

MR. SALA, ES EL AUTOR DE ESTA NOTA.
LA HA REMITIDO A TODOS LOS PERSONAJES DE
LA POLITICA INGLESA Y AMERICANA
The latest events in Barcelona

THE CATALAN RESISTANCE AND THE VISIT OF THE AMERICAN FLEET

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The Catalan people has once more expressed its feelings courageously and plainly in favour of the democratic cause and against the Franco regime, and once more the regime has hastened to use force and take reprisals.

It will be remembered that the civic demonstration of last March took the form, in effect, of a mobilisation of the Catalan people against the economic and the corruption of the regime, and that it was followed by a general strike which was fully supported by the entire population.

On the occasion of the visit of the American Sixth Fleet to Spanish ports, the Catalan Resistance, despite the censorship and despite the repression, made itself heard. The American visitors received a great welcome as individuals and as Americans, but all Catalonia felt that their presence and activities might help to strengthen Franco's dictatorship.

Accordingly, effective steps were taken to inform American naval and diplomatic personnel of the real feelings of the Catalan people. The methods used are described in a note just received in England, and of which a translation is given below for the sake of the authentic news it gives of the latest events in Barcelona:

"American diplomatic representatives in Spain, and the American naval and press personnel visiting Spanish ports, were plainly told by the Catalan Resistance that the Catalan people "will not fight in any war within Franco's army", but "will fight for genuine democracy".

This message was conveyed once more to the Americans in Spain on the occasion of the visit of the Sixth Fleet to Spanish port. There being no other means of expression available, thousands of leaflets were printed and distributed in Barcelona, the text of which is as follows:

We are here the only true friends of American Democracy.
We are against Franco and against Communism.
We stand for the Four Liberties in the U.N.O. Charter.
We do not want to fight in any war within Franco's army.
But we will fight for genuine democracy.

CATALAN RESISTANCE

This leaflet duly reached all commanders of the American ships, the American Consul in Barcelona, the Naval Attaché of the U.S.A. Embassy, the Special correspondents of 'LIFE' - Matilde Camacho and U.R. Farbam - etc. Copies were also handed to the officers on board.

Taking the opportunity presented by a Special Gala Performance, held on 12th January at the "Teatre del Liceu" in honour of Vice-Admiral Gardner and officers of the Sixth Fleet, and which the Captain General of Catalonia, Juan Sanchez Gonzalez, the Civil Governor, Felipe Acedo, the President of the Provincial Council, Marquis of Castell-Florite, the Major of Barcelona, Antonio Ma Simarro and other frankist authorities attended, hundreds of leaflets were thrown from the gallery. Many fell on the stalls occupied by the authorities.

The dock area was flooded with thousands of copies, and distribution was made in the streets to American sailors and officers."

As on previous occasions, the regime was unable to hide its alarm at the fact that, in spite of all the measures taken to suppress all opposition, the Catalan Resistance still had the courage and ability to make its voice heard once more in a strong appeal to the Democracies. The regime replied with further repression.

This time a number of Catalan youths have been detained, and are in great danger because of the police search for scapegoats.

Whilst it is our duty to make this new, clumsy and useless act of repression known to all, we earnestly appeal to English public opinion and the British Government to investigate Catalan public opinion and the means used by Franco to suppress any attempt to give expression to the latter.

On behalf of the Catalan Resistance we also appeal to the American authorities to see to it that the Catalan people are not made to suffer for the visit of the American Fleet and for their right to make their feelings towards Franco known.

The London Delegation of the Catalan Resistance.

Released by

LNA - 20, St. Martin's Street, London, W.C.2. Tel.: WHItchall 4909. Cables: Latinfleet

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