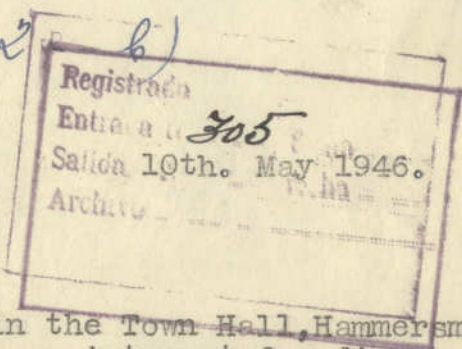


*Compendium as above  
Auxilio Social*

*London*

I - 2



Minutes of  
Inaugural Meeting.

SPANISH SOCIAL WELFARE SOCIETY.

A very successful meeting was held in the Town Hall, Hammersmith, when His Worship the Mayor presided to an interested audience of about 70 people.

The speakers were :-

- The Mayor.
- Gwendolyn Adams de Puertas. (Chairman and Organiser.)
- Mr Lizaso, Basque Delegate in London.
- Dr Day, Medical Officer of Health for Hammersmith.
- Alderman Woods, Hammersmith Borough Council (T.U.C.)

The Mayor said it gave him very great pleasure to be in the Chair at such an enthusiastic gathering and he knew that if and when such training was completed how very beneficial it would be to many people in Spain in the future where now so much was being denied them under the Franco régime - he would give every assistance he could to futher such a splendid and to his mind, useful project.

Gwendolyn Adams spoke of aims of the Society and its usefulness in the homes and the future of Spain - that the programme of Lectures were as a sort Course, which could be followed later by an intensified one for all wishing them, of the visits to various Health Centres, Social Centres and the invitation by several Members of Parliament of the Labour Party to visit the Houses of Parliament. All women were invited to join the Society whether able to take the lectures or not, as other activities would be arranged later in which they could all help.

Mr Lizaso said it gave him great pleasure to represent the Spanish Republican Government on such an occasion and it was his honour to bear to His Worship the Mayor a letter from the Prime Minister, The Right Honourable José Giral, of the Spanish Republican Government, regretting being unable to attend the meeting but thanking the Mayor for his cooperation and wishing the meeting every success. The reading of the letter brought great applause.

Dr Day gave a short summary of explanation of the lectures with the names of the lecturers. He gave also statistics of various diseases common to all countries and the progress of medicine in the war - that everything would be done to help the student to get a thorough and interesting training.

Alderman Woods told of the different ways in which the groups of women which included the Womens Voluntary Service had helped

-continued.

this country during the war and had been the salvation of many thousands of people when they fed and clothed them after being rendered homeless by enemy action. In Hammersmith they had had Mrs Adams to run a hostel for such people and her work by the different Mayors was well known and appreciated and he knew that it was her experience of the war in Spain that later helped them. He said by undertaking such work that the women present tonight would be pioneers in the rehabilitation and future of their country and he wished them every happiness in the undertaking and a speedy return to their country to put their work in action.

The Mayor brought the meeting to a close by expressing again his readiness in any help he could give at any time and expressing his thanks to the speakers and wishing the Society every success in its arduous but interesting task but he too hoped that happier times were coming shortly when they would return to their own country, when without doubt such Welfare work would be so necessary.

Congratulations to the Society were sent by :-

The Prime Minister.  
Mr Irujo, Minister of Industry, Commerce and Navigation..  
(Cable and letter.)  
Mr V.A. Buylla, (Spanish Foreign Office.)  
Miss M. Sutherland, British Labour Party. (Chief Woman Officer)  
Mr C. Pi-Sunyer.  
Dr Duran.  
Dr Trueta.  
Dr Bassadone.  
Dr Zabalo.  
Mr Roc Batllori, Chairman of "Llar Catalana."

Others supporting the Mayor were :-

Miss Joan Bourne, London Organiser of the Labour Party.  
Councillor Miss Woods, Hammersmith Borough Council.

A vote of thanks was proposed to the Mayor by Dr Zabalo and seconded by Miss Raimunda Elias.

Mr Rodrigo Gil, Chairman of Hogar Español was present.

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246B, King Street,  
Hammersmith.  
LONDON. W. 6.

18th. May 1946.

*on grounds  
Auxilio Social*

Dear Mr Irujo,

Thank you very much for your letter and cable which we were pleased to receive for the inaugural meeting which we consider a great success and we are now well on our way having had the first two lectures this week.

Now I want to talk to you about something and I do not want you to misunderstand me, but you know I have lived and worked for Spain since 1929 and I want to continue in the future on a wider scale if you will let me do it.

You know of my long standing good relations with the Labour Party and Trades Union Congress. Well, because I can see that events are moving rapidly I suggest we should be in closer contact with them. I suggest I could act as liaison officer for "informal talks" as things come along - I believe this would be a pleasing gesture to them too. Pleasant or unpleasant subjects, they will not matter to me as long as they are for the well being and good of Spain.

The Social Welfare Society has been well received here and we had our first two lectures last week and have an attendance of 35 women and hopes that this will increase, we are asking all women to join whether able to take the lectures or not. I have been appointed their Chairman and Organiser and we have had some talks on the future of Spain and I believe the cherished hope of all is in great reform for 'social welfare for children'..

Sooner or later the women of Spain will demand "equal rights" with men to administer their country, especially the ones that have been in exile and seen what other countries can do. I believe if we can now establish a wide democratic policy through the Society, which I am trying to do, then we can control many of the extremist elements that will surely arise in the future if there is no already existing body of women to help them.

It would seem that if we could also unite the Spanish women in France to this end then it would be to our great advantage than wait until they have formed themselves into something different with only "party views" on the rights of women.

I suggest that one of our Society visits Paris and the larger towns to talk with the heads of the 'parties' and get a similar Society (in conjunction with ours) started immediately.

I want to give up my present work at once and devote myself to this issue if you will appoint me as a Delegate, working wherever the need demands.

I could have daily contact and collaboration with the Basque Delegation, but I would also use <sup>my</sup> flat as an office where I have office equipment, and avoid extra office expenses.

Please do not think I want to create a position for myself, this I have already, I only want remuneration sufficiently to cover my cost of living, because we lost everything in Spain like others.

I know this work will no doubt cause a precedent and I understand the economical state of your Government, but believe me I have only the welfare of Spain at heart in such a proposal.

Yours very sincerely,

*Goendolyn Adams de Puertas*

Mr M. Irujo,  
Minister of Industry, Commerce and Navigation,  
11, Avenue Marceau,  
PARIS. 16.  
F R A N C E.