

Spanish Youth Appeals for Unity Against Onslaughts of Fascism

(This is the second in a series of three articles.)

By Angelo Herndon

ARTICLE II

It is indeed a sad state of affairs for the Y.P.S.L. in America, for it is the only section of the Young Socialist International that conducts itself in such a disreputable manner in opposition and contrary to the policies of the Y.S.L.

The progressive young Socialists in America and throughout the world have unqualifiedly cast their lot with all other youth who are working for the triumph of democracy in Spain. The position of the American Y.P.S.L. is a direct negation of the united front as well as the policies of its international leadership. Such a policy of the American Y.P.S.L. can only lead it into the open camp of reaction — and finally to the inevitable stage of complete disintegration.

While the Y. P. S. L. is opposed to bringing pressure to bear on capitalist governments to force them to take measures against the aggressors in Spain, the Secretary of the Young Socialist International, Comrade Ollenhauer, in a speech made at the assembly of the Youth of Madrid, July 4th, calls upon the youth to exert all pressure possible upon the capitalist governments for support to Spain. Comrade Ollenhauer states:

"We know that what we have done up to now does not guarantee your victory. But now, during the last weeks, all the sections of the socialist workers' movement have re-enforced and doubled their activity for Spain. One week ago, the leaders of the International Trade Unions and of the Socialist International have—answering the demand of our Spanish comrades—made a unanimous decision. They will press Democratic Governments with the whole force of the workers movement, to give to the Spanish people and to the legal Government of Spain the right to free trade in armaments for the struggling Spanish Army."

ORGANIZE MASSES

It is common knowledge to all that to force even the smallest concessions from capitalist governments, it is necessary first of all, to have the broad masses of people organized. They give in only when they are forced to do so by the determined will of the people.

That is what the I.Y.C. is trying to do. It is endeavoring to pick up all the loose threads of progressive youth organizations and weld them into a powerful force of the people which will be the death warrant for fascism. That is what we young Communists in America are striving for and we hope the honest young Socialists will follow the example of their comrades in Belgium,

France, Great Britain, Holland, Sweden, Czechoslovakia and Spain. But to do this, the deadly poison of Trotskyism must be weeded out of the ranks of the Y.P.S.L.

The young people of Spain need the aid and support of every young man and woman. Young Socialists of America! Will you betray the promise which your international secretary has given to the youth of Spain? In his closing words, Comrade Ollenhauer declared:

"I give you my solemn promise that the socialist youth, united in the Socialist International, will do all in its power to strengthen, together with all the forces and all the organizations which have the same determination, the action which is being carried out on your behalf throughout the whole world, and to bring it to victory. Be assured that you are not alone, but that all young proletarians are behind you. You must know that at this time, we will not say a word more than we can fulfill."

SUPPORT SPAIN

"Amongst all the forces for the support of struggling Spain, there is and there can be no difference of opinion."

"We are one in the faith that we shall succeed, you and ourselves together, in winning before long the battle against fascism."

"And then, we shall meet together again, you, the representatives of

the Young Socialist and the Young Communist Internationals, in a Madrid which will be the capital of a free Spain, democratic and socialist, the impregnable fortress of democracy and liberty, the symbol of the undying desire of the working class for liberty. In this spirit, I greet you once more, with the greeting which has conquered the hearts of all men everywhere who are fired with a passion for liberty 'SALUD.'"

In the United States, thousands of young people, Democrats, Republicans, students and religious youth—can all unite around the policies of the I. Y. C. Youth who dream of a happier life with security, peace and abundance for all will be able to realize their dreams only to the extent that they support the fight of the Spanish people for liberty and democracy.

For it is in Spain where the great battle for world peace and freedom is being fought. Comrade Michal Wolf, secretary of the Y. C. I., speaking at the July 4th assembly of youth in Madrid, characterized the indomitable spirit of the Spanish youth and the effect such heroism is having on the people of the world. He stated:

REPULSED FASCISTS

"On Nov. 7 of this year, the day of the great fascist offensive against Madrid, you arose as one man, and, almost without arms,

side by side with the people of Madrid, repulsed the fascist attack. The fascist generals had already proclaimed to the whole world that Madrid had fallen. But your heroism and your unity not only did not fail, but struck important blows against the fascists."

"We, the Young Communist International, are proud that during those days of the heroic defense of Madrid the young people had for their leaders men as remarkable as Comrade Santiago Carillo, Trifon Medrano—since dead—Arconada and others like them. Those days, when Madrid was defended so heroically, and the part youth played, will go down in the history of the struggle of the people of Spain and of the world proletariat as shining examples."

"This struggle that you are carrying on for the defense of Madrid is of historical importance. You have changed Madrid, by fighting side by side with its people, into an impregnable citadel of liberty and of the anti-fascist struggle. The youth of the whole world which loves liberty and hates fascism takes you affectionately to their hearts. You have not only shown to the youth of Spain, but to the youth of the world, the only true way to fight fascism."

In pledging to carry on the struggle for the freedom of Spain from fascism, Comrade Wolf closed his speech as follows: "It will be one of the most glorious days in

the history of the working class youth movement, when the two internationals (Y. S. I. and Y. C. I.) are able to say to the youth of the world, and especially the youth of Spain: We are united to help you."

YOUR DESTINY

"Young people of Spain, we have put aside all that which separates us, because that which unites us is much stronger and much more sacred, for it is you, it is your destiny. It is our duty to help you to win the victory over fascism. Comrades, young people of Madrid!

"Fight at the fronts with the certain knowledge that the working class and anti-fascist youth of the world are by your side. Be assured that we will do everything to help you. Long live the great Federation of the United Socialist Youth Movement of Spain. Forward to the victory of the Spanish people over fascism."

The results of the joint meeting of the Y. C. I. and the Y. S. I. at Valencia to discuss possibilities of increasing the aid to Spain, are indeed very encouraging. At this historically important meeting were H. C. Hansen, Copenhagen; Erich Ollenhauer, Prague, secretary and president, respectively, of the Y. S. I.; Gil Green and Michal Wolf of the Y. C. I. Also present was Santiago Carillo, general secretary of the United Socialist Youth Movements of Spain.

(To Be Continued)