



OUR FIGHT

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1937.

ORGAN OF THE FRONT OF THE XV BRIGADE

ATTITUDE TO THE NEW SPANISH GOVERNMENT ABROAD.

In the light of various confusing rumours, all untrustworthy yet symptomatic, one becomes aware that little has been said about the meaning of the new Spanish Government in terms of Spain relations with other powers. The rumours convey this general picture: Italy and Germany would be inclined to withdraw their troops (so-called volunteers) from Spain; England would be sounding out the Valencia Government with a view towards changing the British orientation in this war.

ALTHOUGH FALSE AND DANGEROUS IN THEMSELVES these rumours do not spring from thin air. They coincide with other indications of growing protest within Italy over the waste of Italian lives in Spain, and the general worsening of the positions of the fascist governments as a result of the defeats they have suffered here. Also it can safely be stated that coincident with the formation of the Negrín Cabinet there has been an increase in international confidence in the Spanish Republic, or what amounts to the same thing, an increased belief in the ultimate victory of the legitimate Government.

There is another sort of gossip which would have us regard the signs of the change in the foreign attitude to Spain, as something to regret. Why? Because this change, the croakers say, must mean that someone is offering to surrender the democratic revolutionary gains of the Spanish people in exchange for foreign support. Fortunately Premier Negrín scotched this interpretation without hesitation. Asked point blank by a foreign journalist whether the rumours about foreign "mediation" had any basis in fact, the Premier replied with an emphatic "no".

"That word has no application in the present war", explained Dr. Negrín, "because mediation can be utilised in struggles between two States, but not in this war in which a legitimate government is faced with a rebel insurrectionary force. The legitimate government in such a case can accept no other solution than to completely crush the enemy by any and every means."

Consistent with this view, the new Government has specifically endorsed and will follow the foreign policy laid down by ex-Foreign Minister Alvarez del Vayo. Del Vayo, it will be recalled, refused to accept any foreign control, intervention or mediation that failed explicitly to recognise the Valencia Government as the sole legitimate authority in Spain. As chief delegate of the present Spanish Government to the League of Nations, del Vayo will continue personally to maintain this policy of the Republic.

NEWS FROM THE FRONTS.

CENTRE: Our artillery fire destroyed a pontoon bridge constructed by the fascists over the River Manzanares.

Once again, the criminal artillery of the rebels have bombarded for no military objective the centre of Madrid, causing wounds and deaths amongst the civil population.

AIR COMMUNIQUE.

CENTRE: A squadron of our planes bombarded the neighbourhood of Gábran and a transport base situated there.

At 1 p.m. today our aviation bombarded the railway station and big factories situated on the northern railway route at Valladolid. Among these factories was one producing war material. The bombing was very effective and resulted in large explosions of material.

Ayuntamiento de Madrid

GOVERNMENT GEAR GOING.

VALENCIA, 21st. Following a four hour cabinet meeting tonight, the Government announced its decision to find and punish any persons who persons who may prove to have been guilty of treason or negligence in connection with the fall of Malaga.

The official communiqué stated, "The Government has studied among other matters the papers relating to the investigation of the loss of Malaga, investigation immediately halted. It was decided immediately to name a Supreme Court Judge to plumb the matter to its depth and place the responsibility if there be any."

Referring to messages received by the Minister of Foreign Affairs indicating the favourable reception awarded the new Government abroad, the note stressed that Señor Giral (Foreign Minister) had also received certain information from doubtful sources referring to a supposed armistice. "The Government wishes to contradict all these statements and rumours whatever be their origin or authorisation and states positively that the order to cease fire in the struggle we are carrying on will not be given until we have wiped out the last enemy," said the note. Still further emphasising that talk of a cessation of hostilities to permit withdrawal of volunteers is utterly false, this section of the note added, "Neither today nor ever will we accept the slightest compromise with the enemies of our people."

At the next Cabinet meeting, it was stated, a draft proposal for the creation of an economic co-ordinating organism will probably be offered by the Minister of Finance and Economy. This organism would consist of delegates of various ministries with the collaboration of the Trade Unions.

Cabinet meetings would be held regularly on Wednesday, the note concluded.

VALENCIA, 20th. The National Committee of the U.G.T. will definitely meet in the near future to clarify the position of the organisation with reference to political and social questions on which, it is well known, many member bodies have differed with the Executive Commission. The points to be discussed according to U.G.T. secretary Pascual Tomas are:

- 1/ Position of the U.G.T. in connection with recent political developments.
- 2/ The events in Barcelona.
- 3/ Relations with the political parties and with the C.N.T.
- 4/ Position of the U.G.T. in respect to attachment, socialisation and municipalisation of factories, shops and lands.

GENEVA, 20th. In compliance with the request of the Spanish Government, the question of foreign intervention in the Spanish civil war has been placed on the tentative order of the day for the regular session of the Council of the League of Nations, beginning, May 24th.

VALENCIA, 21st. In line with its announced intention of unifying and purging the high military command, the Government today appointed Vicente Rojo chief of Staff of the Defence Ministry. Colonel Rojo was chief of Staff of the Madrid area until his present promotion.

MADRID, 22nd. Police of the capital and province today uncovered further fascist hiding places. A clandestine radio transmitter and large quantities of arms and explosives were found in a house on Elias St. in a section of Madrid known as Prosperidad. Aside from seven shells and the transmitter found in the house, hand grenades and high explosives were found in a secret cellar and buried beneath the collar. The tenant was Antonio Briones.

A number of arrests were affected by the Madrid police in Alcala de Henares. Apparently they were members of a fascist group still in process of organisation. A manifesto found on the premises announced a proposed assault on the city jail and contained a blacklist in code of leftists to be dealt with by the fascists in the event of their being successful. Another list contained the names of the members of the organisation.

PARIS, 21st. Leon Blum, Premier of France has promised Vaillant-Couturier, editor of Humanité, to send three ships protected by the French Fleet to transport the supplies collected by the Bilbao Committee and the Communist Party to Vizcaya.

These ships will return to France with children evacuated from Bilbao.