

13 July 1968

STATES
TELEGRAM SENT BY THE BASQUE DELEGATE IN THE UNITED STATES TO U THANT, SECRETARY
GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

31

0
" SPANISH GOVERNMENT HAS APPLIED TODAY BRUTAL MEASURES OF REPRESSION IN
SAN SEBASTIAN, CAPITAL OF THE BASQUE PROVINCE OF GUIPUZCOA, IN ORDER
TO IMPEDE PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION BASQUE DEMOCRATS TO COMMEMORATE
OF THE PROCLAMATIONS OF UNITED NATIONS THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF
HUMAN RIGHTS STOP PETITION SIGNED BY MORE THAN 7,000 PERSONS
REQUESTING OFFICIAL AUTHORIZATION FOR DEMONSTRATION HAD BEEN
BEEN PRESENTED TO THE PROVINCIAL CIVIL GOVERNOR STOP ON BEHALF
OF THE BASQUE GOVERNMENT WE PROTEST ENERGETICALLY AGAINST THIS
TOTALITARIAN DENIAL OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND REQUEST
YOUR EXCELLENCY INFORM ABOUT THESE FACTS TO THE U.N. COMMISSION
ON HUMAN RIGHTS STOP RESPECTFULLY - CIPRIANO DE LARRAÑAGA, BASQUE
DELEGATE IN THE UNITED STATES.

Basque Delegation, 201 West, 201 Street, New York, N.Y. 10011 . Tel:(202) 675-4464

13 July 1968 - 7:00 p.m.

*Saral R1110
#3*

32

STATEMENT BY THE BASQUE DELEGATE IN THE UNITED STATES

NEW YORK.- Mr. Cipriano de Larrañaga, Delegate of the Basque Government in the United States, has issued today the following statement:

"Press reports indicate today that the Spanish Government has taken strict measures and has concentrated great numbers of riot and other police forces in San Sebastian, capital of the Basque Province of Guipúzcoa, in order to impede a peaceful demonstration to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the proclamation, by the United Nations, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. A petition, subscribed by more than 7,000 persons (mainly lawyers, physicians, engineers, priests and members of other liberal professions) had been presented to the Provincial Civil Governor requesting official authorization to hold such demonstration. The request was denied. It is ironic that the Spanish Government, member of the United Nations, should take such repressive measures against the Basque democrats who only wanted to express publicly their adherence to the principles of respect for human rights proclaimed by the United Nations.

On behalf of the Basque Government, we have sent today a telegram to Secretary General U Thant protesting against the totalitarian behavior of the Spanish Government and requesting him to inform about these facts to the United Nations' Commission on Human Rights.

We have also received reports that there have been Anti-American demonstrations in San Sebastian on the occasion of the International ~~Film~~ Film Festival held there this week. Unfortunately the policy followed by the American Government - for whatever reasons - in open support of the present Spanish regime has generated this popular hostility towards the United States. Nowhere is it more necessary today than in Spain to make a clear distinction between Government and people. We ~~hope~~ ^{hope} that the American Government will keep this fact in mind during the negotiations on the renewal of the agreements about U.S. naval and air bases in Spain, which are going to start next

Monday, July 15, in Washington/with a meeting
between the Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Fernando María de Castiella, and Secretary of State Dean Rusk.

We appeal to the public opinion of this country because we are convinced that the continuous support given by the American Government to Franco's regime is very detrimental, in the present circumstances in Spain, both to the United States themselves and the cause of freedom and democracy in general. Only the Communists benefit from it".

BASQUE DELEGATION, 201 West, 21st Street, New York, N.Y. 10011. Tel: (202) 675-4464