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Rt. Hon. Harold Wilson, MP., OBE,
Her Majesty's Government
Prime Minister,
10, Downing Street,
London, S.W.1

Sir,

We, the undersigned, Spanish Ex-Servicemen, volunteers of the British Army during the Second World War, on behalf of thousands of our countrymen who fought and died in Spain, North Africa, Norway, France and elsewhere for the self-same cause as that of the British people, wish to express to Her Majesty's Government, our concern and our aims.

We wish to recall to Her Majesty's Government that the war of 1939-1945 in which your people and ours were involved, could have been avoided if in 1936 the Western Democracies had been prepared to protect the democratic principles of the legal and constitutional government of Spain rather than support the policy of 'no-intervention'.

On Tuesday, February 28th, 1939, when the Prime Minister announced to the House of Commons the recognition of General Franco's government, the leader of the opposition, the late Rt. Hon. Clement Attlee, MP, moved the following Motion:

"That, in the opinion of this House, the decision of His Majesty's Government to grant unconditional recognition of Spanish insurgent forces dependent upon foreign intervention constitutes a deliberate affront to the legitimate Government of a friendly Power, is a gross breach of international traditions, and marks a further stage in a policy which is steadily destroying in all democratic countries confidence in the good faith of Great Britain."

It is generally acknowledged that the Franco regime has survived to date only because the democratic governments of the time failed to sweep that regime away after the defeat of Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy in 1945.

Our sacrifices and the share of our countrymen's blood to secure freedom for Europe seemed to have served a hopeful purpose when at the first session of the United Nations General Assembly in 1946 a resolution was passed unanimously condemning Franco as an ally of Hitler.

Unfortunately, the Franco government was later admitted to the United Nations. Once again, the curse of history turned against the Spanish people.

Despite the resumption of diplomatic and commercial relations between the Free World and the government who represented and still represents the last vestige of fascism in Europe, we, the Spanish Ex-Servicemen, and thousands of our countrymen, have never accepted the usurpatorial and illegal status of that regime.

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The strength of our convictions, and our determination to see democracy re-established in Spain, and the fraternal solidarity and friendship of the British people, have made it possible for many of us to survive the most frustrating periods of our prolonged exile.

The latest wave of repression, the widespread indignation and protests outside and inside Spain and the elements of violence in the Franco system are leading our country towards another civil war. Only a change of attitude by the democratic governments of today towards that retrograde and barbaric regime can avoid such tragic consequences.

The recent decision taken by all members of the EEC to freeze negotiations with Franco's regime and the recalling of all Ambassadors from Madrid constitute a welcome change in this direction. Many democratic nations have already committed themselves to various measures as an expression of their abhorrence of the Spanish regime.

In the past, economic and political sanctions have been applied to other totalitarian states by the United Nations, in which Her Majesty's Government took a leading part. We, would wish to see the same measures applied to this fascist european state, which persecutes its citizens for the democratic ideals which they profess.

Yours respectfully,

October 19th 1975