

Spanish Militants Describe Escape From Barcelona

Bolshevik Leninists Tell of the City's Fall

Escape With Gorkin and Other P.O.U.M. Leaders; Stalinist Police Left Them To Be Slaughtered

SAY FIGHT WILL GO ON

Terence Phelan, special correspondent in France of the "Socialist Appeal," met and talked to leaders of the Spanish Bolshevik-Leninists and the P.O.U.M. (Workers' Party of Marxist Unification) who managed to make a miraculous escape from Barcelona a few hours before the Fascists entered the city. Having barely escaped the executioners of Franco, these Spanish militants now face the constant menace of arrest by the police of Daladier, erstwhile hero of the French People's Front who has recognized Franco's government.

By TERENCE PHELAN
Special to the Socialist Appeal

PERPIGNAN (near the Spanish Frontier), Feb. 16—Deliberately left locked up in prison, at the mercy of Franco's bombers and executioners, and saved only by a daring escape that reads like the wildest adventure story, the POUM leadership and part of the leadership of the Fourth Internationalist Bolshevik-Leninists are temporarily safe in France. They are scattering rapidly for cover before the police bloodhounds of French capitalism, which persecutes them as ruthlessly as did the Stalino-bourgeois government of Spain.

Moving with the greatest caution, this correspondent of the *Socialist Appeal* was able to interview Julian Gorkin, General Secretary of the POUM, and Casanova, courageous Bolshevik-Leninist leader who, since the frame-up arrest of the entire previous leadership of the Spanish section of the Fourth International, has directed the underground work of our Spanish organization.

From comrades Casanova and Gorkin, it was possible to determine that among the known saved are: Manuel Fernandez Grandizo (Muniz), General Secretary of the Spanish Bolshevik-Leninists; "Casanova," his successor; Julian Gorkin, General Secretary of the POUM; Juan Andrade, of the POUM Executive Committee; Pedro Bonet, POUM Trade Union Secretary; "Gironella," POUM Propaganda Secretary (already arrested by the French Police and now in Senlis prison); Wilebaldo Solano, General Secretary of the POUM Youth; Juan Farré, Secretary of the Lerida Province POUM Organization; José Rodes, former POUM "Governor" of Lerida Province; Juan Guer, Secretary of the Gerona Province POUM Organization.

Suddenly the POUMists realized that the two Bolshevik-Leninists were not with them and demanded that they also should be transferred north. Vicente replied that another truck was coming in a few minutes, on which Carlini and Zanon would be placed together with other anti-fascists. It was later learned that almost immediately after the first trucks departure, fascist elements seized the jail.

Andres Nin's Widow Saved At Last Moment

Perhaps in the general disorder, Carlini and Zanon escaped anyway. This happened in other prisons. Commandant Kovacs of the 29th Division, POUM leader, for whom the Stalinists had demanded the death penalty a week before, miraculously managed to escape in the general wild yelling confusion when the fascists opened the Model Prison. The widow of the murdered Andres Nin, arrested ten days before for bravely continuing the issue of the POUM's illegal bulletins, escaped from nothing less than a G. P. U. secret prison. When the young G. P. U. prison officers fled that midnight, an old non-political prison functionary, his simple logic untouched by the fancier Stalinist slanders, released her with the words: "You're a genuine anti-fascist; and these soldiers that are coming here are genuine fascists; so I think maybe I better let you out, eh?"

Northward rumbled the truck with its mixed load of prisoners and guards. "It was a strange relationship on that ride," said Gorkin with a tight-lipped smile. "The guards were armed to the teeth, and we well knew that if we attempted to run for it, they'd shoot us down without a tremor. Yet we were all jammed up together, man against man."

Next day this strange load was deposited in the tiny isolated coastal town of Cadaques.

But Franco's troops were rolling inexorably north; it was obvious that the village of Cadaques would be cut off in a day or so. Their conscientious jailer again started phoning government headquarters in the next town to get a truck for their transport further north.

"Let Fascists Finish Off the POUM Bastards"

On the other end of the wire, the SIM Director, a Stalinist, Garcea, snarled: "No trucks for the POUM leadership; let the fascists finish the bastards off." Vicente was indignant. He had the strictest orders that, whomsoever he had to let go, he must hold on to the POUM prisoners. He was prepared to follow these orders faithfully, but certainly not to leave his prisoners to be butchered by the fascists.

He set out on his own and at last found, at about 2 a. m., a small open truck, and had it brought to the prison gate. Knowing that the fascist prisoners would be released anyway by the entering troops, he paid no attention to them, but hastened to turn loose the International Brigadiers and to get his special prize prisoners off to some jail farther north.

Again the answer from the SIM was the same: "Leave the bastards to be finished off by the fascists."

Three times Vicente made a personal telephone appeal to Negrin himself. Negrin's final remark in hanging up was: "Forget your truck. Keep them there. I don't want even to hear about the POUMists." The situation seemed desperate, for Vicente was equally determined not to free them.

At that moment, on the afternoon of the 28th, there marched up to the improvised prison, in defiance of their officers, the Loyalist garrison of Cadaques, led by a corporal.

"Is it true," their spokesman asked, "that your prisoners are the POUM leadership?" "It is."

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TRAITORS KNIFE SPAIN

ROOSEVELT ASKS LABOR TO FORM NATIONAL FRONT

Political Ambitions, War, Call For Labor Unity
UNITY FOR WAR

In an identical letter to William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, and John L. Lewis, head of the Congress of Industrial Organizations, President Roosevelt this week called upon the spokesmen of the two labor organizations to appoint representatives for a joint meeting to discuss trade union re-unification.

Green announced almost immediately that the A.F.L. had accepted the Roosevelt invitation and appointed a committee of Harry Gates of the Bricklayers, Matthew Wolf of the Photo-engravers and Daniel Tobin of the Teamsters to meet with a similar committee of the C.I.O. Lewis, who left New York for Washington, refused to comment.

Bolstering War Program
Although progressives and militants on both sides of the union conflict have stood from the beginning against the division and for re-unification, they regarded the Roosevelt move, irrespective of its outcome, as a step toward bolstering up the President's domestic and foreign policies. "That Roosevelt is not concerned with trade union unity because it will help consolidate labor's fighting strength, has been demonstrated by him repeatedly, most recently of all by the Des Moines, Iowa, speech of Harry Hopkins, promising big business an end to 'reform' and an eager readiness to serve capitalist interests."

Roosevelt is, however, concerned above all with two problems in so far as the labor movement is concerned:

1. The division in the labor field has adversely affected Roosevelt's political fortunes in several important cases, as was shown in the last elections. Looking toward 1940, Roosevelt is anxious to assure himself of a united union movement in the expectation that it will swing solidly behind his ticket. The split between the C.I.O. and A.F.L. played havoc with Roosevelt's candidates last year, especially in Pennsylvania.

Wants Safety in Rear
2. Similarly, in his plunge towards war, Roosevelt does not want to run the risk of endangering "national unity" behind the war-machine by the existence of division in labor's ranks. A single, solidly and bureaucratically controlled union movement, as the last World War showed, is an essential part of preparing and conducting the war.

Progressives, therefore, while intensifying their campaign for trade union unity on the basis of guaranteed rights for industrial unionism, are on guard against the Roosevelt attempt to corrupt this unity by subverting it to the domestic and foreign political aims of the New Deal gang.

Stalinists Endanger Jobs Of 20,000 at Auto Plant

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)
DETROIT, Feb. 23.—The first reverberations of the faction fight in the auto workers union inside the plants came to an end today when Plymouth men returned to their jobs after a one day strike. This was a typical case of Stalinist mismanagement, involving the jobs of 20,000 workers in the Plymouth, Chrysler and Briggs plants.

The dispute broke in the open when C.I.O. Local 51 demanded that the corporation negotiate only with it and not with the workers walked through a C.I.O. picket line to return to work.

Blow at C.I.O. Prestige
The first test of strength in any plant, the events of the last two days at Plymouth are a heavy blow to the prestige of the C.I.O., which represents the great bulk of automobile workers. It is the same kind of injury Plymouth deal only with the U.A.W.'s rep-

The Support of the Democracies



PRES. AZANA AIDS DEMOCRACIES TO SUPPORT FRANCO

Head of People's Front Quits Paris

NO TERMS ASKED

Arriving at the logical conclusion of their "non-intervention" policy, the British and French governments on Monday extended formal and unconditional recognition to Franco's fascists as the legal government of Spain.

Facilitating this step, President Manuel Azana, who had permitted French Premier Daladier to quote him last week as having declared further struggle was useless, left the Spanish Embassy in Paris to take up residence in an Alpine resort, leaving the Spanish presidency vacant in fact. Under the constitution, his successor would be Martinez Barrio, president of the Cortes who, however, is also in France.

Leaders Saving Own Hides

Both United Press and Associated Press dispatches quoted Loyalist officials as preparing to complete "the single proviso of the armistice said to have been reached Saturday"—removal from Central Spain of some 10,000 Popular Front officials by French and English naval vessels.

In extending recognition, Prime Minister Chamberlain whitewashed Franco's terror against the workers by "noting with satisfaction" Franco's statement "to take proceeding only in cases of those against whom criminal charges are laid."

The single-mindedness of the ruling classes of France and England was shown by the fact that both cabinets voted unanimously for Franco.

They Sought This Goal

For two and a half years the Anglo-French imperialists had steered toward this goal. Two tremendous obstacles had blocked their path:

1. The resurgence of the French working class, beginning with the great revolutionary strike wave of June-July, 1936, coincided with the outbreak of the civil war in Spain. The onward-marching French workers made it impossible for the French capitalist regime to support Franco directly.

But then the Stalinists and Socialists came to the aid of the bourgeoisie, joining in a Blum-Daladier Popular Front government and three succeeding Popular Front cabinets culminating in the elevation of Daladier to the premiership by Stalinist and Socialist votes. The collaboration between the "left" bourgeoisie and the Stalinists and Socialists in the Popular Front enabled capitalists to break the back of the workers' movement. That is why the Popular Front leader, Premier Daladier, was able to smash the recent general strike. With the workers thrown back, the Anglo-French imperialists could safely go over to Franco.

2. Within Spain, the workers and peasants, smashing the fascist uprising and seizing control of the principal cities and provinces in July, 1936, took over the factories and the land, organized workers' militias, and were the real power in Spain. If they continued on this road, establishing a revolutionary government, they would not only wipe out Franco but inspire a new revolutionary wave in Europe.

Stalin's Aid To Chamberlain

How to strangle the Spanish revolution was, therefore, the main problem confronting Anglo-French imperialism. Stalin provided them with the solution. He did for the imperialists what they could not do for themselves. His Spanish apparatus secured an unholy alliance with the Stalinist and Anarchist leaders to persuade

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F.D.R. SPOKESMAN GOES DOWN LINE FOR BIG FINANCE

Following out the rising trend which, during the past six weeks, has set in from every quarter of the Administration, Secretary of Commerce Harry Hopkins, in a speech delivered last Friday at Des Moines, publicly pledged the government to go down the line for big business.

Hopkins' speech had been prepared by a month of careful preparation. Roosevelt's remark in his January 4 address to Congress that \$400,000,000 to \$500,000,000 in

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Los Angeles SWP Pickets Nazi Meet

Complete Details of Demonstration Tell of Militant Action

The following is a more detailed account of the anti-Nazi demonstration led by the Los Angeles branch of the Socialist Workers Party last Wednesday night.

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)
LOS ANGELES, Feb. 23.—Five thousand anti-fascists, responding to the call of the S.W.P. and Y.P.S.L., militantly demonstrated last night before Deutches Haus, and forced a hasty adjournment of the German-Bund meeting celebrating Washington's birthday.

Only a few Nazis were able to break through the picket line to make their way to the front entrance of the meeting hall, running through a curtain of rotten tomatoes and eggs.

The picket line and demonstrators held their ranks firm until the Fascist meeting adjourned, compelling the Nazis to disperse through the rear and side entrances of the hall and to leave under police escort. Several of the uniformed Bund members were hurt as they attempted to leave prior to the time the police guards came to their assistance.

S.W.P. Discovers Plans
Although the German-Bund Rally was called without advance publicity, the S.W.P. discovered the plans one day prior to the meeting and immediately began preparations for the demonstration.

Thousands of leaflets flooded the city, publicity was obtained in all the daily papers, radio news bureaus announced the demonstration, trade unions and unemployed organizations, schools and

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HEARST'S HIRED GANGSTERS SLUG STRIKERS AGAIN

By AL LIEBECK
(Special to the Socialist Appeal)

CHICAGO—For the second time since the beginning of the Newspaper Guild's strike against Hearst's Herald & Examiner and American, hired thugs aided by the police proceeded to smash a demonstration, in front of the Hearst plant on Saturday, February 18.

Some six or more Guildsmen and sympathizers, two of them members of the Socialist Workers Party, were beaten with rubber hose and lead pipes by the Hearst strikebreakers. One of the strikers suffered a fractured skull and the latest reports from the hospital are that he is still unconscious.

After the arrests of pickets the strike leaders decided to lead the demonstrators to Mayor Kelly's office in the City Hall to protest against his cops' actions in siding with the Hearst hoods. After a 3-hour wait at Kelly's office, they decided to leave for the strike headquarters where a mass meeting was held.

At the mass meeting the strike leaders reported on those injured and called upon a striking Guildsman, who was hit across the forehead with a crowbar, to say a few words. This militant young striker offered the only possible solution for winning the strike. He asked for the formation of defense guards to beat down the Hearst thugs whenever they show their faces.