

1418 Wisconsin Avenue  
Racine, Wisconsin  
The United States of America  
February 24, 1964

The Basque Government-in-Exile  
50 rue Singer  
Paris 16, France

Honorable Sirs:

At the present time, I am engaged in graduate research at Marquette University on the history of the Second Spanish Republic(1931-1939), Spain's only real experiment in democracy. This research program started two years ago and with continued good fortune, should culminate in publication. It is this extensive study that prompts my letter.

I am very much interested in contacting Spanish republicans, especially those associated with the government of the Republic or its leading political parties or syndicalists. I am particularly anxious to institute correspondence. My most difficult task is, however, the search for Republican documents, publications, syndicalist literature and alike. One would be amazed at the amount of historical revision that has already distorted the record of the Second Spanish Republic. Thus, I would be most appreciative of any help or suggestion you may offer in this regard, but, most of all any documentary materials dealing with the Republic or Basque governments.

In light of the Basque's historical position in the epoch of Republican Spain, I would appreciate your comments on the following questions which stem from a particular segment of my Spanish study dealing with the ideological and diplomatic intercourse between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Republic of Spain: What significance would you attribute to the role of the Communist Party of Spain in the Popular Front elections of February 1936? Certain documents seem to indicate outright Communist direction, while others, place the Communist Party as a minority faction which merely "co-operated" with the Socialist UGT directed Leftist electoral front. Could you explain, in your words, the Basque need for autonomy. Was the proposed legislation equal to the Catalan laws? In the Basque, how strong was the Communist party?... POUM? What were Basque relations with Madrid following the autonomy measures? Could you comment on the so-called Basque-Madrid "undeclared war"?....on the contribution of the Soviet Union to the Republican cause...?....and finally, the old problem---did the Communist Party of Spain control intervention materials from the Soviet Union or were they under the direction of the Madrid government?




I shall be indebted to you for any help on these matters and very appreciative for comments in regard to the above questions.

One further request, I am also searching for photographic materials dealing with the era of the Spanish Republic, most notably, the leading personalities of the Republic and photographic evidences of foreign intervention. In relation to the Basque, the horrible acts of fascist or more accurately Luftwaffe military operations.

Thank You from the depths of my heart. With best wishes, and hope in the future of Spain (free to and for its people) I beg to remain:

Yours Very truly,

  
ROBERT A. KAIRIS

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Robert A. Kairis  
1418 South Wisconsin Avenue  
Racine, Wisconsin  
The United States of America