



The Volunteer

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Franco's last days

Editor's Note: This article was written and went to press shortly before Franco's death.

By **ROBERT G. COLODNY**

The corpse of Generalissimo Franco is being kept pulsating by an array of machines and a phalanx of doctors. For some weeks now, workmen have been quarrying in the granite bowels of the Valley of the Fallen preparing for the entombment. The most recent victims of the Regime, butchered by the orders of Franco's would-be successors have been buried, but not without a response from Europe

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As we go to press further confirmation of the repression in Spain is the arrest of Marcelino Camacho and Fr. Francisco Garcia Salve, two of the Carabanchel 10, released on an amnesty only the week before by King Juan Carlos de Borbon.

Camacho and 2 freed

Early on a Sunday morning, November 30, shortly after midnight, Marcelino Camacho Abat, 57-year-old organizer of Spanish Workers' Commissions, was freed from Carabanchel prison, just outside Madrid. Two other members of the "Carabanchel Ten", Nicolas Sartorius Alvarez, a 37-year-old journalist and Juan Marcos Muniz Zapico, a 37-year-old metallurgist, were released at the same time.

They were freed under a decree signed by Juan Carlos on November 25, the so-called amnesty decree granting a limited pardon to political and common-law prisoners.

Later in the morning the three men appeared at a news conference in Madrid where they demanded full amnesty for all political prisoners and declared they would help promote a "nonviolent" campaign in the streets, in the factories, and in the schools, to achieve that end. In reply to questions, they said that it is expected that only a fraction of the 260 political prisoners believed to be held in Carabanchel would be freed and that only a few hundred of the estimated thousands imprisoned throughout Spain, would be released.

Commenting on these developments, Steve Nelson, National Commander of the Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, declared that Camacho's release" while welcomed as a victory for the Spanish people and for the democratic forces of the world, falls far short of the demands put forward by the anti-fascist opposition, to free all political prisoners now serving sentences or awaiting trial.

He recalled that when the news of the arrest of Camacho and those imprisoned with him became known, it was the ever-growing pressure of the anti-Franco opposition within Spain and among the democratic

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Action on 'treaty' front

As the struggle in Spain heats up, the danger of U.S. intervention, overt or covert, becomes more acute. While the "Junta Democratica" reaches out to the "Plataforma" to create a solid front against the rightist terror and for a democratic Spain, certain foreign forces usually identified with the CIA are busily engaged in labeling the "Junta" communist, and the "Plataforma" socialist or democratic. Though such descriptions are by themselves of no importance inside Spain, they usually presage a course of active intervention and the descriptions are made in order to prepare our population to accept still another interference in a "sovereign" country.

People in this country are disgusted with such acts, not only because they cost the U.S. taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars, but because our government always winds up supporting the most reactionary regimes.

It is against this background that vets throughout the country together with those opposed to a continuation of Francoism without Franco, have been organizing meetings, speaking on radio and TV being interviewed, issuing news releases - in a general effort to reverse U.S. policy in Spain. In addition, some vets have carried out an effective lobby in Washington.

Here are some of the details:

Saul Wellman organized a series of meetings in the Detroit area attended by hundreds of people. He has been interviewed extensively by the Detroit Free Press. He has set up a committee which is prepared to supply speakers, design and publish material, distribute the material and pay for it! They have purchased a print of "Dreams and Nightmares" for widespread distribution.

Chicago, too, has its own print in circulation.

Morris Stamm in Cleveland has

been distributing copies of the "Spain Transcript" to key people (see review elsewhere in this issue).

The Boston Globe ran a feature article on Juan Carlos by Prof. William Braacch Watson of M.I.T.

The West Coast's activities are reported elsewhere but their lobbying successes are not. "Gabby" Abe Osheroff and Frieda Wolff have kept constant pressure on Sen. Tunney and as a result he introduced Resolution 295 (now referred to committee) which demands that any agreement with Spain be presented to the Senate for ratification as a treaty. This would require a two-thirds vote and extensive hearings. Further, Sen. Cranston, Sen. Dick Clark (Iowa) and Sen. Abourezk (So. Dakota) co-sponsored the resolution.

Professor William Watson of M.I.T. and Bill Susman went to the Capitol on various occasions speaking with almost every Senator on the Foreign Affairs Committee or their administrative assistants. They were promised support for the treaty fight by many on the committee.

In New York, Erich Schmidt and Bill Susman had an hour on WBAI. Milt Wolf was heard on WNYC. Newsday carried an interview with Johnny Gates, Larry Cane and Bill Susman. Bill also appeared on NBC's coast-to-coast special on Spain where he was interviewed by Edwin Newman.

Congressmen throughout the country are being visited and asked to vote against any appropriations for bases in Spain. Senators are being asked to vote for the submission of the executive agreements as a treaty and then to vote against the treaty.

CALL FOR JOINT ACTION

A call for joint action by the Democratic Junta and the Platform for Democratic Convergence was addressed to the people of Spain on Oct. 30. It came as the result of lengthy negotiations between the two organizations.

The statement called for "peaceful political action" designed to bring about a "Spanish State of a democratic pluralist character based on the people's sovereignty."

Categorically rejecting the Juan Carlos succession as the continuation of the Franco regime, the two coalitions agreed to take the necessary political steps to reach the following objectives:

"1. Immediate release of all political and labor prisoners and the return of all exiles.

"2. Recognition. . . of all individual rights and political freedoms in accordance with established international law, particularly as regards labor and all political parties without exception.

"3. Immediate granting of effective rights and liberties to the various regions and nationalities and the establishment of their legitimate autonomies.

"4. Implementation of a democratic breakthrough by setting aside a period for popular consultation based on universal suffrage to reach a definitive decision on the form of the State and the Government."

The proclamation ended by expressing the "hope that the various sectors in the country will realize the importance and urgency of a democratic alternative and will cooperate, each in its own way, to assure the peaceful coexistence and progress of all citizens and people of Spain

"To this end the Junta and Plataforma will maintain continuous contact to coordinate their efforts."

1,200 attend Del Vayo memorial

A meeting in memory of Julio Alvarez del Vayo, prime minister of Spain during the Civil War 1936-39, was celebrated at the Community Church in New York City on the evening of November 19th, 1975.

Alvarez del Vayo died, an exile in Geneva, at the age of 84 on May 2 of this year.

The occasion also served as a protest against the United States' foreign policy in support of the fascist regime now headed by Juan Carlos who had been appointed monarch of Spain by his predecessor Generalissimo Francisco Franco.

An audience of 1,200 heard a impressive and moving account of del Vayo's life, socialist ideals and devotion to his homeland by his son Diego del Vayo.

Other speakers were Steve Nelson for the VALB, Erich Schmidt of the United States Committee for Spanish Democracy, Barbara W. Tuchman, historian; Ring Lardner Jr., author; and a young Spaniard, Alexandro Gomez, recently released from the Carabanchel prison.

Arthur. Miller, unable to attend because of illness, addressed the audience by tape.

Ossie Davis was chairman. His pungent and accurately directed comments added to the enthusiastic spirit of the meeting.

Messages in tribute to Alvarez del Vayo and expressing hopes for a democratic Spain were received from President Echevarria of Mexico and I. F. Stone. A poem to the spirit of del Vayo, who was known as the "eternal optimist," was sent by author Kaye Boyle.

John T. Bernard, ex-congressman from Minnesota, the only voice in Congress raised against United States' arms embargo to Republican Spain at the outset of the Civil War, wrote an especially moving tribute.

Senators Adlai Stevenson III, Illinois; Dick Clark, Iowa; and James Aboueszk, South Dakota, sent greetings to the meeting, as did Congresswoman Bella Abzug.

Although diversity of opinion was apparent among the speakers, there was unanimity on two aspects of the Spanish question; that the Juan Carlos regime was created to continue the ultra right policies of

Franco and was incapable of democratic evolution, and that the United States must not interfere on the side of fascism against the democratic desires of the Spanish people.

By strange coincidence, the death of Generalissimo Francisco Franco occurred on the same night as the Memorial to del Vayo.

TERROR REIGNS IN SPAIN

By AL PRAGO

In March, 1941, the first of two articles I wrote analyzing the repression in Spain was printed in The VOLUNTEER.

It is mind-boggling that now, 34 years later, I am writing about that same horror. For more than three decades the Spanish people have suffered fascist oppression, the severity of which has varied from time to time. Now, as the Franco regime is tottering, shaken by the militant actions of a new generation, there has been a rapid escalation in ruthless, legalized terror.

Spain understands that this newest wave of repression is the reaction of a regime which fears that its rule may soon come to an end. It began while Franco was ill but lucid and continues (after his death) with Juan Carlos as the nominal head of state.

In July, 1975 Amnesty International sent a mission to Spain which reported on the tortures of hundreds of political prisoners. The mission concentrated its study on the consequences of the "state of exception~" clamped on the Basque region in April and extended to all of Spain later. Their report (published in September) notes that torture has been and is, prevalent all over Spain since Franco's victory in 1939.

Beatings, whippings and sexual assaults are ancient and standard. New are the uses of refined psychological techniques, electric gadgets, cigarette burns, razor blade cuts in the tongue, drugs, butane-gas blowlamps and other ingenious devices that are the by-products of modern technology and fascist viciousness.

Amnesty provides evidence that women have been systematically humiliated, stripped naked, their pubic hair shaved, their breasts burned. Male and female victims have been subjected to mock executions, beatings with electric cables and mutilation of sexual organs, among other practices.

In October, according to recent reports, the police threw a young woman and a young engineers, who had been severely tortured, out of the window of the Bilbao police headquarters. Both died. The police apparently have been given carte. blanche to commit any excess they want.

Vigilante groups are emerging from the cracks and crevices of the moribund regime, notably the Guerrilleros del Cristo Rey which "operate secretly, in league with the police, and they are violent." Miguel Esquerra (a colonel in Hitler's Waffen SS) is the head of a group called the "Parallel Police." Its members are busy physically attacking members of the oppos-

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Bay Area campaign for Spain

Over 500 people gathered before St Mary's Cathedral in San Francisco on October 11 to protest the execution of five Spaniards by the Franco regime. Mon-signor Flynn of the Commission of Human Rights of the San Francisco Archdiocese, called for an end to the reign of terror unleashed by Franco against the Basque people and an end to the executions.

Then, banners unfurled, placards held on high and to the accompaniment of an inspired four-piece band thumping out Ay! Manuela!, the procession marched four miles along some of the busiest streets of the city passing out some ten thousand leaflets to 3 people who for the most part, kept them to read.

The slogans' "NO GUNS FOR EXECUTIONERS" and "VETO THE MADRID PACT, VETO FRANCO," picked up from the leaflets, echoed along Van Ness and Union Streets to a crescendo before the Spanish Consulate on Baker.

Dr. Manuel of the Democratic campaign Junta, Ms. Marisi, representing the Spanish academicians in the USA, and Frieda

Wolff of the USCDS spoke from the balcony of the Consulate to the crowd which by now closed off the street to vehicular traffic. Expressions of support from Senators Tunney and Stevenson, Congressmen Burton and Dellums, Senatorial candidate Tom Hayden and others, were greeted with warm applause.

An effigy of Franco was set afire at the end (bringing out the Hook and Ladder and other equipment) to chants of "Democracia Si, Franco No." All major TV channels carried the story on both evening and late news broadcasts - NBC, CBS and ABC. In all cases our message came through loud and clear.

The demonstration was organized by the SPANISH DEMOCRATIC ASSOCIATION OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA and the U.S. COMMITTEE FOR A DEMOCRATIC SPAIN. It was sponsored by VALB and 14 other organizations.

SAN FRANCISCO

Three hundred and fifty students, members of the faculty and "towners" on October 29th jammed Wellman Hall at the Davis Campus of the University of California for a showing of DREAMS AND NIGHTMARES sponsored by the Spanish Students Association and USCDS. In spite of an unfavorable "preview" in the school paper it was a standing-room-only crowd that cheered the film and stayed for hours afterwards asking questions and exchanging opinions with representatives of the Spanish Student Association and Milt Wolff, who appeared for VALB.

Frieda Wolff, as always, spoke movingly of the situation in Spain and the work of USCDS. Over one hundred signatures were obtained on the petition calling for nullification of the Madrid Pact. Many more petitions and leaflets were taken by some of the students who committed themselves to further work for a democratic Spain.



San Francisco demonstrates against Franco terror. Over 500 pickets before the Spanish Government Commercial Office in the center of the city, created such crowds of on-lookers that traffic in the vicinity was interrupted.

DMU for amnesty

The Spanish armed forces are no longer the monolithic mainstay for the Franco regime they constituted only a few years ago. They too have been affected by the pervasive climate of anti-Francoism in Spain. There now exists an anti-Franco movement in the armed forces known as the Democratic Military Union.

This development was revealed in recent months following recurrent reports of arrests of military officers for "sedition". The regime has so far admitted the arrests of twelve, ranking from major down. Opposition sources say at least 60 have been arrested to date. Several hundred officers are under investigation for their possible disloyalty to Franco and his government.

The fullest account of the D.M.U. was given in Paris recently by an Air Force Captain Jose Ignacio Dominuez, for whose arrest a warrant had been issued while stationed at a NATO air base in Turkey.

"The DMU", Capt. Dominguez told the news conference "only takes in professional military officers, captains and majors for the most part. It is an autonomous movement with no direct political affiliations. We have, however, established contacts with the Democratic Council of Spain and the Democratic Convergence Platform group. We favor coordinated, united action by a common organization of the opposition forces."

The DMU, he stated, has a program with two main points, national and professional. The first point concerns the reestablishment of democratic rights in Spain which, he stressed, include labor rights.

The DMU seeks a general political amnesty, democratic elections, and a number of socio-economic reforms

"aimed at a more just distribution of wealth," as well as convocation of a Spanish Constitutional Assembly and respect for Spain's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The second point of the DMU program, he said, is the "professional" one and concerns reorganization of the Spanish armed forces, including promulgation of a military law code defining the rights and duties of the armed forces, and of their officers, noncommissioned officers and enlisted men.

He said Spain's military officers bitterly resent being used to maintain a minority in power".

The DMU, largely liberal and monarchist in political complexion, is thought to include more than 1,000 active members. These are mainly captains and majors, as was the case with the Portuguese AFM.

West European journalists estimated recently that about one quarter of the entire Spanish officer corps is either in the DMU or has sympathetic contact with it.

Many officers beyond the DMU, are incensed at the involvement of the armed forces in the September 27 execution of five young anti-fascists by the Franco regime. As one young officer complained to a reporter of *Le Monde*, the Paris daily. "they are trying to involve the Army in their own dirty business".

As regards Juan Carlos, the officer said: it is a question for the people to decide. We think that under present conditions he is an integral part of the Francoist regime. In other words, we cannot support him so long as he has not been democratically elected."

Cardinal calls for total democracy

MADRID, Nov. 11 - Cardinal

Vicente Enrique y Tarancon, Spain's leading prelate, demanded democratic rule in the country in a Sunday address shortly after the secret police arrested the chief editor of Spain's biggest Catholic newspaper "Ya."

The Cardinal said 'uniformity,' the word he uses to refer to one-man rule, "is against nature. It is incompatible with liberty." He went on to call for a democratic state that would permit participation by all Spaniards.

Some observers took this call to be intended as a rebuke to some elements in the opposition, such as rightist Christian Democrats, who are pushing for a post-Franco government to include all political groups with the sole exception of the Communists.

Roman Catholic priests in Spain are charging Franco with creating a "climate of fear" in the country. In a document signed so far by 832 priests and still being circulated for further signatures, the Franco regime was accused of using torture and harsh repression against its opponents.

Basques favor

BILBAO, Nov. 8 - The Provisional Commission of the Basque Democratic Assemblies, representing all the three Basque provinces, has proclaimed its adherence to the recent joint statement of the Democratic Junta and the Democratic Platform of Convergence.

In its statement, the Basque group called for the unity of all the opposition forces in Spain, including those from the national minorities, noting that their demands, such as national autonomy, are included in the opposition platform.

New York Post elects officers

Over fifty vets, wives and widows attended the meeting of the New York Post on Sunday, Nov. 9. This gathering completed the organization of the post with the election of officers and executive board.

The new officers are: Commander - Jack Bjoze; Vice Adj. Commander - Felix Kusman, Secretary - Jim Persoff, Treasurer - Moish Breier.

The main feature of the meeting was an extensive report by Leonard Lamb on the situation in Spain and the tasks of American supporters of Spanish democracy. He detailed the latest developments of the fight against the Madrid Pact which the administration now plans to submit to Congress for approval and outlined plans for the further campaign against the Pact under the new circumstances.

During discussion Moe Fishman described the danger to the lives of the political prisoners from the fascist terrorist gangs. These have invaded the jails and told the prisoners "You will die the day after Franco dies."

Various measures for the defense of the political prisoners were projected. One is to move to enlist the intervention of the International Red Cross on behalf of the threatened prisoners. A resolution demanding the assurance of the prisoners' safety was passed and sent to the Spanish authorities and the U.S. State Dept.

Helen Kusman, who attended the International Womens Year Congress in Berlin, brought greetings to VALB from the German International Brigaders. The message was signed by Kurt Holfer, Executive secretary of their organization.

The Reform Democratic Association of Great Neck, Long Island, N.Y. recently went on record against the U.S. bases in Spain. The R.D.A. is an influential organization in the Democratic Party in the area.

The resolution adopted at the October meeting of its membership, concludes:

"We urge our representatives in the Senate and House to vote against the continuation of our bases in Spain and to vote against the funding of such bases and, pending such action, we further urge a concurrent resolution of the Congress that will bar the intervention of any U.S. troops in Spain in any civil strife which may occur.

Cleveland in the news

By Morris Stamm

The September issue of the "Cleveland Magazine" (circulation 25,000) carried a four-page article and pictures of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, featuring Salaria Kee and John O'Rielly, who now lives in Akron. She was the only Black nurse in Spain and John was an Irish volunteer who ended up in the Lincoln-Washington battalion.

On Oct. 10 a letter to the editor, written by this writer, appeared in the "Plain Dealer" with ~a 3-column head. This paper is the largest in Ohio with a circulation of over one-half million. The letter dealt with U.S. involvement and the danger of intervention, asking for the removal of American servicemen and CIA agents and for a Democratic Spain.

We sent out letters to the area Congressmen and Senator Glenn which included copies of the fine

"Nation" editorial of Oct. 11 and a copy of the letter to the "Plain Dealer" mentioned above with a cover letter dealing with a few new developments in Spain and asking for an appointment in their home offices. Topic Spain, our involvement and the Pact.

I have been invited to speak on or about Jan. 20 at Ohio State University with a showing of "Dreams and Nightmares."

**Elinor Stamm, VALB
Rep. at World Congress**

Elinor Stamm, of Cleveland, wife of our Vet Morris Stamm, and in her own right an indefatigable fighter for Spain, attended the recent World Congress of International Womens' Year in Berlin (GDR). A member of the U.S. delegation, she also carried credentials as an official observer for VALB.

Elinor reports that the anti-fascist women of Spain were represented. After Elinor spoke at the section meeting she was attending, introducing herself as representing VALB, the Spanish delegate present came to her with hugs and kisses.

The Congress included a reference to Spain in its resolution on peace in a section which read, "In this year of the 30th Anniversary of the defeat of fascism, peace-loving public opinion hails with great satisfaction the successes of the democratic and anti-fascist forces in Greece and Portugal expressing our solidarity and support in the struggle they are waging as well as to the Spanish democrats in their fight for fundamental democratic changes"

**39th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF VALB I
SUNDAY AFTERNOON, FEBRUARY 15, 1976**

**STATLER-HILTON HOTEL, NEW YORK CITY
WATCH FOR DETAILS**

A shout of triumph

By LLOYD L. BROWN

Like millions of people around the World, my fellow-soldiers at a U.S. Army Base were overjoyed to hear that Hitler's forces had finally been crushed. Yet whenever I think back to the happy day we Americans called V-E Day, I remember most of all the terrible sadness that overwhelmed me on account of my friend Harry.

Before the war Harry and I were the closest of friends. Indeed, although Harry was white and I am Negro, it could be said that we were brothers. Our kinship was based upon a common outlook that inspired us to become militant anti-fascists and take part in struggles that eventually landed us in neighboring prison cells.

Conservative elements in our country would later refer to Americans like us as "premature anti-fascists." Several years before the United States got into the war against the Axis Powers, Harry "prematurely" took up arms against the fascist enemy. He went to Spain as a volunteer soldier in the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, half of whose men gave their lives in the desperate struggle to make Madrid the tomb of fascism.

By some miracle Harry survived, though his thin body had been stitched across by machine-gun bullets. When he came home and I saw the row of scars on his narrow chest and back where the bullets had entered and left. I kidded him by saying: "Harry, no wonder you were not killed - you're so skinny there was nothing to get hit!" His answering smile was more like a crooked grimace, because one of the bullets had in fact hit something solid. It had

smashed his lower jaw.

Then when our country entered the war and Harry was found to be physically unfit for army service, he promptly joined the merchant marine. Since he knew that the main blows against the German fascists were being delivered by the armed forces of the Soviet Union, Harry volunteered to serve with an American convoy carrying war supplies to Murmansk. His ship was torpedoed and this time there was no miracle. Harry's frail body could not withstand the cruel wind and sea, and he died on the life raft on which his shipmates survived. . .

We were celebrating late into the night of V-E Day when suddenly, louder than the singing and shouting that filled our barracks, a scream of sorrow seemed to burst within me and I ran out into the darkness. You did not live to see it end I ran stumbling across the fields in the stillness of the far reaching airfield. On the shore of that concrete lake I sat down and cried and cried.

As I thought of my lost young friend and tried to bring him back to life in memory, there flashed the image of his crooked smile. Now I had to smile myself at how he would have poked fun at me for my unmanly behavior. Then I sprang to my feet and shouted aloud: "Harry - your side has won!" And I continued to yell out the joyous news until I could shout no more, that our side had won and that Harry and all the others who died in the fight against fascism must be counted among the victors on this day of triumph.

Then, feeling good all over, I ran back to join my fellow-soldiers as they celebrated the end of the war.

(Editorial Note: Lloyd Brown is an old friend of VALB. He is presently writing the comprehensive biography of Paul Robeson. The "Harry" of whom he writes was Harry Steinberg

of Pittsburgh. The above is part of Lloyd's article as it appeared in the Soviet magazine, "Literary Gazette" in its recent issue devoted to the 30th anniversary of the defeat of Nazi Germany.)

SPEAKERS BUREAU

NEW YORK - Recent weeks have seen an upsurge in the activities of the VALB Speakers according to its chairman, Larry Cane. VALB speakers are appearing before audiences in trade unions, colleges and neighbor-hoods. Very often the film "Dreams and Nightmares" is shown as part of the program. This illustrates the widening interest in Spain reawakened by current events and the great pool of latent support for Spanish democracy.

To date our speakers have appeared before such audiences as a teach-in on Spain at the State University of New York at Albany, the N.Y. Public Library O'Donnell Center, The Fur and Leather Workers, District 65 of the Retail Workers, Montclair State College, etc. Audiences have ranged from 75 to 150 and were most responsive. Speakers for VALB included Maury Colow, Hy Wallach, Lenny Lamb, Morris Brier and Tom Lloyd.

In prospect are December meetings, including showings of the film, at a number of colleges such as Hamilton, Washington, Swarthmore, Queens and Syracuse University. Also scheduled are speakers before the Manhattan Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild, Bergen County (N.J.) Committee for Latin American Studies and Local 1199, Drug and Hospital Workers.

Note: Speakers can be obtained by request to VALB Speakers Bureau, Rm. 239, 799 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10003.

Labor assails Madrid Pact

The 40th National Convention of the United Electrical Workers (U.E.), recently held in San Francisco, took a strong stand against the Madrid Pact. This stand was expressed in a resolution entitled "International Trade Union Unity"

In regard to Spain the resolution states:

"WHEREAS: U.S. corporations continually seek to protect foreign regimes which support them in the oppression of working people employed in runaway plants from the United States. This is seen in Spain where in response to union organization and strikes at GE, Westinghouse, ITT and other foreign owned plants there have been mass arrests of labor leaders,

RESOLVED: That this convention urge the State Department to cancel the Madrid Pact, to pressure the Franco government of Spain to free the jailed unionists, and express its sympathy with the Spanish workers fighting for the right to organize trade unions. The Franco government uses its military agreement with the

United States to perpetuate fascist oppression of the people and as a continuing threat of U.S. intervention against rising democratic struggles there.

After condemning Franco's September executions and the U.S.-Madrid Pact, a resolution of the Executive Board, New York District 1199, Drug and Hospital Union, concludes as follows:

"The shameful silence of our government should not be matched by the silence of the American people. Therefore, we in District 1199 condemn the Ford Administration's silence on the Franco terror and its continued support of a bankrupt and dying Franco regime.

"We call on 1199 members to press their Senators and Representatives in the Congress to demand a sweeping change in our government's policy of subverting democracy in Spain with its intervention on the side of the Spanish dictatorship.

"We urge our members who are planning to travel abroad to stay out of Franco Spain.

"And we call upon the AFL-CIO to speak out against our government's policy in Spain."

Teach-in at U. of Minn.

MINNEAPOLIS, Oct. 9 - Several hundred University of Minnesota students packed an auditorium Tuesday to protest the brutal repressions by Franco in Spain. The protest, billed as a teach-in, was organized by Spanish students attending the University and was co-sponsored by the Department of Spanish and Portuguese.

A resolution was adopted urging the United States to withdraw its Ambassador from Spain, cease current negotiations of any kind with Spain, and halt all deliveries of military equipment until democratic rights are given to the Spanish people.

After the teach-in, an effigy of Franco was paraded around the campus and set on fire



A small portion of a picket line of 1,000 supporters of a Free Spain in Los Angeles. Responding to a hurried call of organizations supporting a democratic Spain, among the Committee for Democratic Spain, various Spanish and student groups and VALB, assembled at the City Center to counter a "Columbus Day Celebration" of a small group of France supporters.

Will Carroll, brigade armorer, remembered

Milt Wolff has provided the following story about Will Carroll who died recently.

As armorer for the Brigade, or perhaps only for the Lincoln Battalion, Will Carroll performed miracles with the little he had in the way of whatever it is that Armorers need to keep guns functioning, grenades primed and ammunition dry. He moved the stuff around by truck when one was available and the terrain permitted, otherwise by burro. Though the Lincoln's, during his tenure at least, were often caught short on many things, we were never without enough ammo for such weapons as we had.

When Merriman and Doran came up to the lines somewhere around Villalba de los Arcos to pull the Lincolns out in a doomed race to beat the Fascists to the bridge across the Ebro, we were confronted with a problem having to do with the disposition of the Armory inasmuch as we were totally without vehicles or animals and speed was of the essence.

Carroll led me to the ammo dump, a pile of crates each about five or six feet cubed, stacked about 100 meters from an impressive walled-in hacienda. "Can you blow it, Bill?" "Sure," he replied sadly. "But if I do, it might bring that fancy farmhouse down." "We can't leave it for the Fascists so you have to blow it up. Don't worry about the Casa, no one's in it . . . just don't blow yourself up."

We left him behind to do the job and after a while there was this terrible explosion.

Thirty one years later I ran into Bill Carroll and his wife at a Vets' meeting in Carmel. He was looking forward to retirement and had moved himself and his wife into a camper.



WILLIAM REID CARROLL

The plan was to travel.

We got to talking about the old days and he reminded me of ammo dump, "Milt, when back there together I will lead you right to the spot where I buried the ammo and guns." "What," said I, "you never did. You blew them up." "Heck, no," said he. "I buried them off the road in an embankment not far from the farm house - you remember the farmhouse and I can lead you right to it. I never blew it up because it belongs to the Spanish people and some day they'll need it."

Unless he left a map, I'm going to have to go over that piece of terrain with a mine-detector I plan know Bill won't rest easy until the stuff is in the right hands again.

Fred Shofs, Battalion Q'mstr.

From West Germany in a letter from his wife, comes the sad news that Fred Shofs is dead. Fred was one of the finest, best-known and best-loved comrades in the Brigade.

Fred Shofs was one of those very remarkable men who had had considerable experience fighting Nazism years before he took gun in

hand in Spain. A hunted man in Nazi Germany, he escaped from the Gestapo and eventually made it to the United States where he lived precariously as an illegal alien. Those were the years when anti-fascists, victims of fascism, were labeled by the State Department as "dangerous and undesirable."

Fred, though an able soldier, willingly served as Mess Sergeant for the Lincolns through most of the battles in Spain. Fred understood the importance of food, hot when possible or as un-chilled as he could manage when conditions -such as "THE NORTH POLE" and Hill 666 - were impossible.

Whether careening along shell-pocked roads under artillery fire in an old Matford lorry or balancing canisters on the swaying sides of sweating burros making the steep climb up the Sierra Ca-balls, "The trick," Fred remarked, "was to keep the lids on and heat in. And get there in time, no matter what."

"Getting the chow up" was for Fred a most important contribution to the fight against Franco. After all, "We have plenty of riflemen but how many cooks?" And while the cooking wasn't gourmet, as AO notes in his film, it was as good as that being served at the Hotel Majestic, though with considerable less linen and silver.

Because of his status, we were unable to get Fred back into this country after the war. Along with hundreds of other IB'ers Fred was incarcerated in the Concentration Camps of Southern France and only just managed to escape after the fall of Paris and ahead of the

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Camacho and 2 freed

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elements in other countries that inspired a world-wide campaign for their release.

"We were," Steve said "among the first to help and to cooperate fully with The Committee For The Carabanchel Ten, along with other friends of democracy.

The record shows that at the opening of the trial of the Ten, in December 1973, the following American observers were present: Eric Schmidt, then Secretary of The Committee For The Carabanchel Ten, now Secretary of the U.S. Committee For a Democratic Spain, Ramsey Clark, former United States Attorney General, Henry Foner, President of the New York Joint Board of the Fur and Leather Workers Union, and Henry Giler, West Coast lawyer representing the VALB.

The trial of the Ten opened on December 20, 1973, the day when Franco's Premier, Luis Carrero Blanco, died in an explosion. The defendants were accused of holding an illegal meeting on June 24, 1972, in a convent outside Madrid. For this "crime" they were sentenced to a total of 167 years of imprisonment. Camacho was given a 20-year sentence. Sartorius was given 19 years and Muniz 18 years.

In the wake of tremendous protests from virtually every country in the world, the Spanish Supreme Court, last February, reduced Camacho's sentence to six years. Sentences against Sartorius and Muniz, were reduced to five years and four years and two months, respectively.

American observers were present in Madrid at the time of the Supreme Court proceedings. They included: Paul O'Dwyer, President of the City Council of the City of New York, William Colovito, Secretary-Treasurer of the Iron Workers Local 455, and Eric Schmidt, Secretary of

the U.S. Committee For A Democratic Spain. The delegation presented a petition bearing the signatures of almost 100 prominent Americans, including trade union leaders representing over four million American workers.

A pertinent comment on Camacho's release was made by Henry Giniger of the New York Times. His report noted that "the



MARCELINO CAMACHO

timing of the release, in the middle of a bitterly cold night, was apparently designed to avoid crowds. Even so, about 150 persons, most of them family members were waiting outside the gates."

"Later in the morning," the Times man added, "500 of Camacho's neighbors staged a demonstration outside his house to celebrate his return and demand amnesty for others still behind bars."

Fred Shofs

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SS who came searching out the anti-fascist German Nationals.

Somehow he became part of the underground resistance in France and later on in Germany. After the fall of Hitler and the Allied occupation of a divided Germany, Fred elected to remain in West Germany where he was active in the Trade Union movement and in the Communist Party.

He could have, had he wished, gone to live in East Germany where as an IB'er he would have been honored, received a pension, an important post and so forth. But Fred always opted for the job in which he could make the greatest contribution to the fight against fascism and the work of building a better world. He is missed.

TERROR REIGNS

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ition. Despite repeated protests the police have failed to undertake any counter-measures.

Other vigilante groups include: Centro Espanol de Amigos de Europa (works with the Belgian Rexists and Italian neo-fascists), Cruz Iberica and Defensa Universitaria. In addition to these self-appointed vigilante groups, so called "respectable" right-wing groups, like the Council of Civil War Veterans, headed by Jose Antonio Giron de Velasco, perpetrate similar outrages.

NOTE WELL!

An enormous truth is emerging in the current discussion of Spain on TV and in the press.

A number of TV commentators and newspapermen have flatly declared that the Franco regime was on the verge of falling in 19~5 until the U.S. came to its rescue.

Franco's last days

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that revealed the total moral isolation of the Spanish dictatorship.

It has been reported that on occasion, Franco has attained moments of lucidity. One wonders what goes through his mind, particularly as he sees the rows of bottles of blood that the machines deliver to his veins. Does this vision recall the oceans of blood that were spilled to bring him to power or the thousands of gallons of the blood of the best Spaniards that he shed to keep the regime stable during a "generation of peace."

As he is aware of his own decaying flesh, does he think of the battered bodies produced with macabre regularity by his Guardia Civil and the Brigada Social? Does he remember his comrades-in-arms who remained loyal to the Republic in July of 1936 and who were shot by his orders? Does he remember Julian Grimau?

In the rooms in the El Pardo Palace, where the long rites of necrology have been played out, there is a place for the colonels of the Blue Division who stayed behind to protect Hitler's Bunker in May of 1945. Before the coma set in, did they discuss the glorious days when Franco promised the Fuehrer one million Spaniards? Or did his mind turn to his later guardians, the Americans whose B47s and B50s replaced the Heinkels and Junkers, whose hydrogen bombs, based in Spain proclaimed the benevolent interest of the Eisenhower-Nixon regime in the maintenance of Iberian order, and a benign neglect of the rights of 30 million Spaniards?

In the wings, waits the crown prince Juan Carlos, and a Regency Council and an odd assortment of historical fossils, pledged to retain

the essence of Francoism under the banner of the Bourbons. One can imagine that the installation of the King has been meticulously prepared; that Henry Kissinger and Harold Wilson, Willy Brandt, Rockefeller and a galaxy of other favorites of the American "Intelligence Community" have made their plans. The motif is an orderly and peaceful transfer of power.

There is one disturbing element left out of such a scenario: the Spanish people and their institutions, formed in the terrible gestation period of 35 years: the Junta Democratica, representing a coalition of political tendencies from Monarchist to communist; the Convergencia Democratica which unites Social Democrats and Christian Democrats; the Workers Commissions; the various regional alliances pledged to autonomy in Catalonia, the Basque Country and Galicia; FRAP, etc.

Furthermore, within the traditional social formations of the Country, Army, Church, Business Community, there have emerged powerful factions which have publicly disowned the melancholy past and asserted that the political structure of the post-Franco Spain is to be decided by the sovereign will of the Spanish people, freely expressing itself through political parties and open vote.

It is also clear that there are heavily armed ultra-Rightist groups who are prepared to abort the third Republic in the sanguinary fashion of the Chilean Pinochet, the Greek Colonels and the Brazilian Generals.

Yet, it is also clear that the immediate future of Spain cannot be forecast by references to the

Republic of 1931-1939. The agrarian Spain that the volunteers knew, loved and died for has vanished. Factories have mushroomed in the once-empty valleys of Castile and Aragon. Fiat, Westinghouse, U.S. Steel, General Motors, Gulf, Union Carbide, Volkswagen, Michelin, Pirelli, the industrial giants of Europe and North America have created an industrial Spain and thus a proletarian Spain, a bourgeois Spain. The technocrats, the Opus Dei, are much concerned with the fugitive links to the Common Market. They are willing to pay a price for that expected flow of Capital and dividends - they will probably grant the facade of a constitutional order. Their grandfathers did as much.

The question is: will the Spanish people settle for less than complete control over the wealth of Spain and complete control over the political processes that shape the tone and texture of daily life? It is most likely that, after so much suffering and so many gross betrayals, the working men and women of Spain will not appear as supplicants for their freedom and dignity. They will mobilize in the streets and take it!

As, I had the privilege of writing in the introduction to Arthur Landis' book, Spain: the Unfinished Revolution: "The Revolution of the Spanish people was crushed by domestic and foreign counter revolutionary force; but revolutions arising from the historic experience of an ancient people will reestablish roots in the very earth that temporarily serves as a shroud for the entombed revolutionaries. Such now is the Spanish earth."

November 15, 1975

Robert Colodny is a veteran of Spain and professor of history at the University of Pittsburgh. He has authored several books on Spain, notably "The Struggle for Madrid" and "Spain: the Glory and Tragedy."

"The Spanish people will have the last word"
- "Tziki"

(one of the five executed by Franco Sept. 27, 1975, in his last statement).

Colow writes from Woodstock

Interesting things happen in a small town. People get to know who you are, your background. Invariably, when I hit town to pick up my newspaper, voices call out: "Hey, Maury, Franco's almost dead!!" My friends have been made aware that great changes are taking place in Spain today. when the executions were announced I received many calls:

"What can be done?" Somehow a few individuals decided on applying direct pressure to Iberia Air Lines. Using a free telephone line, they asked Iberia for the next schedule of executions. They claimed to be "execution freaks" and wanted to make reservations accordingly. They felt that this

form of protest would be reported back to Spain, and they might have been right. When I was in New York a few weeks ago I also called Iberia Air Lines with the same approach. The person on the other end exclaimed: "Oh no! What's going on?" So this weird protest was working.

I also got some key personalities to write directly to our local Congressman Matt McHugh. They urged him to vote against funding the U.S.-Spanish base agreement. They urged him to oppose squandering millions of our tax dollars in another last ditch effort to prop up another unpopular fascist regime. On that basis all kinds of people of the political spectrum could react to this issue - and they did. We are now in the process of organizing a delegation - a local councilwoman, a screen-writer, a businessman and artists who will pin him down to opposing the Madrid Pact. A great opportunity exists now that the State Department has agreed to present the issue to Congress. We can really lobby against it on a local level. Our legislators are really sensitive and pay lots of attention to grass roots expression.

Salud, MAURY COLOW

REQUIRED READING ON SPAIN

"The fact that... American-backed

Spanish tyranny is 'an internal matter' for Madrid and no concern of Washington, is a carefully nurtured illusion that has now been destroyed. Doing just that was the task last June of a Washington conference, 'Spain - Implications for U.S. Foreign Policy.' A transcript of the meeting has just been published."

That is how the Nation of Oct. 11, began its editorial on Spain.

The VALB ordered 400 of the transcripts but only 150 were delivered because the demand exceeded the small supply.

Now, a publisher "Greylock," which specializes in academia, is bringing out a soft and hard cover edition simultaneously. The soft cover edition will sell for \$2.95. It contains not only a transcript of the conference, but a position paper on Spain written by Prof. Will Watson.

Participating in the conference were many academic experts such as Bob Colodny (VALB), Gabriel Jackson, Will Watson, Casals and others. Bruce Laingen, Deputy Under-secretary of State responsible for Western Europe, represented the State Department. Three delegates were present from the Junta Democratica de Espana. Congressman Maguire of New Jersey chaired the conference and Ambassador Pedersen moderated. Twenty-five Representatives and 15 Senators sponsored the conference.

Since it took place, the "Transcript" has become a "hot" paper around Washington. Everyone wants it. Copies have been sent to a few of the news media and were quoted from or copied extensively.

Together with the Landis book, "Unfinished Revolution," these two constitute an indispensable library on Spain.

NEW RELEASES (All in Paperback)

"Spain - Implications for United States Foreign Policy" @ \$2.95. See review above.

"Spain - The Unfinished Revolution" - Arthur Landis ~ \$2.95. An historical must.

"Spain Again" - Alvah Bessie @ \$5.00. Bessie Returns.

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