

Brigade, and so many others who have left us forever, killed facing the enemy. But their example will live always in the hearts of the great and noble Spanish people and the international working-class.

We salute their courage and we swear to avenge them. We shall only do this, we shall only honour our dead as they deserve *by raising ever higher the banner of the cause for which they have fallen*, the banner of struggle against fascism without rest or truce, the banner of trade union unity, the banner of the political unity of the workers of all countries.

The fight is not finished. Every day fresh reinforcements, fresh engines of death are being sent to



THE GENERAL STAFF reviews the troops.

Franco by his masters in Berlin and Rome. Every day world peace is threatened with greater danger. Now the Chinese people in their turn are resisting the brutal and savage aggression of Japanese imperialism. Already there are two fires ablaze in the world. We must hasten the victory.

The Spanish Republican Army, precisely because it can now count on more than half a million fighters, has an even greater need of leading forces than it had a year ago. And since each International Volunteer is in himself a centre of organisation and unity, he is more valuable than ever.

Franco is only maintained by the injections of Italian and Nazi reinforcements. His collapse is inevitable. But in the death agony the cornered beast can kill.

Consequently the Volunteers in the International Brigades who together with their Spanish comrades have dealt many a hard blow in conditions as difficult as those

at the end of 1936 and the beginning of 1937 will remain the true friends of the Spanish people in the future even more than in the past. They know that the fate of the European peoples, the fate of peace and freedom is being decided on Spanish soil. For this reason the antifascist front must conquer and will conquer. The defeat in Spain of the most bestial regime the world has ever seen will not only bring freedom and peace to the Spanish people. It will bring a new hope to the people who are still crushed beneath the fascist heel. And when the multitudes of the working-class and the people greet the truly democratic Republic, henceforth free, there is not one of the fighters in Spain today who will not

be proud to tell his children in the happy future: "I was one of the Volunteers in Spain."

Greater effort should be made in Spain and throughout the world, in the future more than in the past, to achieve this triumph of the antifascist struggle. More still should be done to overcome the resistance to unity, to sweep away those who fight against it and those who sabotage it, so that in this way a more rapid victory may be assured over the modern barbarians with their black shirts and their swastikas.

And so, long life to the heroes of the great Republican Army!

Forward to the final victory of the Democratic Spanish Republic!

Forward to this victory, the prelude to a surer peace in the world and to the liberation of the peoples still enslaved by fascism!

ANDRÉ MARTY

October 10, 1937.



OUR INTERNATIONAL BRIGADES

AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE SPANISH PEOPLE'S ARMY



COMRADE RICHARD, Brigade Commander says a few words of greeting. Commander Raimondi can be recognised at the back.

The Units constituted by Spanish and foreign volunteers were organised by the decree of August 31st, 1920 ("Diario Oficial" number 195) developed in the circular order of September 4th of the same year. Neither of these orders is however fully applicable to the forces similarly recruited which are at present fighting heroically as part of the Republican Army.

Even though the Units now existing under the name of International Brigades are legally those which the Spanish State, using its sovereign rights, has constituted to take the place of the Units which revolted in July 1936, and are analogous to those which under different names exist in the Armies of almost all countries, it is necessary to lay down fresh norms which should regulate their recruitment, organisation, administration, etc. To meet with this necessity I have determined:

1. To take the place of the Tercio de Extranjeros (Foreign Legion), formed under the decree of August 31st, 1920 ("Diario Oficial" n° 195) the International Brigades are formed as Units in the Spanish Army. At the present time five of the above-mentioned Brigades should be constituted on the basis of those formed spontaneously in the course of the present war, adapting their consti-

tution to the norms indicated in the present order.

2. Tactically the International Brigades will be used as front line troops and in all the services of peace and war, with no restriction other than that of their military utility.

3. Their organisation will follow the model assigned to the Mixed Brigades in the Spanish Army. The troops forming these Brigades will be subject to the Code of Military Justice and to the Army Statutes, in the same way as Spanish soldiers.

4. The training of the International Brigades will be adjusted to the same Regulations and Instructions as those which are in force in the other Units of the Army.

5. The uniforms and equipment will be the same as those of the other forces in the Spanish Army with no difference other than that of wearing on the right side of the shirt or jacket, two centimetres above the pocket, the emblem which will be published in the DIARIO OFICIAL and which only those incorporated in these Units, whatever their military rank, will be entitled to use.

6. In Albacete the International Brigades will have their Base, the fundamental mission of which will be to receive the volunteers, both Spanish subjects and foreigners who present them-

We are publishing the Decree which lays down the position of the International Brigades in the Spanish People's Army and the rights and duties of all the Volunteers for Liberty.

This is the first document which determines in an official manner which this position and these rights and duties.

It determines these in a way which is completely satisfactory to our soldiers.

It is clearly emphasised in the Decree that our brave Brigades have nothing to do with the "Tercio" which revolted against the Republic in 1936 and is composed of the dregs of all countries.

In our Brigades are gathered together the best sons of all the peoples. The Brigades are the World People's Front fighting by the side of Spain to defend the people's liberty and independence.

It is to express this highly po-

litical significance that the Decree determines that all the Volunteers for Liberty should wear as the distinguishing mark the three pointed star which is the symbol of the World People's Front.

The Decree also lays it down that our Brigades form an integral part of the Spanish People's Army.

We have always asked for this and have always affirmed it. We have come here with one single purpose: to defend the liberty and independence of Spain. We have always obeyed the orders of the Government and its General Staff.

We only ask for the honour of serving the common cause of liberty on the same terms as the Spanish fighters.

A regular army and a unified command: these are the essential conditions for victory in the armed struggle against fascism.

Because of this we receive with enthusiasm all those measures in-

Decree which tend to make Brigades more and more integral parts of the Spanish People's Army.

The needs of the first days, the lack of organisation which still existed at that time, made it necessary to have a rather special organisation of our services.

Now our army has developed. Our services function remarkably well and all the services of the International Brigades should be organised on the basis of the services of the Regular Spanish Army.

Our postal, supply and medical services should therefore form an integral part of the respective Spanish services.

As a token of the services rendered by the Brigades the Decree grants the recognition of some advantages to the combatants. This is the significance of the points concerning the nomination of offi-

cers and the International Volunteer's right to 13 days' leave abroad for every 6 months' service at the front.

The last point in the Decree, which lays it down that all the volunteers enroll until the end of the war, emphasises even more strongly that our Brigades are not formed of mercenaries, but of volunteers ready to fight to the finish to secure the defeat of Spanish and international fascism.

They are fighters who know all the hardships of the struggle and who never flinch and never will flinch before the fascist butchers, either in their own countries or in the trenches of freedom.

Victory or death is their slogan, just as it is the slogan of all the Spaniards.

L. GALLO

Commissar Inspector of the International Brigades.

OUR RIGHTS AND OUR DUTIES

unfitness is not confirmed the person concerned will return to his Unit.

e) The Brigades should send to the Base all particulate statements and reports for which they are asked.

7. In addition to the organs necessary to execute the above functions, the Base of the International Brigades will have the organs corresponding to the following:

a) To collecting and distributing among the Brigades all the gifts which international solidarity may send expressly to the Brigades.

b) To take the first steps in matters of pensions for death or incapacity, collecting the documents and antecedents demanded by the legislation in force and then forwarding them to this Ministry for decision.

c) To forward to this Ministry, after investigating them, the petitions for permission to leave Spanish territory made by members of the International Brigades of whatever rank.

d) To report to the Ministry on the incorporation of recruits and their departure for the Brigades.

e) To keep a file which will contain all the relevant particulars concerning the members of the Brigades.

f) To propose the formation, and when necessary to undertake the direction of centres for re-education necessary for members of the Brigades who stand in need of this as a result of injuries received on war service.

g) To propose the formation, and when necessary to undertake the direction of rest homes in which those combatants who ha-

ve their families abroad, and who have no residence here, can spend their leave in Spain.

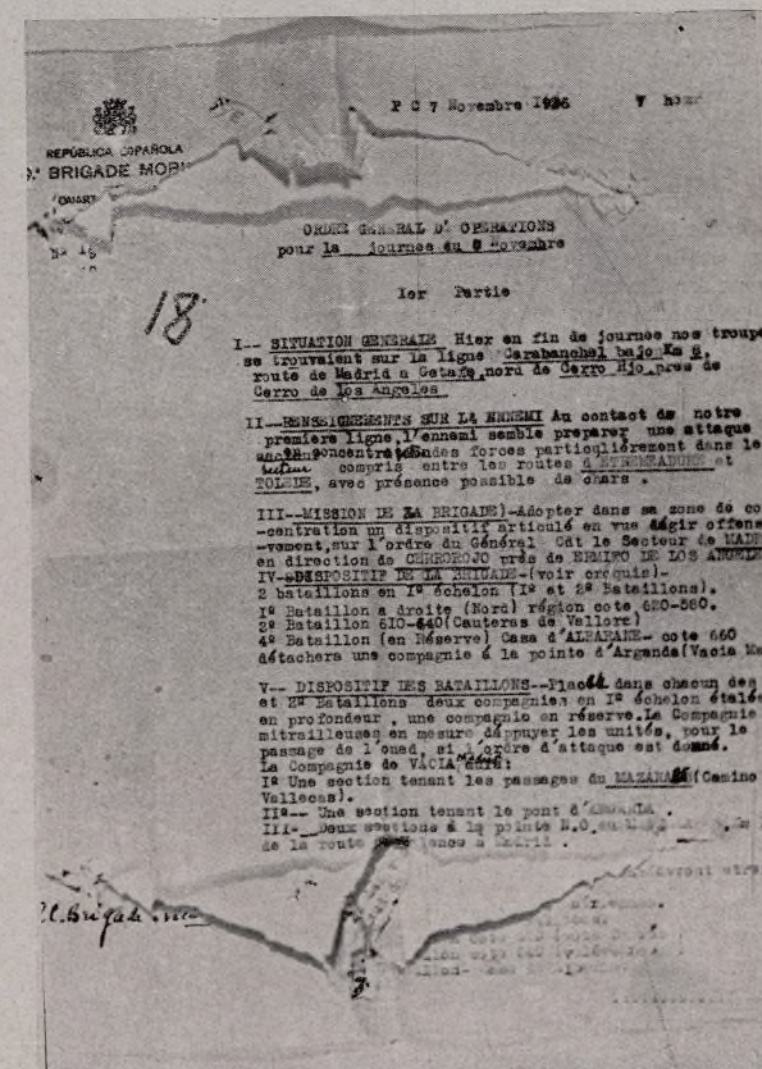
8. In no case will the Base intervene in the functioning of the Supply and Medical Services relating to the International Brigades.

The Brigades will make use of the general services of the Army in the same way as the other Mixed Brigades. Nevertheless on the basis of a proposition which the Base will make to this Ministry, the General Medical Inspectorate will be able to organise, under the Inspectorate's control, the installation of special hospitals with the qualified staff and assistants necessary for the wounded and convalescent members of

the International Brigades who are in need of lengthy hospital treatment. Entrance to the said hospitals will be regulated at all times by the General Medical Inspectorate.

9. The relation between this Ministry and the Base of the International Brigades will be effected through the Foreigners' Bureau, attached to the Section of Services of the Undersecretariat of the Army.

10. The International Brigades will be formed of Spanish and foreign volunteers. Nevertheless this Ministry reserves the right to send directly to the Brigades the soldiers, non-commissioned and commissioned officers, and



AN HISTORIC document which proves that from the beginning our Brigades obeyed the orders of the Spanish Government.



COMRADESHIP in the trenches. Commander Mera, Anarchist, with Commander "Campesino", Communist.

commanders whom it deems desirable. The personnel at the Base will consist preferably of members of the Brigades who are unfit for service at the front, and in any case it will be indispensable for the members of the personnel to have been at the front for the minimum period of three months which is laid down in the decree of June 19th of this year ("Diario Oficial" No. 148). The personnel of the Foreigner's Bureau will be appointed by the Ministry.

11. The foreign personnel of the Brigades will consist of those who of their own accord present themselves at the Foreigner's Bureau or before its delegates and who, after admission, will be sent to the Base for registration. The Spanish personnel will consist of those who apply for admission to the Brigades to this Ministry, either directly if they are not subject to military service, or through the regulation channels if they are in the Army. The petitions will be dealt with as a matter of urgency and in the event of their being answered in the affirmative by this Ministry the order will be given for the person concerned to be removed from the list of the effectives of the Unit from which he proceeds, his entry at the Base of the Inter-

national Brigades and his immediate enrolment in the Brigades.

12. The Spanish or foreign soldiers of the International Brigades will fill by promotion 50 % of the vacancies in the Brigades for sergeants, officers and commanders. With this object the Brigades, when reporting to the Base that such posts are vacant, will propose those members in the Brigades whom they regard as deserving of promotion. To pass from one post to another it will be necessary to have held the lower post for a minimum period of two months. If the Brigade does not possess sufficient personnel to fill the vacancies, they will be filled by the nominees of other International Brigades, and in the event of there being none they will be filled by the Ministry by direct nominations of military personnel. A vacancy will not be considered to have been created except in cases of death or when the Base communicates that the post is vacant through unfitness, a change in post or removal from the Army. Absences due to wounds, illness or leave will not be considered as vacancies, and when necessary the posts concerned will be filled temporarily by men from lower posts, without this supposing any promotion. Those who are promo-

ted will receive the corresponding rank of sergeant, officer or commander of the International Brigades, and when the present campaign is ended they will constitute the permanent commanding cadres in the said Units. The sergeants, officers and commanders of the International Brigades cannot be sent outside these Units. They can be isolated, expelled or reduced in rank for obvious incompetence or impropriety in the execution of their duty, after a report has been made by the Commander of the corresponding Brigade and by the Commander of the Base.

13. The other 50 % of the vacancies of sergeants, officers and commanders will be filled with men sent directly by the Ministry of Defence, from among those who are already recognised in those posts in the Army. These men will remain subject as far as promotions are concerned to the general existing norms in the matter of recompenses.

The commanders, officers and sergeants who desire to be sent into the International Brigades should send in the appropriate application to the Personnel Section of the Undersecretariat of the Army.

14. Soldiers, non-commissioned and commissioned officers and commanders, both Spanish and foreign, belonging to the International Brigades will in cases of incapacity or death have the same rights as those in the rest of the Army.

15. All members of the Brigades will have the right to thirteen days leave for every six months at the front, always providing that the necessities of service permit it and providing that the conduct of the soldiers concerned make them deserving of this in the Commander's opinion. For this purpose the corresponding turns, two a month, will be fixed in each Brigade, so that each month leaves can be begun once they have been passed in re-





COMRADE ALVAREZ DEL VAYO,
General Commissar of War.

view by the Commissar. Those who wish to spend their leave outside Spain should apply in advance, abiding by the decision which is taken. The Commander of the Base of the International Brigades will communicate to each of the Brigades the number of places at their disposal in the Rest Homes which may be installed in virtue of the provisions of section (g) of the seventh article of this order.

16. The measures laid down in this order will be put rapidly into operation by the soldiers and officers now constituting the International Brigades and their Base as they receive the appropriate instructions from the Foreigner's Bureau of the Undersecretariat of the Army.

17. The Commanders of the International Brigades will send to the Base of the Brigades with

all possible speed a statement of the leading forces, specifying their nationality, date of birth, date of entry into the International Brigades and date at which they were given their present posts, so that the Ministry can proceed to confirm them in those posts when it considers this fitting.

18. The necessarily variable condition of the organisation of the personnel constituting the Base of the International Brigades makes it impossible, at least for the moment, to assign to it a fixed organisation. For the purpose of the review by the Commissar the numerical account will be sent monthly to the Foreigners Bureau and in relation to this the review should be made.

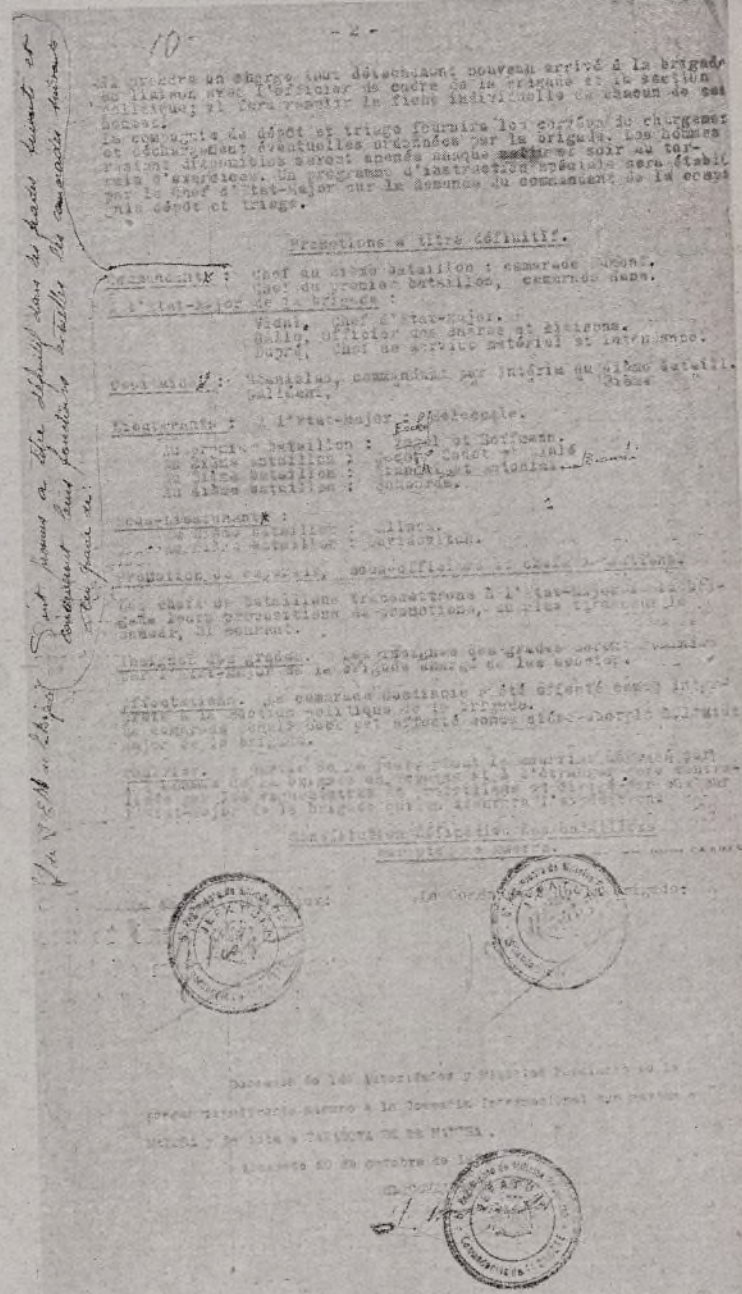
19. To those foreigners who have served for more than a year in the Army with a clear record and very deserving conduct a certificate will be forwarded which will serve as the basis for according them Spanish nationality should they so desire.

20. All those who voluntarily enter the International Brigades undertake to remain in them until the end of the present campaign. When this campaign is finished the norms will be laid down in accordance with which these Units should be organised in the future.

I communicate this to Your Excellency for your information and for application.

PRIETO

Valencia, September 23rd, 1937.



ONE OF the Government's first orders.

I. B. CELEBRATION IN ALBACETE

(Continued from page 3.)

gades as the living expression of the World People's Front. Comrade Lampe, Political Commissar of the Albacete Base maintained that Spain was fighting for the liberty of all countries and the volunteers of all lands who had answered her appeal had not come to fight as adventurers, but simply with the firm intention of crushing international fascism finally and utterly.

"To win the victory", he said, "We need the closest unity of all Antifascists!"

The representatives of the Albacete People's Front and of the Youth Alliance also spoke.

At the end of the day, after this moving commemoration, one conclusion was engraved in the minds of the people:

Antifascist unity in Spain is the strongest weapon for victory.

Antifascist unity throughout the world will be the universal grave of fascism.

And beneath the tricolor flag of the Spanish People's Front and its Government, the International Brigades are in fact the purest, the most advanced, the most living and the most burning expression of the World People's Front.

A TRUE PICTURE OF THE VOLUNTEERS FOR LIBERTY

The I. B. Political Commissariat to form a home for the orphaned Spanish children

On the first anniversary of the International Brigades the Political Commissariat of Madrid has taken an important decision which cannot fail to have the happiest repercussions. In a gay and sunny spot we are going to make a home to receive the children of the Spanish comrades who have fought in our Units and have fallen in battle against fascism. We, the Volunteers for Liberty, should bring a little joy and happiness into the lives of those poor little children whom the war has orphaned and plunged into the cruellest suffering. We must bring back a little life and hope to those children whom we want to see healthy and happy, for they are the Spain of tomorrow. There are hundreds and hundreds of them asking for our care and affection, and for whose sake we should carry out as soon as possible the most modest of the duties of human solidarity. It is to carry out this splendid work that we are again approaching all the soldiers of peace and freedom, and once again making an appeal to their generosity.

We know that our appeal will be answered. It must be. Begin collections at once for all the tiny orphans who are a little, as it were, our own. Help us to make ready without delay that fine building in which we shall be able to calm so much grief and distress.

Our home will be worthy of the glorious past of the International Brigades, a living symbol of human solidarity.

ANDRÉ GRÉGOIRE



Some scenes from our units' stays in villages in the rearguard.

Ayuntamiento de Madrid