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**A Hero of the People's Front**

The re-opening of the People's Front Cortes in Valencia on October 1, marked the re-appearance in its sessions of the former Prime Minister of the Spanish government, Portela Valladares, who returned from France together with other bourgeois leaders, such as former Minister of the Interior, Miguel Maura. Valladares is respectfully received in Valencia by the Stalinists and Socialists in the People's Front. Unlike the infamous "Trotskyists," he is, you see, a hero in the struggle against Fascism.

Nevertheless, the same Senor Valladares addressed a letter from Nice, France, on October 8, 1936—that is, in the midst of the civil war—to General Franco.

"To His Excellency Sr. Francisco Franco, Illustrious General and Distinguished Friend:  
 "At the moment when you are invested with the supreme titles of Chief of the New State and Generalissimo of the Armies of Spain, I desire to send you the deepest and sincerest felicitations which the entire nation feels, and to assure you of my fervent wishes for your immense work which should give to our country a future of order, of justice, and of peace, of prosperity and of strength, capable of restoring to it the high place that it must occupy in the

world.  
 "Upon you has fallen the providential mission of realizing a second 're-conquest' of Spain, of saving it from the barbarism, crime and destruction, that has been erected into a system by the Government. One can never invoke against the Fatherland political ideas or the origin of the power; these factors must be subordinated to the position of a means for serving it better. In this terrible hour, I think only of Spain and of you who, by virtue of your exceptional state of intelligence, of calmness, of strength of character and a professional value which finds a precedent only in the finest pages of our history, must transform it.  
 "My age, which I regret today, does not permit me to solicit the honor of being a soldier under your orders; I have no resources for I have been despoiled of everything; by a miracle, I have saved a life which is worth nothing but which hopes for the welfare of the Fatherland which I have served as well as I knew how and could, by maintaining authority and by fighting, without concern for the risk, against disorder and anarchy. Even the most partisan must acknowledge it.  
 "It is with these sentiments that I shall follow, full of emotion, as I have up to now, your magnificent undertaking. I am always at your complete service, your admirer and friend.  
 "Portela Valladares.  
 "P.S.—I have not to this day, October 22, had the opportunity of sending this letter across the frontier by a sure way because of the irregularity of the postal connections with Spain."  
 A photographic copy of this instructive epistle was printed first in the Basque Fascist daily at San Sebastian, Diario Vasco, and on October 8, 1937, and in the Fascist "Bulletin d'Information Espagnole" of the same date printed in Paris.  
 May we ask the attorneys and apologists of the People's Front to answer the indicated question: Why is this Fascist scum received with honor by the Valencia regime and its Cortes while irreproachable revolutionists in Spain are murdered and imprisoned every day by the G.P.U.?

**Roosevelt Makes a Little Gift to New York**

By Sam Marcy

The "peace-loving" President has presented to New York City a gift of \$62,000,000—in the form of an appropriation for the construction of the largest and most powerful super-dreadnaught ever built on this side of the Atlantic.

The occasion for this modest gift was the annual celebration of the "Navy Day", celebrated this year in the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

For the first time in many years the yard held "open house" to some 15,000 visitors, while rabid militarists, professional patriots and munition mongers, from the Assistant Secretary of the Navy down to K.K.K. Harvey vied with each other in showers of praise for our "navy conscious" administration and its President.

**A Symbolic Occasion**

Ass't. Sec'y. of the Navy, Edison, opened the keel-laying ceremonies with the significant remark: "This occasion is symbolic of a new chapter in naval history." And indeed, it is. For the facts surrounding the launching of this sea monster deserve the attention of all militant workers.

The beginning of the construction was originally scheduled for last spring, but was postponed. Among the reasons given, that of "labor trouble" is extremely telling.

It is well known that not every ship-yard is as well adapted technically and geographically for naval construction as is the Brooklyn Navy Yard. But the "man-power" to do the work is not quite as desirable, because it is recruited from a center which is a "hot-bed of radicalism." For, was it not in the New York shipyards that the first repercussions in this country of the French "sit-down" strikes were echoed? Although spontaneous in character and quickly suppressed, it was enough to give the jitters to the officers in charge of the third naval district.

The constant tirades of Rear Admiral Yates Sterling (formerly in charge of the Yard) against "Communism" were not mere rantings. Here was a reactionary who saw in every shipyard worker a potential enemy to this imperialist stronghold. The mil-

itancy and steadfastness of the shipyard workers displayed in their recent strike testifies to this. Nor was the ruthless and bloody crushing of this magnificent strike accidental. Once again, the workers were administered a cruel object lesson in the intimate connection between the police, the courts and the extra-legal terrorist apparatus of the employers. Not until the last worker had been beaten back to work was word again heard of the keeling of the battleship, the North Carolina.

**The "New Chapter"**

A cursory glance at the blue print of the battleship itself, shows why it marks a "new chapter in naval history". The mere fact that it cost \$62,000,000, 30 times the amount of relief given to students throughout the country, is not very significant when compared to its other features. It will take 4 years of steady, uninterrupted activity, and when completed will need 1,500 sailors and only about 80 or 90 officers. It will have nine 16-inch guns, in three turrets, 8 or 10 heavy anti-aircraft guns, machine guns, multiple barreled 11 inch pom-poms, and will have a power plant to produce a speed of from 20 to 30 knots an hour. It will also have the strongest armor ever provided. The North Carolina, when completed, will be nothing but a gigantic "plant afloat". Its 1,500 "workers in uniform" will be a hundred times more exploited and oppressed, than on any conveyor belt or steel furnace. Anyone even casually observing the relations between officers and sailors even in times of peace, knows with what terrible effects the class character of capitalist society is impressed upon the naval structure.

In its October 23 number The Army and Navy Journal we find in an obscure corner that, "while the administration's efforts to reduce expenses—have not curtailed any essential naval activities, the economy axe has hit many places in the navy", notably orders "affecting personnel". Perhaps the officers? But Rep. Costilla's Bill now pending in Congress calls for increases in their pay. Evidently, even in times of "peace" they are after the hides of the sailors.

**A Study in Contrasts**

How the Chinese "Soviets" Were Liquidated

**Yesterday**

"What is the content of our general political line at the present stage of development of the Chinese Revolution? The struggle for every possible timely combination of the revolutionary mass movement in Soviet and non-Soviet China under the uniform leadership of the proletariat to overthrow the rule of the imperialists and their lackeys, the Kuomintang, and establish the power of the revolutionary democratic dictatorship of the working class and the peasantry in the form of Soviets throughout all China."—From the Report of Wang Ming, Chinese representative, to the Thirteenth Plenum of E. C. C. I., December, 1933.

"Our Party is succeeding step by step in converting its slogans that 'the overthrow of the Kuomintang regime is a condition of the successful prosecution of the national-revolutionary war against Japanese and other imperialisms' and that 'the Soviet government and the Red Army of China are the only consistent fighters of the national-revolutionary war' from Party slogans into slogans of the masses."—Wang Ming at the Thirteenth Plenum of the E. C. C. I.

"We know from the history of the struggle of the Communist Party of China that when the opportunists in its leadership, headed by Chen Tshu, counterposed the tactics of the united national front to the task of the class struggle at the critical moment of the revolutionary movement in 1927, when for the sake of retaining a united national front with a part of the national bourgeoisie these opportunists renounced the revolutionary struggle of the working class in defense of their vital interests, renounced the agrarian revolution of the peasantry, renounced the struggle for winning over national-revolutionary armies and for arming the workers and peasants and, finally, rejected an independent policy in regard to our temporary allies... they brought the 1927 revolution to defeat."—Wang Ming at VII World Congress of the C.I., August, 1935.

**Today**

"...it is an absolutely false and unfounded legend spread by pro-Japanese elements that the slogan regarding the creation of an all-Chinese government of national defense means the overthrow of the existing Nanking Central government and the establishment in its place of an entirely new government. It is slander, provocation! At the present time only the Japanese aggressors and their agents are interested in overthrowing the Nanking government. We, Chinese Communists, openly declare that we support the Kuomintang and the Nanking government, and will fight shoulder to shoulder with them against Japanese imperialism."—Wang Ming, writing in the Communist International, Vol. 4, No. 10, Oct. 1937.

"The 'Government of the Soviet Republic of China' dissolved itself today and ordered its armies, large forces that have disturbed China's internal affairs for ten years, to serve Generalissimo Chiang Kais-shek of the Nanking Central Government. In a manifesto the Central Executive Committee of the Chinese Communist Party announced support of and unity with the present Chinese administration. Reorganization of the Communist army as a Nationalist revolutionary army under General Chiang's military affairs commission was announced..."—Associated Press dispatch from Nanking, New York Times, September 22, 1937.

"...for the building of an anti-Japanese national united front the Chinese Communist Party in their telegram to the Kuomintang offered four guarantees: 1. The Soviet Government is re-named the Government of the Special District of China, and the Red Army is renamed the National Revolutionary Army, to be directed by the Nanking Central Government and its Military Affairs Commission; 2. A thorough democratic system is to be practised in the Soviet districts; 3. The plans for the overthrow of the Kuomintang by force of arms are suspended; 4. The confiscation of the land of the landlord is suspended... To say this is the surrender of the Communist Party is... a wilful slander."—From a speech delivered by Mao Tsetung, chairman of the Chinese Soviet Government, published in China Today, September, 1937.

**Committee Urges All Branches To Help In Sales Campaign of 'Case of Leon Trotsky'**

The National Action Committee reminds all comrades and friends of its recent decision to mobilize our entire membership for a concerted, special campaign to popularize "The Case of Leon Trotsky," the record of the Mexican hearings.

The verbatim record of the Mexican hearings is a mighty weapon of revolutionary truth. Not only does it reveal the monstrous frame-up of the Stalinist murder machine in all its ugly nakedness. No less important, it is an annihilating reply to the whole chorus of reactionary bourgeois opponents and disillusioned parlor radicals who identify Bolshevism and the Russian Revolution with the bloody regime of Stalinism.

In addition, "The Case of Leon Trotsky" is a veritable handbook

of revolutionary history, theory, strategy and tactics. All the great problems of revolutionary policy involved in the Russian revolution, bourgeois democracy and proletarian dictatorship, the Spanish Civil War, the Chinese Revolution, the struggle against fascism, bureaucratism in the labor movement and the Soviet state, the defense of the Soviet Union, workers' democracy, the thirteen years' struggle of the Left Opposition, the tactics of revolutionists in the coming war—all these great questions and many others were posed in question form by the Commissioners, and answered illuminatingly by Trotsky. Every party member without exception and every sympathizer should have this book in his library for study and reference.