

LABOUR PARTYINTERNATIONAL DEPT.SPANISH DEMOCRATS DEFENCE FUND COMMITTEEMinutes of Meeting held on Wednesday, 10th February, 1960
at 6 p.m. in the House of CommonsPRESENT: Mr. W. Padley, M.P. (Chairman)Mr. P. Benenson
Mr. E. Davies
Mr. R. Edwards, M.P.
Mr. G. Jeger, M.P.
Mr. E. Jones, M.P.Mr. J. A. Balbontin
Mr. Busquet
Mr. Dominge
Mr. B. Duarte
Mr. C. Garcia
Mr. V. Girbau
Mr. J. Hickman
Mr. VillanovaMr. J. Clark (International Department)
Mr. D. Ennals (Secretary)APOLOGIES:

An apology for absence was received from Mr. P. Volto whose place was taken by Mr. Villanova.

1. SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Secretary reported that the Committee had helped to arrange the ceremony at the Cenotaph on Sunday, 20th December, 1959. London Constituency Labour Parties had been informed and quite a number of Labour Party friends were present. Mr. Jeger represented the Committee and placed a wreath on the Cenotaph.

The Secretary said that the balance in the Committee's funds now stood at £364.

The report was noted.

2. MR. R. EDWARDS' REPORT ON VISIT TO MADRID

Mr. Edwards said the report was a shortened version of the diary he kept during his stay in Madrid and he had nothing to add. He had received much correspondence since the visit including cards from prisoners in Spain. One anonymous letter alleged that the London representative of Iberia Airways is a former German S.S. man now in charge of Franco espionage in Britain. The letter seemed authentic and the writer promised more information. The Chairman said the allegation would need careful checking and Mr. Edwards agreed to send the letter to the Office so that further enquiries could be made.

In summing up he stated that the secret police had informed him emphatically that prominent Britishers would not in future be admitted to political trials in Spain. Observers would be stopped either at the Court or at the airport. It was AGREED that the Committee should await the next trial, should be prepared to send an observer and see what happened.

Mr. Edwards said that he had received about £100 for articles and broadcasts in connection with the visit and would donate this sum to the Committee's funds. The Chairman expressed hearty thanks for this gesture. He renewed the Committee's appreciation of Mr. Edwards' work which from the publicity angle represented the Committee's biggest achievement to date.

The Secretary reported that the U.D.C. was producing a pamphlet about Mr. Edwards' visit to Madrid which would include a reference to the Committee's work. 5,000 copies would be printed.

3. LETTER FROM SR. MACHAKA

Mr. Benenson reported on a letter received from Sr. Machaka of Bilbao suggesting that Mr. Gaitskell be invited to make a one-week tour in Spain lecturing on British democracy. Mr. Benenson had replied that it was unlikely that Hugh Gaitskell would go but wondered whether some other member of the Parliamentary Labour Party might be prepared to do so. He explained that Sr. Machaka, although initially pro-Franco, was now prominent among the Liberal Monarchists. His plans for the British visit would include talks in Madrid and Barcelona with local Committees of Democratic Union. Mr. Garcia said he had no objection to getting publicity by any means but pointed out that there was no Central Committee of Democratic Union in Madrid.

After several members of the Committee had expressed concern that such a visit could give an impression of acceptance of the Franco regime, especially if any public or semi-public meetings were held, it was AGREED that the Committee should not become involved in this suggestion and that Mr. Benenson should act at his own discretion in the light of the discussion.

4. RELEASE OF ANTONIO AMAT

Mr. Benenson reported a series of letters from Antonio Amat's lawyer. He asked whether the British Trade Unions and the Trades Union Congress could be persuaded to bring pressure to this end by appeals to the Spanish Government and the Spanish Embassy in London.

The Chairman asked that a note be prepared by the office and sent to individual trade unionists who were likely to help. He and Mr. Edwards would act within their own unions and no doubt Mr. Watson would bring in the Durham Miners and perhaps the National Union of Mineworkers. Mr. Elwyn Jones promised to bring in the Society of Labour Lawyers and Mr. Benenson said it might be possible to bring in the International Committee of Jurists. Mr. George Jeger also promised to help.

It was AGREED that the Office would prepare a brief background note for circulation to the above and to others likely to help.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

i) The Secretary reported a letter from Mr. Benenson conveying a request from the A.S.U. for a supply of socialist literature in English.

After discussion it was AGREED that literature dealing with economic and social affairs on an academic level would probably be allowed through to the Spanish Universities. It was therefore AGREED that the Secretary should enquire whether the Fabian Society could provide such literature from old stocks. Eight copies of each book or pamphlet would be required, one for each of the main Spanish Universities.

ii) After discussion the Committee AGREED to place on the file a letter from Mr. Moreno of the U.G.T.

iii) Mr. Garcia said that Mr. Pablo Casals might be invited to give a concert in London at the invitation of the Committee. Profits received could go to the Committee's funds. Although Casals had refused concerts in London he might possibly agree to one held under the Committee's aegis. Mr. Jeger said that if Casals could be persuaded to accept, the concert undoubtedly would be a success. It would be easy to fill the Festival Hall. The Chairman suggested that Casals might be asked both privately and officially, and it might be possible to get an English musician to make the personal approach. Mr. Villanova said that he had met Casals who had many Catalonian friends. He might also be able to help with the personal approach. After discussion it was AGREED that the office should look into the possibility and particularly the method of invitation.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS: "LABREPCOM, SOWEST, LONDON."

TELEPHONE: VICTORIA 9434

THE LABOUR PARTY

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TRANSPORT HOUSE, SMITH SQUARE, LONDON, S.W.1.

HON. TREASURER:
RT. HON. ANEURIN BEVAN, M.P.

SECRETARY:
MORGAN PHILLIPS.

NATIONAL AGENT:
A. L. WILLIAMS.

1st February, 1960

TO MEMBERS OF THE SPANISH DEMOCRATS DEFENCE FUND COMMITTEE

Dear Colleague,

The next meeting of the Spanish Democrats Defence Fund Committee will be held on Wednesday, 10th February, 1960 at 6 p.m. in Room H at the House of Commons. I very much hope it will be possible for you to attend.

The Agenda will be as follows:

- 1) Secretary's Report
- 2) Consideration of Report by Mr. Robert Edwards, M.P. on his recent visit to Madrid (previously circulated).
- 3) Proposed lecture visit to Spain by a Labour M.P.
- 4) Pressure for release of Antonio Amat
- 5) Future activities

Yours sincerely,

DAVID ENNALS

Secretary

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS: "LABREPCOM, SOWEST, LONDON."

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TRANSPORT HOUSE, SMITH SQUARE, LONDON, S.W.1.

HON. TREASURER:
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SECRETARY:
MORGAN PHILLIPS.

NATIONAL AGENT:
A. L. WILLIAMS.

11th December, 1959

TO MEMBERS OF THE SPANISH DEMOCRATS DEFENCE FUND COMMITTEE

Dear Colleague,

The Spanish ex-service men who served with the Allied forces have arranged a ceremony on Sunday afternoon, December 20th in order to pay homage to their comrades who died during the Second World War. The arrangement is that those participating in the ceremony will assemble at Admiralty Arch at 2 p.m. and will then walk in procession to the Cenotaph where a wreath will be laid. Senor Madariaga has promised to be present. I am hoping to arrange for a wreath to be laid on behalf of the Spanish Democrats Defence Fund, and I know that the Spaniards would greatly appreciate the presence of any members of the Committee who felt able to join them at 2 p.m. on Sunday, December 20th. Information concerning this ceremony has also been sent to Labour Parties in the London area.

I might add that the date has been chosen to coincide with President Eisenhower's visit to Spain and there is in fact an unspoken political significance in this ceremony.

I enclose herewith for your information a translation of a Declaration of Policy recently issued by the Catalan Socialist Movement (M.S.C.)

Yours sincerely,

DAVID ENNALS

Secretary

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LAW TO PRESERVE PUBLIC ORDER

PRESENTED TO THE CORTES ON 11th. JUNE 1959.

The new law is characterised by the introduction of the State of Exception.

This State can be declared by Decree, over the complete National territory, or in parts of it only, whenever disturbances against public order are such that ordinary measures are insufficient to restore it.

State of Normalcy

The following are considered as attempts against public order:

strikes, illegal closing of industrial or mercantile firms, peaceful or violent demonstrations in the public thoroughfare, unauthorised meetings or the use of the privileges of the "Fuero de los Espanoles" to attempt against the spiritual, national and social unity of Spain. The Home Secretary must maintain public order and controls the various police bodies; he can elist the help of the Army.

Citizens are compelled to denounce any deed which to their knowledge is dangerous to public order; they must collaborate with the authorities to restore it whenever this does not imply personal danger. Police can search any person in the streets; without a warrant they can search a house under certain conditions e.g. to protect its inhabitants or their property or to investigate activities considered dangerous to public order. Police may disperse groups, enter enclosed premises or public buildings and control authorised meetings to prevent disturbances of public order. Associations responsible for any meeting contrary to public order will be suspended and their leaders punished.

The Council of Ministers, the Home Secretary, the Director General of Security, Civil Governors and Mayors can punish acts against public order, among which are the following:

lack of respect for authority or its agents,
refusal to assist in maintaining public order,
the spreading of rumours and distribution of false news.

/cont'd...

Fines may vary from 2.500 to 500.000 pesetas, according to the authority which imposes them, but should the fine be considered insufficient the accused may be placed under a higher authority.

State of Exception

The Government can suspend whatever guarantees it considers fit, restrict the free movement of people or vehicles and forbid gatherings in the public thoroughfare. Certain people would be excluded from certain zones and any person detained if necessary. All changes of address must be reported and people under suspicion given forced residence. The Press, radio, TV and public spectacles would be censored. Searches could be made at any time of the day or night and in the absence of the owners, neighbours can be obliged to witness the search, any refusal to do so being considered as refusal to co-operate with Authority. Armed vigilance may be kept in streets and public buildings and workers and employees considered as public servants. The State can commandeer any materials, factories, vehicles or animals considered necessary.

Emergency Courts will be set up whose jurisdiction or competence cannot be contested except by the military courts who can claim those cases belonging to them. The College of Lawyers will produce a list of lawyers who will act in turn as defence counsels but the Courts can decide to name any other lawyer if the one on duty fails to appear. The judge, having studied the police report and the declarations of the accused will decide on which witnesses to call. If the accused be absolved he will be free but if his antecedents and conduct are considered dangerous to public order, he will be sent to the corresponding Government Authority who will punish him accordingly.

Appeal can be made against the sentences of the Emergency Courts if a breach of law or procedure can be alleged.

This law abrogates that of 28th June 1933.

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SPANISH DEMOCRATS DEFENCE FUND

(Sponsored by the British Labour Movement)

VISIT TO SPAIN, JUNE 1959

Report to the S.D.D.F. Committee by Mr. Peter Benenson.

The objects of the journey, undertaken at the instance of the Spanish Democrats Defence Fund, were these:-

1. To visit, and, if possible, to secure the release of Antonio Amat and any other Socialist prisoners in the Carabanchel Prison in Madrid;
2. To impress upon the opposition groups in Spain that the Labour Party had not modified its attitude to the Franco regime; and
3. To collect any information about prevailing conditions which by its subsequent publication outside Spain would assist the cause of democrats in Spain.

So far as the first purpose was concerned, I elicited upon my arrival in Madrid that of the 51 Socialists removed to the Carabanchel Prison in November (out of 73 arrested) only 4 were still in prison. Of these 2 had been released, but had been subsequently re-arrested during the last fortnight on charges of being connected with the preparation of the 24-hour strike (of which more hereafter). These 2 were Dr. Martin Santos, a psychiatrist, and Sr. Antiago Anton, a teacher of mathematics, both of San Sebastian. The two men who had remained in prison since November were Sr. Antonio Amat, a lawyer from Vittoria, and the P.S.O.E. leader in Spain, and Sr. Roman Diaz, a clerk from Malaga, in whose house considerable quantities of Socialist leaflets were discovered.

My first step was to interview the lawyers of the men still in prison. Amat and Ramon Diaz are being defended by Dr. Jose Garcia de Mesa, a man who impressed me favourably by his skill and enthusiasm, although he himself is not interested in political affairs. The two men from San Sebastian were being defended by Sr. Fernando Montes, who was for many years until recently a Public Prosecutor. I did not take a favourable view of this lawyer (indeed, his assistant subsequently communicated with me privately to say that he was very embarrassed by his principal's attitude). I think it may be that it was thought that Sr. Montes might have useful connections, and indeed this is probably so, but it is questionable whether he intends to use them. In any case I hear that Senora Santos has now briefed Sr. Joaquin Elosegui, a well-known San Sebastian lawyer, a change which is for the better

At the suggestion of the lawyers I went to call on Dr. Manuel Escovedo, the Dean of the Madrid Collegio de Abogados, in an endeavour to get permission to see Amat. The Dean of the College has authority to issue a letter to any Spanish lawyer admitting him to a prison to see a prisoner. However, as he pointed out, his authority did not extend to non-Spanish lawyers. He told me that only

the Ministry of Justice could give me the necessary permission. Accordingly, I started the wheels turning in order to get an interview with the official whose name is Oreja Elosegui, and who is the Permanent Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Justice. This man is in effective control of the judicial machine. Normally it takes anything up to a month to get an interview with him. I was therefore grateful to those of my friends who were able to induce him to accord me an interview after 24 hours. Sr. Elosegui was not prepared to grant me permission to see Amat, saying that he had no authority to allow a visit to a man who was undergoing judicial interrogation. He was not able to explain how it was that the Dean had told me that the Ministry of Justice had authority to allow a visit; it must have been a misunderstanding, he said. I told him that the interrogation had been going on for 8 months, and that according to Dr. De Mesa the trial could not be expected earlier than June 1960. Sr. Elosegui regretted the slowness of the examining Judge. I said that since the Ministry had appointed the Judge, surely it might request him to speed his investigations, whereupon the Under-Secretary fell back on the excuse of judicial independence. Seeing that there was no likelihood of getting any concession there and then, I thought it best to use the rest of the interview to leave the authorities in no doubt of the attitude of the Labour Party, and other democrats in the West, about the imprisonment of a man for what will probably be 21 months without process. The purpose of this was to support an application that Amat and the others be released on bail.

I have made arrangements with Dr. de Mesa to make such an application for bail within the next few days, by which time I hope the effect of my interview with Sr. Elosegui might have percolated through to the Judge. Now that the 24-hour strike is passed, I think that there is more chance that the application may be granted. However, I would ask that the Labour Party and other T.U. and Socialist parties in the West write directly to the Judge, supporting the application; he is "Juez de la Instancia, Don Jacinto Blanco Camarero, Juzgado no. 13 de la Instancia, Madrid, General Castanos, no.1, Madrid." Under Spanish procedure there is no objection to individuals or groups communicating directly with the Judge.

In a further endeavour to secure the release of the remaining imprisoned Socialists, I visited the Abbey of Montserrat and arranged that the Abbot, who is a powerful figure in the Spanish Church and the leading opponent of repression, would write a letter to the Minister of the Interior. The Minister is a patron of Montserrat, and has in the past listened to the Abbot's appeals.

When in Madrid I learned of the recent arrest of a number of young members of A.S.U. (Association of University Socialists), of whom 8 were in prison at the time; - Alonso Novo, Vicente Garcia, - Luch, Mena Alvarez, Salvador Franco, Cesar Cimedevilla, Tomas Llorens and Isabel Munoz. I took the occasion to call upon their lawyers, Senores de Zulueta, Mariano Robles and Gaillardon, and to discuss what steps could be taken to secure their release. During my interview with Sr. de Zulueta I took details of the physical violence which had been applied to his client, Alonso Novo, a medical student at Salamanca University. As in most cases in Spain violence was applied by the arresting police (at Salamanca) and not in the prison.

Although I was not able to obtain permission to enter the Carabanchel Prison, I was fortunate in finding a way of communicating with the prisoners; this permitted me to send them messages of encouragement.

I went into the question of the financial needs of the 4 prisoners of the P.S.O.E. and the 8 of A.S.U. The only family in need of support is that of Roman Diaz; a monthly pension is being paid to Senora Diaz through the channels of P.S.O.E.

The second purpose of my visit was to impress upon the Opposition that the Labour Party had not modified its attitude to the Franco regime. I found that the visit of Mr. Edward Mallalieu, M.P. and of Mr. John Hynd, M.P., in April and the advantage taken of them by the official Spanish press had created a most disturbing impression upon Socialists in Spain; this had been reinforced by the officially published news that a Labour M.P. had taken office as Hon. Secretary of the newly-formed Anglo-Spanish Parliamentary Group. I was able to explain the circumstances of the visit of the 2 M.P.'s to the C.N.S. Conference and to arrange for unofficial publicity for the resignation of Mr. Mellish, who together with other Labour M.P.'s withdrew from the Anglo-Spanish Committee on the day of its formation. The fact that the Labour Party had sent a representative to enquire into the welfare of Socialist prisoners has, I think restored the confidence of Spanish Socialists.

In discussions with the British Embassy I was impressed by the feeling there that the Labour Party was today looked upon in Spain as the focus of democratic progressive leadership in the western world. This view was often repeated in conversations with leading Spaniards in opposition. The Ambassador, Sir Ivo Mallet, himself raised the possibility of the Labour Party sending speakers to direct the new, rising intelligentsia towards the advantages of democratic socialism. It should be added at this point that the Communists are making considerable headway in penetrating the intelligentsia, and for this reason the Ambassador would be anxious to sponsor the visit of British Socialists. In discussions with him about the aegis under which such visits might be made, I took the liberty of explaining that it was unthinkable that a Labour speaker would talk from any platform provided by the regime. It was then agreed that the inviting aegis should be either the British Council's British Institute or else some non-official body such as one of the now-tolerated bodies devoted to promoting European unity. Because of the climate and for other technical reasons it was agreed that the best season for sending a speaker or speakers would be in January, during the Christmas recess. If the meeting is confined to the British Institute, it would be reasonable for the speaker to talk in English. If, as may be possible, a series of meetings is planned, including one or two in the universities, it would be desirable for the speakers to be able to lecture in French (if they do not talk Spanish).

I also received requests from various University groups of Socialists for contacts with British Socialist students. I replied that in another year it might be possible to send one or two French or Spanish speaking members of N.A.L.S.O. to make contact with Spanish students during the vacation.

I was also asked whether it would be possible for any bursaries to be offered for Spanish Socialist students to attend Labour Party Summer Schools.

In Barcelona the Catalan Socialist Movement discussed the possibility of arranging for the publication in Spain of the New Fabian Essays. I was introduced to a publisher who would be prepared to finance the translation and issue a Spanish edition (of which copies would be sold in Latin America). I promised to ask the Fabian Society whether in the

special circumstances they would give a licence for a Spanish edition without charge.

Lastly, I spent as much time as possible in making contact with the various Spanish opposition groups from the monarchists on the right to the left-wing Christian Socialists. These contacts were primarily to discover the extent and plans of the opposition in Spain. In this connection it must be stressed that the most vigorous opposition is today to be found among the new intelligentsia, the parents of many of whom were (and some still are) prominent supporters of the regime. In one or two cases former Falange intellectuals, such as the poet Dionisio Ridruejo, have come over to the opposition. These young people are bold, almost desperate; they are looking for guidance, and all, regardless of their affiliations, are prepared to accept that guidance from the Labour Party, to which they now, since the virtual collapse of the French Socialist Party, look with almost pathetic hope.

One of the problems which requires a visit to Spain to understand is the abyss between the Socialists in Spain and those in exile. The former are a new generation with new ideas. Many of them are devout Catholics with little sympathy for the anti-clerical bias of the old Socialists. In Castille the Socialists are anxious to co-operate in a common front with the monarchists on the basis of a restored interim constitutional monarchy. In Catalonia the desire to co-operate with the monarchists is as strong, although there for traditional reasons there is some hesitation about accepting a monarchical solution.

Another feature to be mentioned is the rise of a left-wing Christian Democracy, which is more exactly a form of Christian Socialism. This movement is particularly strong in Catalonia where it has the clandestine adherence of a number of priests. I expressed my surprise that these groups did not co-operate more closely with the Socialist Parties. The reply reminded me of the long-standing anti-clericalism of the Socialist Party, which it was admitted did not now exist among young Socialists in Spain; if the bogey of anti-clericalism could once be laid there is every hope of welding together a strong, progressive Socialist movement.

Lastly, reference must be made to the abortive strike of June, 18th. The movement for a protest originally came from the Socialists and Christian Democrats; the Communists joined the movement and insisted on holding a one-day strike in June. The Democrats originally, rather reluctantly accepted the plan. Later the Communists exploited the situation by claiming the leadership of the movement and, very foolishly, by publishing in advance in "Humanite" the date of the strike. These tactics caused the democratic groups in Castille to withdraw from the strike; in Catalonia all the opposition groups continued to support the strike, although without great enthusiasm. The signal failure of the strike will, I believe and hope, produce a rapid change of thinking among the democratic opposition groups leading this summer to the creation of a united democratic coalition.

RECEIPT

REV

6067

DATE	RECEIPT No.	RECEIVED FROM	AMOUNT		
21.5.59	6067	MR. Manuel de Souza	2	-	-

FOR AND ON BEHALF OF

THE LABOUR PARTY

SPANISH DEMOCRATS DEFENCE FUND.



CASHIER

THE LABOUR PARTY

TRANSPORT HOUSE SMITH SQUARE LONDON SW1

TELEPHONE: VICTORIA 9434

TELEGRAMS: LABREPCOM SOWEST LONDON

SECRETARY: MORGAN PHILLIPS

HON TREASURER: RT HON ANEURIN BEVAN MP

NATIONAL AGENT: A L WILLIAMS

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The Spanish Democrats Defence Fund
Committee would like to thank you for
your contribution. Your generous response
to our appeal is most encouraging and will
enable us to bring practical help to our
comrades in Spain and to their dependents.

ENTREVISTA CON EL SR. DON DAVID ENNALS SECRETARIO DEL
SPANISH DEMOCRATS DEFENCE FUND COMMITTEE, 14 Mayo 1959.

La entrevista que tuve con Mr. Ennals en el Restaurant cercano a Transport House, puede llamarse una entrevista de tanteo y observación mutua, dejaremos la conversación preliminar muy inglesa de hablar del tiempo o cosa similar para concretar.

E. - Digame Vd. Mr.H. ¿Vds. tienen una organización de Delegaciones en Londres, Paris, etc. como sostienen Vds. eso?

H. - Por aportaciones de los vascos en la Repúblicas Americanas, Venezuela, México, Argentina etc.

E. - ¿Su situación financiera es próspera?

H. Nada de prosperidad, los pocos empleados de las Delegaciones perciben un sueldo mínimo y los de las Repúblicas Americanas son servicios gratuitos.

E. - ¿Vds. tienen alguna organización para poder entregar el dinero que les podamos dar para sus presos y perseguidos en el País Vasco?

H. - El Gobierno Vasco tiene los medios apropiados para todas esas necesidades en todas partes de la Peninsula.

E. - ¿Si nosotros le entregamos a Vd. Libras Esterlinas para ayuda a los presos y perseguidos vascos como se arreglan Vds. para enviarlas al Gobierno Vasco?

H. - Muy sencillo, si Vds. me entregan algún dinero, inmediatamente comunico al Gobierno Vasco y éste posiblemente dejará esa cantidad para los gastos de mantenimiento de la Delegación y propaganda y se evitan el enviarme dinero de America.

La cantidad que Vds. me den el Gobierno Vasco la pondrá a disposición de los Solidarios para que éstos la distribuyan entre sus presos y perseguidos y también atenderá a casos que considere necesarios.

E. - ¿Tienen Vds. muchos presos políticos y perseguidos?

H. - Vd. habrá visto por las documentaciones que le ha enviado el Secretario General de Solidaridad de Trabajadores Vascos que nos aproximamos al centenar, tengan Vds. presente que la persecución a los vascos es más dura por su nacionalismo. No olviden que como en Inglaterra los escoceses y galeses dicen que no son ingleses, en España los vascos y catalanes dicen que no son españoles.

E. - ¿Si hubiese un cambio en España que cree Vd. que vendría a gobernar, la Monarquía?

H. - Tengo la impresión de que Don Juan no tiene interés de ser Rey, sabe que su reinado duraría el tiempo que se tardase en hacer elecciones, España debe de ser una República Federal para evitar que los militares cada veinte años hagan los acostumbrados levantamientos y también es necesario el poner al clero en su función dentro de la Iglesia.

E. - Poco sabemos en ésta de noticias de España, únicamente por el Manchester Guardian y el News Chronicle.

H. - Si Vd. vé la prensa en general, puede observar que desde hace más de dos años son los periódicos conservadores quienes traen más noticias sobre España, en algún tiempo eran los por Vd. nombrados, pero ahora son los conservadores. El Daily Herald

laborista nunca se vé en él una noticia de España y esto no lo concivo.

E. - El Daily Herald no es periódico oficial del Partido Laborista.

E. - Me gusta como se presenta Ibérica, no me la envíe Vd. más, les he escrito para que me la envíen directamente.

H. - ¿Por qué no hacen Vds. una cosa similar en Inglaterra como hacen los americanos Ibérica y en Francia Cuadernos?

E. - Me parece muy interesante, podíamos estudiar nosotros el asunto para hacer un Boletín mensual parecido al que Vds. hacen, similar en presentación al Euzko-Deya. ¿No cree Vd. que con unas £25.0.0d. al mes sería lo suficiente? Hablele Vd. de esto a los Srs. Voltó y Garcia y ponganse de acuerdo, nosotros podíamos financiarlo.

H. - Sería muy interesante el hacer ese Boletín para repartirlo gratuitamente a los ingleses amigos de España, podían ser estos dos países muy amigos en el futuro, entendiéndose mutuamente. No es mucha esa cantidad de £25.0.0d. mensuales, pero la estudiaré y se lo diré, depende mucho si hay que pagar alguno de los colaboradores.

E. - No deje Vd. de hablar con Mr. García y Voltó sobre este interesante asunto. Con estas palabras nos despedimos.

Oprtunamente saque el OPE de fecha 6-5-59 donde se copia el despacho en el New York Times del corresponsal en Londres Mr.

Don Cook y entre otras cosas sobre la admisión de España en O.T. A.N. dice que el Partido Laborista se opondrá fuertemente a esa admisión y a continuación dice que las oficinas del partido de los trabajadores británicos se hacía público que diariamente se reciben unas £30.0.0. para el Fondo de Ayuda a los Democratas Españoles. Que hasta la fecha se han recogido en la Gran Bretaña 1.700 libras esterlinas.

Aprovechando ésto le pregunté a Mr. Ennals las cantidades dadas al P.S.O.E. y al M.S.C. (Movimiento Socialista Catalán) y me dijo que a los Socialistas se había acordado darles £1.000 y al M.S.C. £150, ante esta confirmación, riendome y en tono de broma le contesté que no veía la proporción. Mr. Ennals pareció que asentía sin decir una palabra. Le dije que nosotros no le podíamos pedir a A.o B., que ellos debían de estudiarlo con la información recibida, asintiendo me expuso que el Comité lo acordaría. También le dije que Mr. Davies y Mr. F. Noel-Baker conocían muy bien todas nuestras cosas y que podía informarse por ellos.

LABOUR PARTY

INTERNATIONAL DEPT.

SPANISH DEMOCRATS DEFENCE FUND COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday, 13th April, 1959
at 5 p.m. at the House of Commons

1. Present

Mr. W. Padley, M.P. (Chairman)

Mr. P. Benenson	Mr. J. Balbontin (Spanish Left Wing Republican Party)
Mr. G. de Freitas, M.P.	Mr. B. Duarte (PSOE & UGT)
Mr. R. Edwards, M.P.	Mr. C. Garcia (PSOE & UGT)
Mr. H. Delargy, M.P.	Mr. J. Hickman (Basque Delegation)
Mr. G. Jeger, M.P.	Mr. M. Irugo (Basque Nationalist Party)
	Mr. P. M. Volto (Catalan Socialist Movement)

Mr. D. Ennals (Secretary)

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. J. Clark,
Mr. E. Davies, M.P. and Mr. S. Watson.

3. Matters arising from Minutes No. 1.

(a) It was reported that Earl Attlee had agreed to act as patron
together with Mr. James Griffiths.

(b) 10,000 copies of the new leaflet on the Spanish Democrats
Defence Fund were on order.

(c) No new date had been suggested for the visit of Mr. Tomas
and Mr. Duase to this country

4. Report on developments in Spain

Mr. Benenson and the Secretary reported orally on information
concerning developments in Spain since the last meeting. Of the
70 who had originally been arrested, it seemed that only 16 were
now held in prison and that a high proportion of those released
were detained under house arrest. The Committee noted the
press releases that had been issued.

5. Proposed visit to Spain

The Secretary reported that he had been approached with the
suggestion that a member of the Committee should visit Spain and
should attend as an observer the trade union conference in Madrid.
After discussion it was AGREED that no representative should
attend the conference but that enquiries should be made concerning
the advisability of sending a representative of the Committee to
Spain on a fact-finding mission in connection with the arrested
Spanish socialists. It was AGREED that the decision should be
left to the Chairman and Secretary in the light of information
received, and that if it was decided that a representative should
go, Mr. Benenson should be asked to undertake the journey.

6. Secretary's Report

The Secretary reported that so far £1,300 had been received
including a contribution of £500 from U.S.D.A.W. The majority
of other donations were small sums from trade unions and local
Labour Parties. Funds were being received at the rate of about
£100 per week.

7. Allocation of Funds

It was AGREED that a grant of £1,000 should be made to the P.S.O.E. in exile and £150 to the M.S.C. The Secretary was instructed to find out from the P.S.O.E. to what extent they were in a position to assist socialists in Catalonia and whether in future they would be able or willing to make grants to the M.S.C. from funds which they received.

It was AGREED that further allocations could be made on behalf of the Committee by the Chairman, Mr. Benenson and the Secretary.

8. Future activities

It was AGREED that consideration should be given to a public meeting in the autumn if circumstances warranted it. In the meantime the Committee should be prepared to provide speakers for local meetings on request. It was AGREED that the National Executive Committee should be asked to pass a resolution calling for an amnesty for all political prisoners in Spain.

9. Next meeting.

It was AGREED to leave it to the Chairman to decide the date of the next meeting.

THE LABOUR PARTY

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TRANSPORT HOUSE, SMITH SQUARE, LONDON, S.W.1.

HON. TREASURER:
RT. HON. ANEURIN BEVAN, M.P.SECRETARY:
MORGAN PHILLIPSNATIONAL AGENT:
A. L. WILLIAMS

23rd March, 1959.

SPANISH DEMOCRATS DEFENCE FUND COMMITTEE

Dear Colleague,

The next meeting of the Committee of the Spanish Democrats Defence Fund (postponed from March 2nd) will be held at the House of Commons at 5 p.m. on Monday, April 13th in a room booked in the name of Mr. W. Padley.

The Agenda will be as follows:

1. Minutes of the last meeting (previously circulated).
2. Matters arising.
3. Report on developments in Spain.
4. Secretary's report.
5. Allocation of funds so far received.
6. Consideration of future activities.
7. Any other business.

I very much hope that you will be able to attend.

I am enclosing for your information copies of a recent report on the prisoners released under house arrest and the text of the charges against nine of the prisoners arrested for "socialist leanings" last September and November together with a press release issued today.

Yours sincerely,

DAVID ENNALS

Secretary

Issued by The Labour Party Press and Publicity Department,
Transport House, Smith Square, London, S.W.1., on behalf
of the Spanish Democrats Defence Fund Committee.
Phone: VICTORIA 9434

24.3.1959

The following statement is issued by the Spanish Democrats
Defence Fund Committee (sponsored by the British Labour
Movement):

MORE ARRESTS IN SPAIN

Information has just reached us that seven students have
been arrested in Barcelona in connection with the recent
campaign of protest against economic and political conditions
in Spain. Because of censorship, no news of these arrests
has been published in the press. The telegram which brought
this information to the Spanish Democrats Defence Fund said:
"publicity about these arrests may avert torture."

Publicity and protests from Britain and elsewhere do have
their effect in Spain. For one example, following the flow of
protests from Labour Party and Trade Union branches thirty
prisoners arrested in September and November last year for
"having socialist leanings" have recently been released under
house arrest.

But others arrested at the same time are still in gaol
without trial. They are obliged to pay a fee and, if they
cannot pay, their property is seized. Those under house arrest
are prevented from earning their living.

The Committee appeals for public protests against this
barbarous behaviour and for donations to ease the plight of
the victims and their dependents. Donations should be sent to
the Hon. Treasurer, Spanish Democrats Defence Fund, Transport
House, Smith Square, S.W.1.

FRANCO JUSTICE ? TEXT OF THE IMPEACHMENT OF NINE PRISONERS.

Here is the text of the impeachment as given out by the Judge for the Special Tribunal for the Repression of Illicit Propaganda on the Spanish territory, Mr. Jacinto Blanco Camarero, against nine prisoners arrested on the 5th September and on the 8th November, 1958.

Madrid, November 24, 1958.

WHEREAS the accused Antonio Amat, of socialist leaning, has received and accepted from exiled organisations in France belonging to the same Party, the mission of reorganising the Socialist Party inside Spain, selecting the representatives or delegates of the said Party in a number of cities, and WHEREAS he was in connivance with Manuel Gonzalez Mendez, Antonio Villar Masso, Nicolas Edroso Perez, Antonio Sempere Gomez, Vicente Urcola Ansola, Celestino Corcuera, Pinto, Jose-Antonio Munoz Atienza and Luis-Martin Santos Rivera, distributing among them and other persons, propaganda received from France as well as some money intended for prisoners' families; WHEREAS the said Antonio Amat helped bring inside Spain many Roneo machines intended to print propaganda against the present Spanish regime, this propaganda being the newspapers "El Socialista" and "UGT", whose every articles were against the Spanish regime and whose objective was the substitution of this regime, the accused having held meetings among themselves or with other persons not identified, meetings during which propaganda was distributed and commented and whose objective was the substitution of the present Spanish regime, WHEREAS the police seized five parcels of this said propaganda as well as three Roneo machines and subversive propaganda during some searches,

WHEREAS all accused have admitted as indisputable in their confessions, the fact that they belonged to the organisation of the Socialist Party inside Spain as well as their collaboration to the spreading of the underground propaganda of this said Party, which propaganda was brought inside Spain through the means of the accused Antonio Amat Maiz,

WHEREAS the facts worded above have the characteristics of illicit propaganda offences, according to Article 253 of the Penal Code and following which legal proceedings must be instituted against: Antonio Amat Maiz, Manuel Gonzalez Mendez, Antonio Villar Masso, Nicolas Edroso Perez, Antonio Sempere Gomez, Vicente Urcola Ansola, Celestino Corcuero Pinto, Jose-Antonio Atienza and Luis-Martin Santos Ribera, arraignment is referred according to Article 384 of the Criminal Proceedings Code,

WHEREAS according to Articles 503 and 504 of the said code, and WHEREAS circumstances are concurrent in this case, it is appurtenant to decree provisional imprisonment of the accused,

WHEREAS, according to Article 589 of the said Code, it is appurtenant to decree that the accused shall deposit adequate bail to cover expenses that may eventually prove requisite.

ARE ACCUSED the following: Antonio Amat Maiz, Manuel Gonzalez Mendez, Antonio Villar Masso, Nicolas Edroso Perez, Antonio Sempere Gomez, Vicente Urcola Ansola, Celestino Corcuero Pinto, Jose-Antonio Munoz Atienza and Jose-Luis/Santos Rivera, with whom what is necessary will be done in a manner consistent with the procedure prescribed by the said Code, informing the accused of this same procedure and of their respective rights; their confessions shall be registered and their birth certificates or baptism certificates received as well as their police records with notes on their former behaviour; in regard to which the necessary contacts will be made.

PROVISIONAL IMPRISONMENT IS DECREED, unconditioned for the present time but allowing the prisoners the right to communicate with the outside. Inform them of their rights and establish the authority of the Prison Director upon this matter through separate documents.

LET THEM BE ASKED to pay in a bail of TWENTY FIVE THOUSAND pesetas each, to cover the expenses that may be eventually be proven necessary and if this amount is not deposited according to Article 597 of the said Code, seizure of their property in default of payment will be made to cover the said amount; if this were not possible, proof of their insolvency shall be laid down through separate documents.

Send out the affidavit to the Treasury Department."

"News from Spain", February 1959
Published by the Spanish Socialist Labour Party, (P.S.O.E.)
Information and Documentation Office,
69 Rue du Taur,
Toulouse,
Haute Garonne,
France.

The prisoners whose names follow are still held in the Madrid Carabanchel prison for further interrogation by the Judge of the XIIIth Civil Division for repression of illicit propaganda. They may be sentenced according to Article 253 of the Spanish Penal Code.

1. Jenaro Fernandez Lopez, 46, married, one child, waiter, Oviedo.
2. Vicente Fernandez Iglesias, 58, married, 2 children, 3 grandchildren, insurance employee, Sama de Langreo.
3. Amalio Alvarez Martinez, 38, single, technician in the Explosives Factory in Oviedo.
4. Jose Graciano Fernandez Garcia, 50, single, miner, Sama de Langreo.
5. Cecilio Perez Castano, 55, married, two children, miner, Sama de Langreo.
6. Fernando Cabal Pintado, 25, single, office worker, Oviedo.
7. Angel Valle Riestra, 30, married, one child, miner, Sama de Langreo.
8. Vicente Suarez Suarez, 30, married, one child, miner, Sama de Langreo.
9. Salvador Clop Carpi, 38, married, one child, pastry-cook, Barcelona.
10. Juan Garcia Garcia, 62, married, 3 children, stone-mason, Barcelona.
11. Miguel Casablanca Juanico, 43, married, one child, trader, Barcelona.
12. Sebastian Padros Benasco, 50, married, one child, trader, Barcelona.
13. Manuel Gonzalez Mendez, 52, married, three children, machinist, Madrid.
14. Antonio Sempere Gomez, 30, single, doctor, Madrid.
15. Vicente Urcola Ansola, 40, single, doctor, San Sebastian.
16. Luis Martin Santos Rivero, 34, married, two children, doctor, director of the Psychiatric Sanatorium in San Sebastian.
17. Antonio Amat Maiz, 39, single, lawyer, Vitoria.
18. Joaquin Pradera Machimbarrena, 38, married, one child, lawyer and business man, San Sebastian.
19. Alfonsa Fernandez, Sevilla.

In the provinces the situation is as follows:

- In Sevilla: Three are still held.
- In Zaragoza: Two are still held.
- In Malaga: Francisco Roman Diaz, 44, married, two children, accountant is still held in the provincial prison.

Between the 21st January and the 16th February, the following were released:

1. Emilio Llana Prieto, 49, married, 2 children, worker in the Explosives Factory of Oviedo.
2. Francisco Urena Torres, 47, labourer, Granada.
3. Urbano Orad de la Torre, professor, Sevilla.
4. Fermir Onate, 62, married, 2 children, pastry-cook, Bilbao.
5. Manuel Garrido, 48, married, 2 children, business man, Bilbao.
6. Rafael Gutierrez Lopez, carpenter, Granada.
7. Angel Rodriguez Castillo, Granada.
8. Emilio Narvaez Correal, labourer, Granada.
9. Jose-Maria Arcos Soto, labourer, Granada.
10. Celestino Tejero Jimenez, Sevilla.

Up to the 16th February, thirty prisoners have been released. Released is only a word, for each and every former prisoner must remain inside his home, with the absolute forbidding of going out, attend University lectures or any other work. Two policemen stand day and night at their door to enforce this law. The injury that may result from such action is considerable, Professors as well as labourers are unable to earn a living and are exposed to losing their

job when they will be allowed to resume their work.

Such wives conceived by the special jurisdictions are not well-known abroad but they must be exposed in order that international opinion, upon knowing about them, act so to put an end to these intolerable processes. "Release pending trial", according to the Franco regime and in the present case, is nothing but a sentence to poverty and hunger. Material and moral solidarity of all free countries may alone alleviate this painful situation for our Spanish comrade prisoners.

"News from Spain" February 1959.
Published by the Spanish Socialist Labour Party (P.S.O.E.)
Information and Documentation Office,
69, Rue du Taur,
Toulouse,
Haute Garonne,
France.

1. Juan Garcia Garcia, 65, married, 3 children, stone-mason, Barcelona.
2. Salvador Dion Garcia, 58, married, one child, Barcelona.
3. Manuel Gonzalez Mendez, 52, married, three children, woodworker, Madrid.
4. Antonio Bernal Garcia, 50, single, doctor, Madrid.
5. Vicente Garcia Garcia, 40, single, doctor, San Sebastian.
6. Luis Garcia Garcia, 35, married, two children, doctor, director of the Psychiatric Hospital in San Sebastian.
7. Antonio Garcia Garcia, 30, single, lawyer, Madrid.
8. Antonio Garcia Garcia, 25, single, lawyer, Madrid.
9. Alfonso Garcia Garcia, 20, single, lawyer, Madrid.

In the province the situation is as follows:

- In Sevilla: Three are still held.
 - In Zamora: Two are still held.
 - In Madrid: Francisco Roman Diaz, 42, married, two children, accountant is still held in the provincial prison.
- Between the 21st January and the 15th February, the following were released:
1. Emilia Blasco Prieto, 42, married, 3 children, worker in the Explosives Factory of Oviedo.
 2. Francisco Garcia Garcia, 47, labourer, Granada.
 3. Urbano Garcia Garcia, 45, labourer, Sevilla.
 4. Fermi Garcia Garcia, 52, married, 3 children, pastry-cook, Bilbao.
 5. Manuel Garcia Garcia, 48, married, 3 children, business man, Bilbao.
 6. Rafael Garcia Garcia, 45, carpenter, Granada.
 7. Rafael Garcia Garcia, 45, carpenter, Granada.
 8. Jose Garcia Garcia, 45, labourer, Granada.
 9. Jose Garcia Garcia, 45, labourer, Granada.
 10. Gerardo Garcia Garcia, 45, labourer, Sevilla.

Up to the 15th February, thirty prisoners have been released. Released is only a word, for each and every former prisoner must remain inside his home, with the absolute forbidding of going out, attend University lectures or any other work. Two prisoners stand day and night at their door to enforce this law. The injury that may result from such action is considerable. Prisoners as well as labourers are unable to earn a living and are exposed to losing their

THE LABOUR PARTY

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TRANSPORT HOUSE, SMITH SQUARE, LONDON, S.W.1.

HON. TREASURER:
RT. HON. ANEURIN BEVAN, M.P.SECRETARY:
MORGAN PHILLIPSNATIONAL AGENT:
A. L. WILLIAMS

27th February, 1959.

Spanish Democrats Defence Fund Committee

Dear Colleague,

Would you please note that in consultation with Mr. Walter Padley it has been decided to postpone the meeting of the Spanish Democrats Defence Fund Committee called for 5.30 p.m. on Monday, 2nd March. The reason for this is that we have just been notified by the U.G.T. that the planned visit of Pascuel Tomas and Martinez Dasi has been postponed, and the arrangements for their visit would have been the principal item for discussion on Monday. A further meeting of the Committee will be called as soon as it appears to be necessary.

In the meantime, you will be interested to see the attached note which has been received from Spain via the Perpignan office of the U.G.T. With the note came a message from the accused Socialists in Barcelona thanking the Labour Party for its assistance.

For your information I am also enclosing a copy of the appeal letter which has gone out over the signature of Mr. Morgan Phillips to Constituency Parties. A similar letter is going to affiliated Trade Unions from Mr. Padley and Mr. Watson. You will be glad to know that the National Executive Committee has agreed to advance funds for publication of a four-page leaflet, which is in course of preparation. No further news has been received concerning the date of the trials in Spain.

Yours sincerely,

DAVID ENNALS

Secretary.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS: "LABREPCOM, SOWEST, LONDON."

TELEPHONE: VICTORIA 9434

THE LABOUR PARTY

TRANSPORT HOUSE, SMITH SQUARE, LONDON, S.W.1.

HON. TREASURER:
RT. HON. ANEURIN BEVAN, M.P.

SECRETARY:
MORGAN PHILLIPS

NATIONAL AGENT:
A. L. WILLIAMS

24th February, 1959.

Spanish Democrats Defence Fund
(Sponsored by the Labour Movement)

Dear Colleague,

The next meeting of the Committee of the Spanish Democrats Defence Fund will be held at the House of Commons, in Committee Room 5 booked in the name of Mr. Padley, at 5.30 p.m. on Monday, 2nd March, 1959.

The Agenda will be as follows:

1. Minutes. (Previously circulated.)
2. Matters arising.
3. Report on developments in Spain.
4. Secretary's report.
5. Visit of Messrs. Pascual Tomas and Martinez Dasi, General Secretary and Executive Member of the U.G.T. on March 19th.
6. Any other business.

I hope you will be able to attend.

Yours sincerely,

DAVID ENNALS

Secretary.

Issued by The Labour Party Press and Publicity Department
Transport House, Smith Square, London, S.W.1. 5.2.1959.
Phone: VICTORIA 9434 Secretary: ARTHUR BAX.

SPANISH DEMOCRATS DEFENCE FUND

(Sponsored by the British Labour Movement)

As a result of the wave of arrests of Spanish Socialists and trade unionists in November last year, and the charges which have now been preferred against them by the Franco Government, the Labour Movement in Britain has taken the initiative in launching a Spanish Democrats Defence Fund. This follows a protest made by the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party in December against the arrests and the nature of the charges and the decision of the Executive to appoint an observer to attend the trials whenever they are held.

The Spanish Democrats Defence Fund has as its Chairman Mr. Walter Padley, M.P., President of the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers, and a member of the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party. The Committee also includes Mr. Geoffrey de Freitas, M.P., Mr. Hugh Delargy, M.P., Mr. Sam Watson, Mr. Anthony Wedgwood-Benn, M.P., Mr. Elwyn Jones, Q.C., M.P. Mr. Robert Edwards, M.P., Mr. Ernest Davies, M.P., Mr. George Jeger, M.P., and representatives of Spanish exile organisations in this country. The Secretary is Mr. David Ennals, Secretary of the International Department of the Labour Party. Mr. Peter Benenson and Mr. John Clark are also on the Committee.

The aims of the Committee are to gain the maximum publicity for the situation in Spain, to stimulate protests from organisations and individuals in this country, and to raise funds to assist Socialists and trade unionists and such other victims of political oppression in Spain as the Committee may decide. The funds will be used to contribute towards the costs of the defence, and to assist the families of the defendants.

Contributions should be sent to the Spanish Democrats Defence Fund, Transport House Smith Square, London, S.W.1.

Para D. Manuel IRUJO

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Le incluyo el original de la circular del LABOUR PARTY que me pedia, su traduccion y la traduccion de la hoja adjunta en donde se hablaba de la situacion presente de los presos. El original de esta hoja la guardo por unos dias pues quisiera mostrarla a PALLACH del Moviment Socialista de Catalunya, pues la Oficina de Perpignan de que se habla en la circular es del Moviment y no de la UGT. Le devolvare en cuanto termine con ella. A Biarritz tambien he enviado traduccion de todo.

Saludos

Ramón

THE LABOUR PARTY

TRANSPORT HOUSE, SMITH SQUARE, LONDON, S.W.1.

HON. TREASURER:
RT. HON. ANEURIN BEVAN, M.P.

SECRETARY:
MORGAN PHILLIPS

NATIONAL AGENT:
A. L. WILLIAMS

February, 1959.

To: Constituency and Local Labour Parties, Youth and Women Sections, Labour Members of Parliament and Parliamentary Labour Candidates.

Dear Colleague,

General Franco's constant persecution of Socialists and Trade Unionists in Spain took a new and particularly vicious turn in the autumn of 1958 when a nation-wide wave of arrests took place in which over fifty leading figures in the Socialist Movement were seized by the secret police. The whole operation was carried out in a clandestine manner and most of the prisoners were held incommunicado for many weeks before any kind of charges were preferred against them. In the words of the resolution of protest passed by the National Executive Committee on 26th November, 1958 it was "an outrage against all civilised codes of behaviour".

Those arrested include labourers and factory workers as well as many people from the professional classes - doctors, lawyers, university professors and teachers. A few of these professional people have been released and placed under house arrest but most of the victims are still in prison. Many of them, particularly the workers and trade unionists, have suffered brutal treatment at the hands of the police. Such "charges" as have now been preferred include accusations of "Socialist leanings" and "expressions of anti-Government opinions" and are in themselves a further outrage against all legal standards accepted in the free world.

In response to urgent appeals from the Spanish Socialist Party in exile a Committee has been set up on the initiative of the Labour movement to raise funds to aid these latest victims of Franco's tyranny. The Chairman is Mr. Walter Padley, M.P. and the members include: Mr. Anthony Wedgwood Benn, M.P., Mr. Ernest Davies, M.P., Mr. Hugh Delargy, M.P., Mr. Robert Edwards, M.P., Mr. Geoffrey de Freitas, M.P., Mr. George Jeger, M.P., Mr. Elwyn Jones, Q.C., M.P. and Mr. Francis Noel-Baker, M.P. Mr. Sam Watson is the Hon. Treasurer and Mr. David Ennals is the Secretary. Exiled Spaniards are giving their support.

Money is urgently required both to care for the families of the imprisoned men and to pay for legal observers to attend their trials. The presence of observers at previous trials has almost invariably caused a lessening of the sentence imposed. In addition our Spanish comrades require funds to replace equipment and material seized by the police in order to pursue their courageous underground struggle.

On behalf of the Committee I wish to appeal to you and your colleagues to help us in this direct action to aid our friends in Spain. Through the fund you can contribute in a practical way to the success of those who are determined to restore freedom and democracy to the Spanish people.

We feel sure that Socialists throughout Britain will be proud to give generously in support of this appeal. Donations should be sent to the Treasurer, Spanish Democrats Defence Fund, Transport House, Smith Square, London, S.W.1. Cheques and Money Orders should be crossed and made payable to the fund.

The Committee will greatly appreciate any help that you can give.

Yours fraternally,

MORGAN PHILLIPS

Secretary

Querido colega: La constante persecucion del General Franco de Socialistas y de Sindicalistas en España, tomo en otoño de 1959 una nueva y ~~de~~ maligna intensidad operandose por toda la nacion una ola de detenciones en la que mas de cincuenta destacadas figuras del Movimiento Socialista ~~han sido detenidas~~ cayeron en manos de la policia secreta. Toda ~~de~~ la operacion se realizo de forma clandestina y la mayor parte de los detenidos guardados incomunicados durante muchas semanas antes que alguna especie de acusacion fuera levantada contra ellos. Como lo dijo el Comite Ejecutivo Nacional, en su resolucion de protesta aprobada el 26 de Noviembre de 1958, fue "ultraje contra todas las formas civilizadas de conducta."

"Entre los detenidos ~~se encuentran~~ hay jornaleros y trabajadores ~~de las~~ industriales como ~~mas~~ varios otros de clases profesionales: medicos, abogados, profesores universitarios y maestros. Unos cuantos de estas personas de clases profesionales han sido puestas en libertad y se hallan vigiladas en sus domicilios pero la mayoria de los detenidos continuan en prision. Muchos de estos particularmente los obreros y sindicalistas han sufrido un tratamiento brutal a manos de la policia. Las "acusaciones" que ahora han sido levantadas contra ellos son ~~de tipo de~~ "tendencias Socialistas", ~~de~~ de "expresar opiniones contra el Gobierno", ~~de~~ que dicen bien del ultraje cometido contra todas las normas juridicas aceptadas en el mundo libre.

"En respuesta a los urgentes llamamientos hechos por el Partido Socialista Espanol en el exilio un comite ha sido establecido por iniciativa del Movimiento Laborista para albergar fondos para ayudar a estas recientes victimas de la tirania de Franco. El Presidente es Mr. Walter Padley, Membro del Parlamento, y entre los miembros se hallan: Mr. Anthony Wedgwood Ben, M.P.; Mr. Ernest Davies, M.P.; Mr. Hugh Delargy, M.P.; Mr. Robert Edwards, M.P.; Mr. Geoffrey de Freitas, M.P.; Mr. George Jeger, M.P.; Mr. Elwyn Jones, Q.C. M.P.; y Mr. Francis Noel-Baker, M.P.; Mr. Sam Watson es el Hon. Tesorero, y Mr. David Ennals es el Secretario. Españoles exilados nos envian su adhesion.

"Son necesarios urgentemente fondos tanto para cuidar de las familias de los encarcelados como para abonar a observadores juridicos a que asisten a los juicios. La presencia de observadores en juicios anteriores casi invariablemente ha tenido por

resultado el que se han impuesto penas menos duras. Y además, nuestros colegas españoles requieren fondos para reemplazar el material cogido por la policía, y así continuar en su valerosa lucha clandestina.

"En nombre del Comité deseo encarecerle a Vd. y a los suyos a que nos ayude en esta acción de ayuda directa a nuestros amigos en España. ~~Este~~ Este fondo ~~continúa~~ ~~de una forma práctica~~ le permitira contribuir de forma practica al exito de los que estan empeñados en restaurar la libertad y la democracia al pueblo de España.

"Estamos seguros de que los Socialistas de la Gran Bretaña se sentirán orgullosos de responder generosamente a este llamamiento. Los donativos deben ser enviados al Tesorero del Fondo de Defensa de Demócratas Españoles, Transport House, Smith Square, London S.W.1 Los cheques y ordenes ~~de pago~~ de pago deberán ser cruzados y hechos pagaderos al Fondo.

"El Comité apreciara hondamente toda ayuda que puedan prestar

Fraternalmente,

Morgan Phillips, Secretario

SPANISH DEMOCRATS DEFENCE FUND COMMITTEE

Minutes of Inaugural Meeting

Monday, 2 February, 1959 at 5 p.m. at House of Commons

1. Present

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Mr. P. Benenson | Mr. J. Balbontin (Spanish Left Wing
Republican Party) |
| Mr. E. Davies, M.P. | Mr. F. Decozar) (representing Mr. Garcia) |
| Mr. G. de Freitas, M.P. | Mr. B. Duarte) (P.S.O.E. & U.G.T.) |
| Mr. R. Edwards, M.P. | Mr. J. Hickman (Basque Delegation) |
| Mr. G. Jeger, M.P. | Mr. M. Irugo (Basque Nationalist
Party) |
| Mr. W. Padley, M.P. | Mr. P.M. Volto (Catalan Socialist
Movement) |
| Mr. D. Ennals | |
| Mr. J. Clark | |

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. H. Delargy, M.P., Mr. A. Wedgwood Benn, M.P., Mr. F. Elwyn Jones, Q.C., M.P., Mr. F. Noel-Baker, M.P. and Mr. S. Watson, all of whom had agreed to help.

3. Action of the National Executive Committee

Mr. Ennals outlined the action already taken by the National Executive Committee, including the formal protest made to the Spanish Ambassador, the decision to finance the visit of an observer to the trials, and the circular sent by Mr. Morgan Phillips to Constituency Parties.

4. Establishment of the Committee

It was agreed to establish a body to be called the Spanish Democrats Defence Fund (Sponsored by the British Labour Movement). It was further agreed that the Committee and the Fund should be concerned with the defence of Socialists, trade unionists and such other victims of political oppression in Spain as the Committee might decide. The funds that were to be raised should be to assist the families of the defendants, to contribute towards the costs of the defence, and if necessary to pay fines and securities.

It was agreed that the Committee should consist of the following, with power to co-opt: Mr. P. Benenson, Mr. E. Davies, M.P., Mr. G. de Freitas, M.P., Mr. R. Edwards, M.P., Mr. G. Jeger, M.P., Mr. F. Elwyn Jones, Q.C., M.P., Mr. F. Noel-Baker, M.P. and Mr. W. Padley, M.P. Representatives of Spanish exile organisations would be invited to attend all meetings as observers, and the assurances that they would assist the work of the Committee in every way were gratefully received.

5. Officers of the Committee

Mr. Walter Padley, M.P. was elected Chairman of the Committee, and it was agreed to invite Mr. Sam Watson to be the Hon. Treasurer. Mr. David Ennals was elected Secretary. It was noted that the Secretary had written to Earl Attlee and Mr. James Griffiths, M.P. inviting them to act as sponsors and that so far Mr. Griffiths had replied in the affirmative. The Secretary was asked to approach Earl Attlee once again.

6. Activities

It was agreed to approach the Labour Party to ask whether they would make an advance of funds to the Committee to enable a four-page leaflet to be prepared for the information of Constituency Parties and others. An appeal letter should also be prepared for distribution to C.L.P.s, trade unions and the press.

It was agreed that if the trials were long delayed the Committee should consider arranging for a Member of Parliament to visit Spain and if possible visit some of those under charge. It was noted that a delegation of two representatives of the U.G.T. - Mr. Tomas and Mr. Duase - would be in London on March 19th and it was agreed that if possible a meeting should be held in the House of Commons at which these delegates could be present in order to spread further information about the developments in Spain.

It was noted that a deputation from the Congress for Cultural Freedom was to call on the Spanish Ambassador on the following Thursday, and the Secretary was asked to contact the deputation to see if the Committee could be represented. It was agreed that Messrs. Bob Edwards and Ernest Davies should represent the Committee if called on to do so.

It was agreed that all information concerning developments in Spain should be sent to the Secretary in order that information could be disseminated from one source.

C O P Y

THE LABOUR PARTY

Transport House Smith Square London S.W.1.
Telephone: Victoria 9434
Telegrams: Labrepcom Sowest London

Secretary: Morgan Phillips
Hon Treasurer: Rt Hon Aneurin Bevan MP
National Agent: A L Williams

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28th January, 1959.

Mr. J. Hickman,
Basque Delegation,
39 Victoria Street,
S.W.1.

Dear Mr. Hickman,

I believe that Peter Benenson has already spoken to you about the meeting to be held at the House of Commons on Monday next, February 2nd, at 5.30 p.m. I gather that this date is convenient to you and the others who have been asked to serve on the Committee. I am enclosing a number of copies of the Agenda and should be grateful if you would circulate them to your colleagues. I understand from Peter Benenson that you are arranging all to meet together in the Central Lobby of the House before proceeding to the meeting in Room 5.

I look forward to seeing you on Monday.

Yours sincerely,

(David Ennals)
Secretary,
International Department

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS: "LABREPCOM, SOWEST, LONDON."

TELEPHONE: VICTORIA 9434

THE LABOUR PARTY

TRANSPORT HOUSE, SMITH SQUARE, LONDON, S.W.1.

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HON. TREASURER:
RT. HON. ANEURIN BEVAN, M.P.

SECRETARY:
MORGAN PHILLIPS

NATIONAL AGENT:
A. L. WILLIAMS

28th January, 1959

Dear Colleague,

The meeting which has been called for Monday next, February 2nd, 1959 at 5.30 p.m. to consider action to be taken in this country following the recent wave of arrests in Spain will be held at the House of Commons in Room 5, booked in the name of Mr. Walter Padley, M.P.

I give below the proposed Agenda:

1. Report on action taken by the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party
2. Proposal that a Committee be established and election of Chairman
3. Consideration of terms of reference of the Committee and the scope of its activities
4. Financial appeal
5. Date of next meeting

Yours sincerely,

DAVID ENNALS

Secretary,
International Department

"SPANISH DEMOCRATIC DEFENCE FUND"

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Presidente: Mr. Walter Padley, M.P.

Secretario: Mr. David Ennals. (no es Diputado.)

(El Secretario del Sr. Ennals sabe muy bien el frances)

Todo se les puede enviar a la dirección siguiente :

Mr. Walter Padley, M.P.
The Labour Party,
Transport House,
Smith Square,
LONDON, S.W.1.

También se le puede enviar
noticias a la dirección de
House of Commons, London, S.W.1.

Hon. Treasurer,
Rt. Hon. Aneurin Bevan, M.P.

Secretary: Morgan Phillips