

June 1937



# THE STRUGGLE AGAINST THE SPECULATOR

In the complex life of the rearguard there are an abundance of different types of men, spies, traitors, cowards, boasters, café "strategists" and many others of their sort. Among this obnoxious species which is useless ballast, or a millstone to our victorious advance, there is the dark shadow of the speculator. The speculator is one who, without troubled conscience, hoards and trades, with no other goal than money, the dire necessity of the people.

His field of operations is the market of those products which are necessary for the subsistence of the people. It little matters to him if, because of his insatiable voracity, he ruins, destroys the moral, or causes death from hunger, of his victims so long as he is able to increase his profits.

The denunciations and words of the press do not affect him any more than does the clamour of the victims of his exploitation. He knows how to remain for long unpunished, working underground, dealing in contraband and is all more often than not the needy ones regard him, not as their enemy, but as a benefactor able to get for them rare products; thus he is the most dangerous of our enemies - the enemy in the fascist trenches carries his life in his hands but this one risks nothing and also plays with the lives of others. He is the collaborator of hunger since he produces it and augments it. Hunger is the road to defeat.

Those who wish for our victory should also desire a sane rearguard. They should wish that, as at the front, there should be in the rear a unified discipline and direction. It is in this way that we will avoid the dangers of the difficulties of provisioning.

The Government understands this and has given much thought to the question of provisions; it is already attempting to control all commerce and put an end to all forms of speculation, but, in order to bring these plans to their full effectiveness with the least delay every consumer should participate in this task and, to the fullest extent to which they are able, should suppress all speculation no matter in what form it may appear.

(Text of an article appearing in "La Libertad")

PLAIN WORDS FROM M. MAISKY,

10th. - The Ambassador of the U.S.S.R. in England, comrade MAISKY, sent the following letter to the President of the Non-Intervention Committee:-

Conforming with the instructions of my Government, of which information had been given at the last session of the Sub-committee held on 1st. I wish to ask the following questions. Of Germany; Did this Government bring to the notice of the Non-Intervention Committee, after the adoption of the scheme of maritime control, that the warship "DEUTSCHLAND" was charged with the functions of the control in Spanish waters? If the German government has not given such indications up to the present (and we have reasons to believe that such is the case) then- what is there to prove that it is in the Spanish waters for taking part in the maritime control or for some other purpose? This last supposition is strengthened by the fact that the "DEUTSCHLAND", as many other ships of the German Navy, were in Spanish waters long before the scheme of maritime control.

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