

PCE: Partido Comunista de España

As the conduit for Soviet aid, the Communist Party became the most powerful force in the Republican zone. Its support for the pursuance of the war over the revolution supported by Anarchists, the POUM and others, ensured their enmity, while increasing its membership ten fold between 1936 and 1937.

The PCE's authority increased after the May Events in Barcelona with the replacement of Largo Caballero as PM by Juan Negrin, who allocated several important positions in the Republican government and army to Communists.

In March 1939, the last month of the civil war, Communists fought in vain to defeat the Madrid coup of Segismundo Casado who hoped (also vainly) to negotiate peace terms with Franco.