

Toward Freedom

A DEMOCRATIC Spain is a necessary part of the New World being born out of the struggles of this people's war. That is why we all must make our voice heard at the Madison Square Garden meeting tomorrow night (Tuesday). There is no better way to start the New Year.

The Negro people, in common with all liberty-loving peoples, have tremendous stakes in the restoration of democracy in Spain—and hence in the success of the Jan. 2 Garden rally. Many Negro Americans were among the thousands of heroes in the Abraham Lincoln Brigade who fought and died seven years ago in a futile effort to stop the deadly power of fascism before Europe and the world were overrun. Moreover, the attainment of full democratic rights for Negroes in America and Africa and elsewhere is directly dependent upon the complete destruction of fascism in Spain and throughout the world.

The open military intervention of Hitler and Mussolini in support of their puppet Franco, aided by the cynical Anglo-French-American policy of "non-intervention," led to the defeat of the Spanish people and of



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their volunteer allies from America and other parts of the world. But the struggles of the Spanish people for freedom did not die, nor were they entirely in vain. Those struggles did much to arouse millions of patriots in all countries to the dangers inherent in the approaching world war, and in this new and more forward-looking period, the struggles of Spanish patriots are being revived on a new and powerful scale.

Spanish democracy perished as a part of the strong upsurge of fascist power in the world, and its destruction did much to hasten the fascist conquest of Europe. Spanish democracy will again emerge as a part of the now dominant upsurge of peoples' power in Europe and throughout the world, and its revival will hasten the complete destruction of fascism.

THIS restoration of Spanish democracy will not come automatically, but only as a product of widespread and vigorous struggle by the democratic peoples of the world. There was never a more favorable time to revive such struggle than now. And there is no better place to begin than with our own government.

Seven years ago, the clear and progressive

New Year Opens With Rally Against Franco

"quarantine the aggressors" views of our President were struggling vainly against the powerful isolationist, imperialist and pro-fascist views which were then dominant in our nation. Hence, American foreign policy could be of little aid—indeed, it was an obstacle—to Spanish democracy.

Today the President's anti-fascist, collective security views have emerged into dominance in our country, and isolationism and pro-fascism are on the decline. Hence, it is entirely possible now to turn American foreign policy to the direct aid of Spanish democracy.

THIS is what tomorrow night's Madison Square Garden rally seeks to accomplish. Under the slogan "Break Relations with Fascist Spain," tens of thousands of citizens will express their demands that our government cease its farcical and outmoded recognition of Franco's fascist government as a "neutral," and reorient its Spanish policy along lines consistent with our war against the Hitler-Franco allies and with our goal of enduring peace which only stable democratic governments in Europe can make possible.

Let us give every possible support to the revived struggle for a free Spain. Thus can we hasten military victory over our fascist enemies and promote the triumph of democracy for all men everywhere.