

3rd Year

London, September 1949

No. 1.

EDITORIAL

Open letter to H.M. Secretary for Foreign Affairs, the Right Honourable Ernest Bevin, M.P.

Sir,

You were elected as Member of Parliament and you have your high position, due to having been born in a Country whose democratic principles have not been challenged for centuries. You have a tradition behind you and a background of safety. You, having been born in this country, know that if you are against the Government you can stand up in Marble Arch and shout your head off against it, that if you are in the Government you must allow other people to stand in Marble Arch and shout their heads off against you.

We wonder if you realise what it means to live or to be a citizen of a country where you are not allowed to do this. Do you know what it is, what it means, to be beaten up and slung in a dungeon without trial because you believe in the democratic ideals. You can stand up and sing the Red Flag in Parliament, but do you know that in Catalonia there is a song that is forbidden? Its name is "Els Segadors" (The Reapers), and it is forbidden because it advises the reapers to cut their chains with their sickles. It was first sung in 1614. It is a song of a people that love their freedom, and these people are governed to-day by General Franco.

These are not our only grievances against the Franco regime. As Catalans we can not accept any regime which denies us, and the other nations in Spain, the right of self-determination. Spain is a mosaic of nations which have never been absorbed by any single one and any regime which has ignored this fact has always failed and fallen. The hostility of Catalonia was the reason why the dictatorship of General Primo de Rivera was overthrown. And this will happen again.

The resistance movement in Catalonia - together with those of the other Spanish nations - has been carrying on the fight since 1939, never giving up the democratic ideals. Until the end of the last war they believed that peace would mean the end of totalitarianism. They were sadly disappointed. Since then they have seen a negative attitude on the Spanish question repeatedly confirmed by the United Nations.

In the present session of U.N.O. you will have a opportunity to do justice by the Spanish peoples by opening U.N.O.'s door to the representatives of the democratic peoples of Spain.

SPAIN AND THE STRASBURG ASSEMBLY

The Spanish Democratic forces should be represented there.

The forming at Strasburg of an European Assembly is a move that all Democratic Europeans must support, and we as Europeans do so.

We would like to point out, however, that one of the most European geographical units has been left out. This unit we speak about is Spain. Spain is a group of nations that cannot be left out if one speaks of Europe historically, geographically or otherwise.

It is unnecessary to point out that Spain, with its present day regime, cannot be accepted, but this Assembly which goes under the name of European must consider that it is not and cannot be whole without Spain. Spain, however, is ruled by a "feudal" baron with all the refinements brought about by Nazism, Fascism and Phalangism.