

# OUR FIGHT

NUMBER: 51.

MAY: 24th.

1937.

ORGAN OF THE FRONT OF THE XV BRIGADE.

## IMPORTANT DECLARATION BY DR. NEGRIN.

VALENCIA 22nd: Dr. Negrin, the Premier, had an interview today with representatives of United Press. We give below significant points from this interview.

"The political structure of Spain after the war," stated comrade Negrin. "will be determined by the desires of the people. The constitution of the Republic is essentially democratic and all kinds of economic, social and political changes can be made within its framework."

"After the crushing of the rebellion by all the antifascist forces and their united action in the defence of the fundamental letter of the constitution, it does not seem likely that any great changes will be made through other than democratic means. Already, on account of the insurrection, many deeply rooted dominating interests have been destroyed so completely that they cannot possibly be revived."

"Thus the perspective offered in our country at the end of the war will be vastly different than that presented before July 1936; then it will be the people themselves who will administer their own lives, and it will be their elected representatives who will ratify, amplify or rectify changes brought about through the revolt."

"The major part," Dr. Negrin went on, "of the big agricultural area of Spain which had never been properly exploited, has been put under strict control and is being worked with the purpose of obtaining the best results suitable to the area."

"Only the property of people who have aided the rebels has been confiscated. The actual tendency is for a more just system of property division, and a better distribution of the agricultural riches of Spain. This has led to the developments of small freeholds, which is one of the strongest supports of the Regime."

In answer to another question the Premier said that the Catholic Church may exist with the same rights as any other church. In some regions and cities the masses had identified, often with good reason, the clergy, especially the hierarchy, with the rebels, and in moments of stress had committed lamentable excesses against the church; the Government will see that these are not repeated.

"We shall guarantee", Dr. Negrin continued, "freedom of conscience in accordance with the fundamental feelings of the Spanish people. At the same time we shall not allow the principles of the Republic to be attacked or the spirit of the struggle weakened under cover of this tolerance. We shall deal with those actually participating in the rebellion with the measures established by our laws, after they have been tried by the proper tribunals."

"Many fantastic stories have been circulated about Spanish gold deposits. Allow me to state that I know the source of these international legends which aspire to be malicious but are not really clever. Let it suffice to say that our gold deposits are in a safe place in our territory under the direct control of the government, AND TODAY ARE EVEN GREATER THAN AT THE BEGINNING OF THE WAR."

Referring to foreign talk of a future communist Spain, comrade Negrin replied. "These stories are being circulated in an attempt to counteract sympathy for the Republic. The Spain of tomorrow will be what a free and sovereign people choose it to be; but I do not think it possible, taking in to account the spiritual texture, diversified ideologies and qualities of those who today fight united against the rebels for the liberty and independence of their country, that a fundamental change in the regime will be made by means other than democratic."



## NEWS FROM THE FRONTS.

GUADALAJARA: 23rd. In the course of the day our troops registered some remarkable successes. We have taken from the enemy seven villages, Carras, Cosa del Taje-Otero, Canada, Cuadrilla, Gaurredon, Saucegordo and Ocotejo.

NORTH: Three of our aeroplanes engaged five fascist planes in combat, and two of the enemy were brought down. On our side, we have lost one of the three.

There is nothing of interest to report from the other fronts.

## AIR COMMUNIQUE.

ARAGON, 23rd: At 10 p.m. yesterday our planes bombed several points on the road to Zuera. We also bombed, during the night, a number of different military objectives in Huesca. Between 5 and 6 p.m. our bombardment on a concentration of camions in the neighbourhood of Pampelone produced a great fire.

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## INTERNATIONAL NEWS.

LONDON, 23rd. (by radio, 10 p.m.) Following the steps taken to obtain a cessation of hostilities in Spain to allow the repatriation of foreign volunteers, the Foreign Office has just received the reply of the German Government. This states that Germany is quite in agreement with the principle of repatriation of foreign volunteers.

In spite of the reservations the German note contains, the Foreign Office has remarked on the spirit of conciliation which animates it. The replies of the Italian and Russian Governments have not yet been sent.

MOSCOW, 22nd: Yesterday at 11.10 a.m. the Soviet air expedition, headed by member of U.S.S.R. Academy of Science, Otto Schmitt, flew over the North Pole, and landed 20 kilometres away at 11.35, on a block of ice.

Yesterday also Soviet air hero, pilot Vodopianof flew plane N.170 towards Rudolphe Isle.

LONDON, 22nd. News from authoritative sources in Lisbon stated that all the workers of the munition factory of Xabregas have been arrested for acts of sabotage and for protesting against Portuguese help for the rebels. 100 peasants from Alentejo have also been arrested for violently opposing sending of supplies to Franco.

## STATEMENT OF THE CNT.

VALENCIA, 22nd. The National Committee of the C.N.T. has published a declaration entitled, "Against the agents provocateurs who propagate false news", and in which is stated, amongst other things, the following:-

"There are continually reaching us alarmist rumours about events which are going to happen in various places. For example it is stated in Barcelona that there is street fighting in Valencia. In Valencia one hears of a general strike and barricades in Barcelona, in Madrid the story goes round that our columns in Aragon have left the front. Who is interested in spreading such tales? The fascists and those who seek to find pretexts for provoking the C.N.T. We limit ourselves to mentioning these facts and pointing out to public opinion and to the comrades that, in no case, should credence be given to such rumours. It is our duty to pay the traitors of the antifascist cause and the provocateurs who spread false news what is due to them!"

VALENCIA, 22nd. As has been mentioned the Cabinet wishes to strengthen its contact with the Cortes, (Parliament). Accordingly the Cortes is expected to be summoned during the first week of June, probably the 5th. of the month.

MADRID, 22nd. Last night a meeting of responsible comrades of the Socialist and Communist Parties of the East Madrid region took place. It was decided to form a committee of Marxist liaison and co-ordination between the two parties.

Gibraltar, 21st: Among the Spanish aristocrats who have recently fled from rebel territory and arrived at Gibraltar are the Dukes of Toba and Hajar and several rebel officers.

WASHINGTON, 22nd: The North American Society of Aid for Basque Emigres has sent a French vessel to Bilbao to transport 500 Bilbaon children to the United States.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the U.S.A. has promised aid for evacuated children.

PRAGUE, 22nd. More than 20,000 peasants in Cracovia have resolved to demand immediate confiscation without indemnity of all large estates.