THE ROLE OF THE C.N.T. AND THE F.A.I. IN SPAIN

If there is any event that can bring about a rediscovery of inner strength on the part of organized labor and the libertarian elements of the world, it is the grand struggle against Fascism now being waged in Spain. This struggle can be best supported by comrades living abroad by vigorously combatting the lies of the reactionary press and by keeping the public opinion of the world informed as to the true course of events in Spain. After the unresisting defeat of the labor movement in Germany the effect of the heroic battle of the Spanish workers, peasants and intellectuals against the Fascist bandits is that of a refreshing thunderstorm. It is the first time since Fascism made its appearance in Europe that the entire population of a country gave such spiritual resistance to the imminent danger. That is why the example of these struggles is international in its significance, far transcending the frontiers of one country.

The Peasants of Pla de Cabra

Inform. Bur. of F.A.I. & C.N.T., Barcelona

Here also an anti-Fascist Committee, with the C.N.T. predominating, took charge of things as soon as the trouble began.

It was well to mention the warm enthusiasm of the peasants for the revolution.

The obvious evidence of the success of the revolution is the intensification of the harvest, which resulted from an increased demand for agricultural products required to satisfy the needs of the people. The magnanimity of these rugged peasants is shown in the freedom they gave to the men and women as well as to the bourgeoisie, who, under the circumstances adopted a neutral attitude.

The bourgeoisie is in such fear that it offers all its support, economic as well as material, to the military committee which as yet has accepted only agricultural products.

Committee to Aid Fascist Victims

A committee has been formed under the auspices of the F.A.I. and C.N.T. for the purpose of aiding the families of the victims of Fascist aggression. In the name of these victims and their families we appeal to the generosity of the people of Spain and the people all over the world.

Those who wish to help, write to the U.L.O., 45 west 17th Street, New York, N.Y.

The Peasants of Pla de Cabra

The Peasants of Pla de Cabra

Libertarian Youth Organize the People’s Univ. of Barcelona

BARCELONA, SPAIN, July 30, 1936.

The libertarian youth of Barcelona has founded a people’s university which will serve as a propaganda school for the dissemination of our ideas. At the conference which decided upon its foundation, several comrades took the floor to exchange views on the questions of the location of the university and the methods of education to be used. The latter are to be free from any official interference. The instruction to be given will be strictly rational and revolutionary. Public classes and political lectures will also be given.

DURUTTI

PARIS, FRANCE, July 31, 1936.—The entire French press, with the exception of L’Humanité, organ of the Communist Party of France, has run the news about the workers columns under the leadership of Durutti which left last week for Saragossa. Durutti, Acea and Jove were close companions in the revolutionary struggle and they were known to the Spanish comrades as the “inseparable trio.”

At the present moment Saragossa may be in the hands of the revolutionary workers guided by the C.N.T. and the F.A.I. and inspired by the heroic comrade Durutti.

REPORTS FROM SPAIN

IN RED BARCELONA

BARCELONA, SPAIN, July 24.—From the Press Service of the C.N.T. and F.A.I.—At the price of bloody battles and sorrowful losses, the Catalan capital has reconquered its title of popular uprising which answered the first onslaught of the Fascists. When the first military column directed by insurgent officers appeared in Barcelona, barrioles arose almost miraculously. The city, deserted in the early morning hours, suddenly awoke as it by a magic drum call; the people seemed to rise from the pavements. The uttermost were seized and in a flash almost everybody was armed.

The groups of the C.N.T. and the F.A.I., with the help of various workers’ parties and organizations, marched resolutely against the Fascists whose aim was to take possession of the strategic points of the city. The latter employed military experts and war technicians using cannons and machine guns and, though in the minority, they did succeed in dealing death “scientifically.” But nothing could check the popular rage. The hatred against Fascism wrought miracles; party differences and political quarrels disappeared before a “popular front,” not the one which arose from the elections, but the popular front spontaneously created in the streets.

Let the politicians, however, have no illusions; this revolution is not theirs, and we must loudly proclaim that the victory belongs to the National Confederation of Labor and to the Catalan Anarchist Federation, whose members constitute the vast majority of those in the present struggle.

After the battle, the anti-Fascist Military Committee of Catalonia was formed. Its composition is as follows:

C.N.T.: Juan García Oliver, Buenaventura Durutti and José Ansési.


Socialist Party and other “Marxist Unity” factions: José Muste and Pousa.

Union of Rabassaires: José Torrent Roselló.

Coalition of Republican Parties: Fábrega.

The strength of each of the components of this committee can be judged by the following figures on the composition of the anti-Fascist militia:

C.N.T. and F.A.I. 13,000 men

U.G.T. 2,000 men

Marxist Unity Org. 3,000 men

Police and Civil Guards 4,000 men

Mobilization continues and these figures are increasing.

From a Spanish Correspondent

BARCELONA, SPAIN, July, 1936.—Our comrades immediately organized an exodus of children. Ships in the port of Barcelona were used for this purpose. During the course of one of these ships the Fascists tried to attack them while in the port. Immediately the comrades from the F. A. I. and the C.N.T. formed solid lines around the children, bared their breasts and dared the Fascists to shoot. All the Fascists were forced to leave.

C.N.T. I.W.M.A. F.A.I.

People of Catalonia!

We must continue unrelentingly the triumphant march of the Spanish workers to the ultimate downfall of the murderous Fascist army. We must continue to the assistance of the defenseless and unarmed workers who were mercilessly shot down by the Fascists without the slightest provocation.

It is our unflinching duty to so utterly destroy Fascism that it will never again raise its evil head in Spain.

To this end, the committees of the C.N.T. and the F.A.I. are calling all workers who love freedom to march against Fascism.

Workers! Free Men! Comrades! Keep your contact with the syndicate. Line up with the organization for the downfall of the enemy.

—Regional Committee of the C.N.T. and the F.A.I.
To the Workers and Peasants of Spain!

To the Working Class of the World Over!

What the Spanish Revolutionists Want

The following letter was sent to the Anarchist Union in Barcelona by Pierre Albert, one of the French comrades who went to Spain to help fight the Fascists.

Palma, July 27, 1936.

We arrived at Puigcerda yesterday morning and found even greater enthusiasm than we had hoped for.

The people are armed, which is a good sign. They shall not permit anyone to take from them their instruments of emancipation. Of that we can be sure.

The organization is perfect; the syndicalists and members of the F.A.I. make a great effort to join those other parties in the Workers Alliance. Despite their indisputable influence they have done what, in my opinion, it is right. But why is important is that all the decisions taken by the Revolutionary Committee bear the seal of Anarchist Socialism.

Last night the Revolutionary Committee decreed the following:

1. The destruction of all records of claims to private property.

2. A struggle for proper social hygiene.

3. The abolition of hovels as dwellings, and the confiscation of all real estate. All munitions will have to be registered immediately with the Revolutionary Committee.

4. The 36-hour week for all categories of workers.

5. A merciless battle for the complete annihilation of Fascism.

All Fascists attempting to obstruct revolutionary action will be properly dealt with.

I must be very brief because we must leave this morning for Saragossa or perhaps Barcelona in order to join those forces marching against the Fascist insurgents in the center of Spain.

Prismatic greetings to all the comrades.

Pierre Albert.

FRANCISCO ASCASO

Hero of the Revolution

Francisco Ascaso was born in the town of Almudeva in the province of Huesca in the year 1901. At a very early age he became acquainted with the Anarchist movement. During the course of a tumultuous strike in Saragossa, he was arrested and condemned to death. Due to his extreme youth he was pardoned.

In 1923 the revolutionary movement in Spain took an added impetus. The soul of this movement in Saragossa was Carles Soldevila, who was killed in a political atrocity. Ascaso, suspecting of having participated in this murder, was attempted to drown as a substitute, but he fled the country before the trial.

Primo de Rivera was declared dictator of Spain. A bloody persecution ensued. Increased by his legacy of money to aid the victims and their families. Ascaso was determined to get money, cost what it might. On March 27, 1932, his assassin started a relentless search for him and put a price on his head. He had to flee France and this life and this time went to the Argentine.

Here he preached his revolutionary doctrine and soon became involved with the Argentine government. For the second time he was sentenced to death. He escaped to Europe but this "dangerous" Anarchist was denied sanctuary by all nations. He was offered a passport of France, not even permitted to land in Germany, the whole world talked of the revolutionary activities of this young anarchist.

With his friends, Buenaventura Durutti and Jover, he started a Spanish section in Italy. In Belgium he found a temporary asylum.

The Spanish April revolution enabled him to return to Spain. He threw himself wholeheartedly into the revolution. Durutti and Ascaso took an active part in some of the fiercest battles of this revolution. Ascaso was both orator and fighter. On the platform one was impressed by his oratory. On the battlefield he showed the courage and determination.

The Socialists, the communists, the Young Socialists, the anarchists, and the Socialists were not disarmed. The young men who had begun to form the Fascists under the leadership of Francisco Ascaso thought they could capture their position. The Fascists were still on the fringe of our movement. When our comrades, with Ascaso in the van, approached to take them, the Fascists were not disarmed. They killed our hearts with sadness, but the loss of Ascaso is irreplaceable.

We shall avenge him, yes we shall avenge him.
THE ROLE OF THE C.N.T. AND THE F.A.I. IN SPAIN

(Continued from page 1)

fortress of the revolutionary labor movement of Spain, so as to cut off the Capitol from all the larger cities. Catalonia is the center of the movement, and is the most highly developed province in respect to culture and material resources.

The fall of Barcelona, the largest city of Spain, would have rendered impossible any prolonged resistance to the Fascists. That is why General Goded flew in haste from Majorca to Barcelona in order to lead the revolt in person.

But the vigilance of the C.N.T. and the unexperienced bravery of its members frustrated those plans at the very beginning. In a few days the so-called "rebels" were utterly defeated. The victory of the workers in Barcelona led to the quick suppression of Fascist revolts in Tarragona, Lerida and Mataré and the liberation of the entire Catalan province from the Fascist hangmen. The workers militating in Barcelona comprised 18,000 men, of whom 13,000 belonged to the C.N.T. and F.A.I. 200 to the Socialist trade union U.G.T. and 3000 to the parties of the People's front. Apart from that Barcelona also equipped an armament under the control of whom belonged to the C.N.T. and who, under the command of comrades Durutti and Oliver, set out for Saragossa in order to prevent the city from the hands of the Fascists.

There are so many fables circulated by the foreign press about the aims of the C.N.T. and the F.A.I. that it is necessary to give our readers a clear picture of those two organizations. We,

C.N.T. I.W.M.A. F.A.I.

Workers of Barcelona!

The workers of Barcelona have besiged the Fascists. The siege was made possible only with the assistance of the revolutionary forces of the C.N.T. and the F.A.I. as a result of their help in supplying weapons, we were able to strike a decisive blow against imperialism and imperialism is not over. In Saragossa, in Seville, and other places on the peninsula, the work of besiging the Fascists. We are all acquainted with the bloody methods of Fascism. Let that be a lesson. What happened in Italy and Germany shall never happen in Spain.

The "Conferencia Nacional del Triaje" and the Federation Anarcho-Christians Berica!" are with the workers, "Christians! Workers! All lovers of freedom! Pick up your guns and fight for the complete destruction of Fascism. Workers! Stick to your posts. Organize military groups. Don't surrender your guns and ammunition. Don't lose hope or tire of the syndicates. Your life and your freedom lie in your hands.

The life of the C.N.T., the life of the F.A.I.

The life of a free people!

—The Regional Committee of the C.N.T. and the F.A.I.

amidst at a society of free commoners united into a federation based on the common interests of economic and spiritual life. The C.N.T. is against any form of dictatorship, seeing it as only an instrument of the political, social and cultural life and the natural development of society.

The C.N.T. is not just an association of industrial workers about the trade unions of the other countries. It united within its ranks the syndicates of peasants, agrit.

ical workers, working-class women and intellectuals. If we see today the peasants rising in arms and fighting side by side with the workers against Fascism, this is a brilliant result of the great educational work done by the C.N.T. and its predecessors. The men and women of the C.N.T. understood that a social transformation is possible with the help of the peasants and the intellectual workers in an impossibility.

The same principles of federalism and one's trade only, which is so dear to the ideologi- cal of the C.N.T. underlie the practical work of the organization. It knows that trade-union federations are nothing more than the self-defense of the syndicates and its members. In the smaller syndi- cates which cannot work within the larger, the latter are only elected for one year and draw the same remuneration as the workers and paid to defend their interests. Thus there are no material con- trasts between the officials and the rank and file of the C.N.T. The difference is that the C.N.T. is subject to the same rule that the C.N.T. is an old tradition that has never changed since the First International.

This leads to a high development of personal initiative of every individual member. Upon comparison of the tech- nical organization of the C.N.T. with those of the trade-unions of other coun- try the first may appear to be some what primitive in character. But as against the movement the C.N.T. is an ideal spirit and has brought up an active element of fighters the equal of which cannot be found elsewhere. Spain is the classical country of solidarity action. The narrow craft spirit which extends to one's trade only, which is so dear to the ideological of the C.N.T. underlie the practical work of the organization. It knows that trade-union federations are nothing more than the self-defense of the syndicates and its members. In the smaller syndi- cates which cannot work within the larger, the latter are only elected for one year and draw the same remuneration as the workers and paid to defend their interests. Thus there are no material con- trasts between the officials and the rank and file of the C.N.T. The difference is that the C.N.T. is subject to the same rule that the C.N.T. is an old tradition that has never changed since the First International.

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The hour of freedom has arrived. Women! The blood of your sons, your brothers, your husbands, has stained the streets of Barcelona. Our men have fought and are fighting still fighting like lions as faithful and brave soldiers for the cause of free- dom.

Women! Don't lag. Assert your- selves. Do your share to defeat the insidiousness of Fascism. Many women, who in the past were mere spectators, have died for the cause of freedom. And the insidiousness of Fascism impels you to greater courage for the immediate defeat of the reactionaries.

Only with complete destruction of these forces there will be a lasting peace; you have felt the iron hand of Catholicism which gave birth to a Torquemada, who held Spain under a tyranny of his yoke for hundreds of years.

Women! It is up to you to see that your sons are not offered up as sacrifices for Fascism.

All together to fight Fascism, in a mighty effort to completely destroy the reactionaries.

Long live the friends of the revo-

—The Regional Committee of the C.N.T. and the F.A.I.
TO THE WORKERS OF ALL COUNTRIES

The Defense Committee of the C.N.T. and F.A.I. appeals to all workers and anti-fascists. Especially do they appeal to all conscientious writers and reporters.

"It is not we who are the foes of order, but the militarists and fascists. The heroic work of the F.A.I. and C.N.T. in combination with other workers crushed the fascist uprising in Catalonia. But Fascism has still not been vanished. Thousands of our comrades have surrounded Saragossa. We are putting up a terrific struggle to save our comrades here and in the rest of Spain. Our fight must be successful. Freedom must win over slavery.

"The hunger-driven workers of Spain are not booters and rapiers. Even the bourgeois reporters, in all but the most unequivocal Capitalist papers have expressed admiration for the orderliness and respect for foreigners that the workers of Catalonia are showing. The unscrupulous are spreading their lies about the Spanish Revolutionists. Particularly are they venting their spleen against the revolutionary workers of Barcelona.

"We appeal to you, friends of freedom. Do not believe the manufactured stories about murders, robberies and disorders in Catalonia. Remember that your fight is our fight. If we fall, Fascism will triumph in many other countries. Our victory will be the victory of the international fight for freedom against international Fascism. Our victory will be the victory of human progress. Workers and anti-fascists of the world—help us.

We are the vanguard of the international workers' movement in our fight against the enemies of everything that is human. Do not allow lies to be spread about the heroic fighters for Spanish and world freedom. We need your sympathy and help. We are sure that at this moment of battle you will not forsake us.

NATIONAL CONFEDE RATION OF LABOR. IBERIAN ANARCHIST FEDERATION.

Friends of the Spanish Revolution are urged to take this appeal to heart. Our Spanish comrades need not only your sympathy but financial aid as well. Funds can be addressed directly to us. Receipts will be sent to you immediately and the monies will be shipped abroad at once. Now, if ever, you must make every effort. Is there any sacrifice you can make which will be comparable to the sacrifices our Spanish comrades are making in their life and death struggle with the forces of barbarism!

HELP NOW! HELP NOW!

The Role of the C.N.T. And The F.A.I. In Spain

(Continued from page 3)

Cable to “Nation”
Confirms Our Reports

In a cable to The Nation from Barcelona, dated August 10, Maxwell J. Stewart, associate editor of The Nation, gives a first-hand account of the events there under the full confidence of the person sending it. The following is an extract from Mr. Stewart’s cable:

"Cars and trucks filled with armed men and plastered over with the insignia of the powerful trade union—the Confederación Nacional de Trabajadores de la Unión General de Trabajadores—drive mostly through the streets at high speed, their red flags flying proudly. Barricades manned by armed workers may still be business houses without challenge have been taken over by the trade unions and at least one is housing families of the volunteers attacking Saragossa.

"That the workers are the actual masters of Catalonia today can scarcely be disputed. Although the civil government in the hands of the moderate left Republicans, the actual power is exercised by the Anti-Fascist Military Committee, composed of representatives of the leading political parties and trade unions. The Anarcho-Syndicalists of the C.N.T. and F.A.I. (Federa ción Anar quía Ibérica) control five of the fifteen members of the committee. The socialist trade union and Marxist parties have five, leaving only five in the hands of the moderate left groups. Even this failure to present a fair picture of the distribution of power. The C.N.T., with ten of thousands of armed workers, gained tremendously in prestige and strength as a result of the suppression of the military uprising of July 19, when workers went barricaded into the streets and literally threw themselves in the hands of the Fascists. It can confiscate cars and hotels, and commandeer supplies from private businesses without challenge from the bourgeois parties. For the moment at least, none would dare try to disarm its members.

Great Britain recognizes C.N.T.

The English consul at Barcelona has taken all of its citizens residing in Spain so that the necessary measures might be taken for their security or eventual return to their homeland. The consulate sent these lists? To the official authority which is, in Barcelona, the Catalan government? On the contrary, the lists were officially sent off to a Committee of the C.N.T.

It is the C.N.T., which plays the predominant role in Catalonia and is the one tremendous force to be reckoned with. It is the C.N.T. so in spite of the attempts of "radical" or "moderate" forces to spread the existence of the C.N.T. and the F.A.I. On the other hand, the capitalist newspapers find it necessary to report the activities of the anarchists. But they, like the English consul in a vicious, shameless manner calling the armed workers of the C.N.T. and F.A.I. who are heroically fighting against the “battalions,” “gurmus” (At times “revolutionaries” join in the same attack, e.g., Pia Ehrenberg’s recent article in Die Masse) entitled “Enemies of Spain.”

In the evening there were firewakes. The syndicates published a manifest, saying: "Valencia is free of Fascism. Tomorrow work resumes after 11 days of stoppage. The people of Valencia will have to organize their own lives in freedom."