



The VOLUNTEER FOR LIBERTY

organ of the international brigades



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THE HISTORY OF THE GOVERNMENT CRISIS

On Saturday, May 15, the Spanish Government resigned. At once party and trade unions leaders began their consultations with President Azaña. All organizations demanded a Popular Front Government, but the following definite demands were made.

The Socialist Party asked for a complete change in policy on the part of the ministry of Gobernacion (Public Order, etc.).

The Basque Nationalist Party proposed that a Socialist, able to inspire confidence abroad, should be Prime Minister and that the control of land, air, and marine forces should be vested in one minister of war. This party also stated that Largo Caballero had

Spain Behind The Popular Front GOVERNMENT'S NEW PROGRAMME OF ACTION

EDITOR'S NOTE

In presenting this first number of the Volunteer of Liberty in English, the editor wishes to explain the policy that will be followed. Conversations with comrades in the front line has shown that there is a demand for the following: Background articles, explaining the history and set-up of the Spanish progressive movements, to serve as a basis for discussion; serious news articles describing the Spanish situation with greater detail than the daily bulletin can give; and Home news. This latter is very difficult to obtain but real attempts are being made to get an English and American news service.

In addition, some have asked

for humor (which can hardly be expected of a political commissar, until he has recovered from his work), for working class and revolutionary songs, and here and there for revolutionary short stories. A few comrades have suggested that articles on military technique should be published from time to time.

At the same time it is far more important that comrades should join in the production of their own magazine, both by writing and by suggestion, than that an editor should simply provide what he thinks best. Comrades please note. And out of their kindness, remember that the editor also hates the word *Mañana*.

N. T. and the U. G. T. were in agreement about the posts Largo Caballero should occupy.

Toward evening of Saturday the Communist Party put an eight point document before comrade Largo Caballero. The following are the most important items.

1. Democratic direction of the country, in military, economic, and political matters, with collective discussion and decision by the cabinet.

2. The Supreme War Council must function normally and is to occupy itself with every military enterprise, jointly with the Minister of War. Appointments to command, condition and armament of the troops, conduct of operations, etc., were to be the field of this council.

3. Immediate re-organisation of the General Staff and appoint-



Dr. Juan Negrín, new Prime Minister.

lost the confidence of the Popular Front Parties.

The left Republican Party also demanded a centralized war ministry.

The C. N. T. declared that the Government should be primarily

based on the trade unions (syndicates) and should be headed by Largo Caballero; it should have the assistance of the anti-fascist block.

The Catalan Left Party wished the new government to be in closer contact with the Cortes (the Congress or Parliament).

As a result of this conversation, at 2:15 P. M. comrade Largo Caballero was entrusted with the task of forming the government.

During the afternoon the C. N. T. issued a statement which declared:

1. It declined responsibility for the present crisis.

2. It would not enter any government in which Largo Caballero was not both Prime Minister and Minister of War.

3. The new government must be based on the syndicates (unions) with collaboration of the political parties.

(N. B.--Anarco-syndicalist theory declares that the working class has no need of a political party. Until February 1936, the C. N. T. has not voted at elections.)

The Executive Committee of the U. G. T. also announced that it would not enter any government in which Largo Caballero was not Prime Minister and Minister of War. Then the leaders of the C.



Indalecio Prieto, new Secretary of War.

ment of a Commander in Chief, responsible to the Supreme War Council, and the Ministry of War, but with authority to plan and direct the whole of the Military

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MADRID UNDER FIRE

The shelling of Madrid is one of the most wanton acts in the history of a war waged with pitiless ferocity by the fascist invaders.

There is no military objective in the shelling, but the fire of the fascists is directed upon the busiest parts of Madrid (around the Grand Via and Puerta del Sol) where it is likely to cause the greatest destruction to its beautiful buildings and the highest casualty roll among its civilian population.

The fascist's realizing that their march on Madrid is proceeding backwards, seek to destroy the city and terrorize the population. Such a hope will never be realized. There is less panic in Madrid today than at any period of the war.

On the contrary the intense hatred of the people of Madrid towards Fascism is hardening as they see their women folk and children killed and maimed in the streets, and the city created by their own labors and of which they are rightly proud, being destroyed by these modern vandals.

Everywhere one meets with the indignation of the people against this futile destruction, but never with fear. One cannot help being amazed at the courage shown by these citizens and above all by the women.

This is clearly shown by the reluctance of the population to evacuate the capital despite the efforts of the Government to induce them.

GOVERNMENTS POLICY OF EVACUATION

Government officials go from house to house in an attempt to convince people that it is necessary for them to leave the city in

At the same time within the city itself, the government has removed a great many families from the districts which have suffered most from the bombardment, mainly into the districts



This and accompanying photographs show a shell striking in the Gran Via



order to shield the women and children from the worst horrors of the war and to alleviate the difficulties confronting the Government in feeding such a large population.

Prior to the outbreak of war the population of Madrid was estimated at 1,000,000 but within a few short months had been increased by 500,000 refugees.

Today there is approximately 900,000 left. Some 600,000 people have been evacuated, mostly the refugees from the neighbouring villages and of this total 200,000 were children and the remainder women and old men. Two hundred thousand more are to be evacuated soon. The government which is financing this evacuation is making particular provision for the care of all invalids, school children, and orphans.

and houses once occupied by the well-to-do.

Madrid stands firm against the fascist terror. The life of the city goes on scarcely interrupted by the frantic shelling of the fascists and the fighting close at hand. Cafes, theatres and cinemas are packed. The streets are thronged with people except during the periods of shelling which are a deadly reminder of the danger close at hand.

NEW GOV'T'S DECISION

The new Government clearly realises this danger. Immediately it announced that the process of evacuation will be considered as one of its foremost tasks and that it will take immediate steps to convince the population and speed up this necessary work.

Meanwhile the population pre-

Our Aviation Effective

VALENCIA. — The Ministry of Navy and War publishes the following information concerning the activities of the Republican Aviation during the month of April. The Republican Aviation made two bombing flights over enemy aviation fields, 168 flights over troop concentrations and camps and 44 over military objectives.

The fascists made during the same month 37 flights over our positions and 70 over open cities and towns. These last flights and bombings had no military value whatever.

Our fliers brought down 20 fascists and we lost 4 machines.

Alvarez del Vayo goes to the League of Nations

Alvarez del Vayo, Minister for the Interior in the outgoing Largo Caballero cabinet, is slated to go to Geneva as a special representative of the Spanish Republican Government at the League of Nations.

Alvarez del Vayo filled his position in the Caballero Cabinet with energy and intelligence. His appointment to Geneva is another proof that the Popular Front Government is choosing its very best leaders for the most responsible positions towards a speedy winning of the war.

Senator Nye asks probe

WASHINGTON. — Senator Nye asked the Senate of the U. S. A. that in addition to an investigation about the activities of Franco's agents which are purchasing war materials in the United States in defiance of the neutrality pact, another investigation be made of the widespread spy-net established by the fascists in the U. S. A. for the purpose of sending to Franco's government information concerning the movements of American and Mexican merchant ships.

serves it's stoic countenance. The citizens of Madrid remain proud in face of the vicious bombardment. And with good reason; a few short months ago very few of them understood the art of war; only a few had ever seen a rifle let alone handle one: Today they have knowledge gained by bitter experience, and they held back and defeated the trained divisions of the fascist invaders.

British Workers Move Into Action

AMERICAN NEWS

NEW YORK. — The Transport Workers Union, by a majority vote, has decided to cut off from the A. F. of L. and join the C. I. O. Needless to say, the bosses have objected and refused to recognize the union as now constructed. As a result the Transport Workers Union has adopted a resolution to call a strike on the Interborough, the L. street car and bus lines, unless the companies agree to the holding of a ballot on May 15. At this ballot the men are to decide which federation will represent them.

LOS ANGELES. — The Screen Actors Guild has decided by a 75% vote, for strike action. This decision has been taken partly in sympathy with the film technicians already on strike. In addition, the guild demands recognition and better salaries for actors playing minor parts. This may mean prominent, stars like Robert Montgomery, Joan Crawford, Clark Gable,



Our Lincoln Battalion Postman

ble, and other who are members of the Guild, going on picket.

Individual progressives, Jimmy Cagney in particular, have already put up a fight for the second and third string players. But this is the first time collective action has been taken since the Guild's defeat several years ago. Fans of the International Brigade will be glad to know that Hollywood lefts have given tremendous aid to the Spanish movement. When Comrade Ralph Bates visited the film center in January, not only were big sums collected to send technicians to Spain but Stars and leading writers publicly declared their sympathy with the Spanish People's cause.

Along with the developing movement in support of the Spanish peoples struggle, the movement of the Industrial workers for increased wages and shorter hours is the outstanding feature in Britain today.

Workers in one industry after another are putting forward demands. Every Union conference is taken up with the problem of the fight for better conditions. Unofficial strikes are breaking out where the E. C.'s are refusing to lead the fight.

BUSMENS STRIKE

The London Busmen's strike for a 7 and a half hour day continues despite the feverish attempts of the Government through the Board of Enquiry to call it off in order that the Coronation Ballyhoo should work smoothly. The London Tramway, Trolley Bus, and Underground Rail workers are also considering taking strike action in support of the Busmen and for their own demands. They are also objecting to the increased work which has been thrown upon them during the Bus standstill. The Tramwaymen were induced to hold off striking until the Boards Report had been published. Now that this report has been rejected by the Busmen there is a great possibility of the strike extending.

At the same time, Busmen throughout the Provinces are demanding strike powers from their E. C.'s and in a number of places strikes have already broken out.

The Parkhead (Glasgow) Engineers strike has been confirmed by the Executive Council of the A. E. U. which at the same time recommends the resumption of work pending negotiations. The Clyde District Committee of the Union is convening a meeting of the Shop-Stewards, when it is expected that the demand of the Parkhead men for a general stoppage in the District will be discussed. This will affect 13,000 engineers.

The 15,000 Clydeside engineering apprentices, who were on strike for increased wages, have returned to work on the understanding that:

1. There will be no victimisation.
2. That the Unions have the right to negotiate for them.
3. That no agreements will be made with individual firms.

This is a big advance as the Unions have not undertaken any negotiations on behalf of the apprentices since 1921, when the Apprentices struck against a wage cut and failed to secure the support of the Unions.

MINERS FOR ACTION

The E. C. of the M. F. G. B. has postponed the National Miners strike for one week, until May 29th. Meanwhile the Haworth miners continue their campaign against Spencer's "scab" union and strikers are constantly brought into court on charges of "besetting."

The possibility of a National coal strike has so alarmed the

ceeded with the formulation of a general wage claim to be submitted to the Postmaster General.

The three Railwaymen's Unions, the N. U. R., the A. S. L. E. & F. and the R. C. A. have had lodged for some time, a claim for higher wages and improved conditions. This demand has been re-inforced by their experience of the tremendous rush traffic for the Coronation which at the same time has brought a rich harvest to the Rail Companies.

Last years profits showed an increase of five Million pounds and the comparative figures for the first three months of 1937 show an increase of over a million pounds. The publication of the Coronation profits will undoubtedly-



The General obliges the British comrades with a song

Government that Baldwin, before retiring to his pigs, devoted his last speech in the House of Commons in an attempt to avert the stoppage.

There is little possibility of the strike in support of the Haworth men being averted unless the Notts. owners withdraw the Blacklegs and allow the Trade Unions to freely organise in the Notts. coalfield.

TINPLATE WORKERS

The Tinplate workers at their Annual conference decided to press for an increase of 25 % in wages, over and above the 7 and 7/8 increase in bonus granted by the employers.

The Union of Post Office Workers in conference decided to pro-

ly encourage the Railwaymen to press their demands.

The Waterproof Garment Workers Union has decided for strike action upon the refusal of the employers to meet their demand for a 15 % increase on piece work prices.

This wave of unrest in industry has more than anything else, burst through the false slogan of the Coronation, "Harmony between all classes in Britain". The lamb is refusing to lay down inside the lion.

Not since the days approaching 1926 has such a powerful movement of the industrial workers been witnessed.

The workers of Britain are preparing to play their part in the fight against reaction.

LONG LIVE THE POPULAR FRONT

Last week it was reported that fascist agents had infiltrated into the ranks of the Military School at Valencia, there to carry on their work of disruption. Fortunately this report proved to be false. Nevertheless, as the people's army grows stronger as the result of the new government's work it is certain that our enemies will do their utmost to destroy our unity. Let every volunteer be on guard, not only against provocation to indiscipline, but also against the specious arguments these agents put forward, all of them designed to undermine faith in the People's Front Policy.

One of the most conclusive proofs of the necessity of a People's Front is to be drawn from a comparison of the events of 1923 with those of 1936 and since. Bet-

had been for several years engaged in a disastrous war with the Riff tribes of the Moroccan colonies. Defeat after defeat had revealed the corruption and inefficiency of the feudal military castes, whose impeachment the Spanish people at last demanded. And it was not only a stopping of the war that the nation demanded, but a radical change in government. It must be born in mind that the old Spanish Army was no ordinary professional army. For instance, in the French, German or British imperialist armies there is roughly one officer to every 18 men. In Primo's army there was one to every 8 or 9. Moreover, these officers were largely drawn from the great landowning class, that class which, together with the upper ranks of

masses of the Spanish working class were organized in two great trade union systems, the C. N. T., the Anarcho-Syndicalist Federation (American Comrades remember the I. W. W.) and the U. G. T., at that time largely Socialist. Not only was there no working unity between these great masses, but there was actual hostility. In addition, the progressive middle classes were divided between parties that made no contact with one another. And finally not only was there no liaison between the field workers and the town workers, but Catalan separatism tended to isolate the progressive masses in that region from their natural allies in the rest of Spain.

Confronted with an indignant but divided people Primo struck with impunity.

Before examining the events of 1936 it will be useful to note similarities between Primo's rebellion and that of Franco. In both cases the military caste was unsupported by any great mass of the Spanish people. Unlike Mussolini, Primo did not even try to deceive the people by enlisting them in a political party. True, Spanish democrats still remember with derision the pilgrimage to Madrid of the 7,000 subservient Mayors whom Primo himself had appointed. They also remember the roaring farce of the delegation to King Alfonso of several hundred pregnant ladies of the aristocracy, who pledged loyalty to the King in the name of the unborn generation!

Again, Franco's lie that he was forced to begin his work of destruction in Spain to put an end to the anarchy caused by the Popular Front Government was anticipated by Primo in 1923. At that time there was considerable disorder in Barcelona, but Primo in claiming honor for having stopped it omitted to say that it was the gunmen employed by General Martinez Anido, Governor of Barcelona, who were the provokers of disorder. Every trade union organizer in Barcelona could prove this overwhelmingly, for hundreds of leading workers were assassinated during that period. And in 1936 it was the Socialist, Communist and Republican workers who stood guard over the churches of Madrid and unknown bands which set fire to them. Gunmen again

THE BALANCING TRIO



BENITO. — Well! We're managing but for Christ's sake watch that axe

began their work of shooting left leaders.

Thus, though Primo was not strictly a fascist as Franco in his February interview with the American press has admitted to being, there was a great similarity between the two rebellions. Despite this likeness the Spanish people reacted in 1936 in an entirely different way.

The Popular Front is born.

The Republic of 1931 was brought in by the municipal elections of April 12, as a result of

agreements between parties so wide apart as the Conservative Party and the Communist Party. Despite good work, (in the first year it created 7,000 new schools) there was still not that degree of agreement which would have enabled the Republic to stabilize conditions. Above all, the Agrarian Reform of 1932 was too slow and too hesitant to satisfy the land hunger of the starving peasantry. The result was that as a result of the November 1933 elections aided by *caciquismo*, or boss rule, the Right regained some of its lost ground. The Radical Party of Leroux began to seek allies upon the Right rather than the Left, finally inviting three Catholics of the reactionary C. E. D. A. Party into the government.

This was the signal for revolutionary effort, the Socialist Party at once began to prepare for action and on October 6, the revolution broke out. The Asturian miners after a glorious struggle that has thrilled the workers of



An American machine gun crew

the world, were defeated and mercilessly subjected to the most bloody repression of modern times.

But the truth is that the objective conditions for success did not exist. There was no nation wide agreement between the U. G. T. and the C. N. T. The Catalan C. N. T. leaders indeed, denounced the General Strike which preceded the rising. The countryside did not respond and because of the narrow bases of the appeals, middle class parties like the Estat Catala and the Esquerra in Catalonia withheld support, as did the Republican Parties in the rest of

Spain. The result was that the right wing government was able to bear down murderously with all its weight upon the isolated heroes of Asturias.

After this the gains of the Republic were steadily destroyed by successive Right governments, the leading figure of which was Gil Robles, the Catholic C. E. D. A. Minister of War, "machine-gunner by proxy", now skulking in Portugal. In the face of this tremendous danger the policy of the Popular Front, was laid down. Many parties loyally rallied to it and finally, in 1935 a program was drawn up and signed by all. It is worth noticing that this treaty was signed by the P. O. U. M. That party, upon whose narrow shoulders must fall the blame for the criminal rising in Barcelona was shortly denouncing the Popular Front Government which came into being after the elections of February 1936. It must be understood clearly that these elections were only won because a definitive policy had been drawn up. That policy was broad enough to secure the loyalty of parties such as Republican Left which itself was placed in office. It contains such points as consolidation of the church reforms, cleansing of the army, speeding up of the Land Reform, and an amnesty for the 30,000 political prisoners lying in Spanish jails. For such a policy the C. N. T. followers voted, despite their theoretical objections to the ballot box.

It was against this government that Franco rebelled, to be met by defeat in all densely populated parts of Spain.

At this point it becomes absolutely vital to make one remark. The masses supporting the Popular Front Government were immensely aided in their victory over the rebellious army by the fact that they had a government to help them. It was not the people alone which captured Montaña Barracks in Madrid but the people aided by the loyal Assault Guards. And the people themselves were armed by the Popular Front Government. Moreover, had that government been built on too narrow a foundation great sectors of the public might not have rallied to its side. And had the government represented only the more moderate of the parties, it would not have had the courage to arm the people.

To sum up, the immediate suc-

INTERNATIONAL BRIGADE GREETING NEW GOVERNMENT

TELEGRAMS

Doctor NEGRIN, Cabinet President, Valencia.

"Meeting International Brigades Commissaires in name all Volunteers greets and pledges enthusiastic adhesion new Government Spanish Republic expression people's firm will to do everything to quickly and definitely crush fascism enemy liberty and progress.—Luigi GALLO, Commissaire Inspector of the International Brigades."

Indalecio PRIETO, National Defense Minister, Valencia.

"Meeting International Brigades Commissaires greets you as chief of all armed forces fighting for the crushing of fascism and places itself enthusiastically at your orders certain that under your guidance and under the guidance of new Popular Front Government we shall march quickly to victory.—Luigi GALLO, Commissaire Inspector of the International Brigades."

ALVAREZ DEL VALLO, General War Commissaire, Valencia.

"In name all Commissaires and volunteers International Brigades we send you warm greetings felicitations for your confirmation leading post General War Commissariat eloquent evidence your high merits in creation new Spanish Popular Army and as inspirer prompt victory fascism to which new Government is a guarantee.—Luigi GALLO, Commissaire Inspector of the International Brigades."

2000 refugee children from Euzkadi arrived in London aboard the S. S. Avana. The pro-Bilbao Committee of London has declared itself ready to give adequate shelter to all the 2000 children.

mission of 1923 was the result of a lack of a broad and popular unity. The magnificent resistance of July 1936 and the forging out of the great, discipline and combative army in 1937 demonstrates that the Popular Front has saved Spain.

A TELEGRAM FROM THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST AND COMMUNIST PARTIES

"The Co-ordinating Committee recommends to all its sections, and militants, to observe an absolute serenity during the solving of the Governmental crisis, by conforming to the decisions which they receive directly from the National Committees of the two parties. It is necessary, not to support nor to participate in the attitudes of those elements who are interested in creating difficulties, which the solution of the crisis might provoke."



Vicente Uribe minister of Agriculture

Paul Vaillant-Couturier, leading French Communist, writes the following in the "Humanité" after an extended visit to the Basque provinces:

"While the Nazi aviators were gunning at us, and, hugging the parapet, my cheek against the fragrant earth, I was listening to the throbbing of the blood at my temples, I could hear in that same rhythm the voices of the people of Paris 'Airplanes for Spain! Airplanes for Spain!' I assure you that that cry, spontaneously born of the popular conscience of Paris in defense of the world's liberties, was living in me."

And the crime of the blockade appeared to me more horrible yet. And I was ashamed to bring to the heroes surrounding me this measly consolation, consolation which, however, was moving them to tears, and which they were welcoming with their "U. H. P." of gratitude: our food ships and the evacuation of children..."



Lincoln Battalion Marching Through Alcala.

ween Primo de Rivera's declaration of the Dictatorship and the Franco rebellion.

What is the essential difference between these two events?

The most important difference is that whereas in 1923 the Spanish people were compelled to accept Primo's dictatorship without a protest, in 1936 they were able to organize a successful resistance which has earned the admiration of the world. And to the question how has this been possible, there is only one answer. Because of the People's Front.

In 1923, the old Spanish Army

the clergy, the feudal aristocracy and the monarchy, always opposed every progressive reform in Spain. It was precisely these classes which supported Franco in 1936.

Thus, in declaring the dictatorship Primo was not only saving the skin of the military caste, but blocking the way to those Democratic reforms which at last were made possible by the Republic of 1931.

Why did the Spanish people not resist Primo?

Because there was no unity between the progressive forces of those days. Then, as now, the

THE HISTORY OF THE GOVERNMENT CRISIS

(Continued from page one.)

operations of the People's Army throughout the country.

4. Reorganization of the War Commissariat and creation of a new directive committee, to be composed of delegates of all organizations entering the government. It shall be responsible to the Ministry of War and to the Supreme Council of War, but shall control the political direction of its work.

5. The Prime Minister shall occupy himself exclusively with the work of this department, and the Ministry of War is to be held by another person.

The final point proposes that Government program shall be drawn up and made public on the same day the cabinet takes office. These opinions were amplified in a letter addressed to the President by comrade José Díaz. The Communist Party demanded the thorough reorganization of the entire war machinery in all its aspects, the conducting of the Nation's industry and economic life to a central plan designed to end the war speedily, and the inflexible maintenance of public or-

a new cabinet. It was as follows:

U. G. T., three ministers, prime ministry - ship and a reorganized ministry of a defence (to be held by one person), with four departments, War, Marine, Air, and Munitions. Foreign affairs, and home affairs.

Socialist Party:

Ministry of Economy and Agriculture, and of Industry and Commerce.

Communist Party, Public Instruction, and Labor.

Left Republican Party, Public Works and Propaganda.

C. N. T., Justice, and Health.

The Catalan Left Republican Party, and the Basque Nationalist Party were to receive Ministries without portfolio (ie. without definite departments).

This plan was accepted by the U. G. T. executive and the Republican union, but rejected by the C. N. T., the Socialist Party, the Communist Party, and the Left Republicans. The principles for rejections were:

The C. N. T. refused to accept both a position of inferiority with regards the U. G. T. and of equality with the Communist Party, which, it said, had provoked the crisis, had not shown the same degree of loyalty as the C. N. T. and which was a smaller body. Also it said that while it was in agreement with the U. G. T. holding the war ministries, it could not consent to all constructive posts (economy and industry), being in one person's hands, and declared that the C. N. T. had most enthusiasm for this work. Finally, the C. N. T. said that the government as constituted would be conservative and anti-proletarian.

The Left Republican Party objected to the Prime Minister being Minister of War, and the Communist Party in rejecting Largo Caballero's plan pressed the same point, and the Socialist Party declared that it would not enter the government without the Communist Party.

As a result of these negative replies, comrade Largo Caballero gave up his effort to form a new cabinet, whereupon comrade Negrin, former Minister of Economy, was given the task. He at once visited the offices of all parties and organizations.

Monday 17.

The C. N. T. declared in a of-

ficial note that it could not enter the government presided over by Negrin, neither directly nor indirectly. It said that Negrin had proposed a cabinet of nine ministers, one from each of the parties and organizations of the Popular Front.

At 10.45, comrade Negrin announced that he had formed his cabinet and this had been accepted by the President. The posts are distributed as follows:

Prime Ministership and Public Economy, Juan Negrin, Socialist Party.

Foreign Affairs, José Giral, Left Republican.

National Defense, Indalecio Prieto, Socialist Party.

Justice, Manuel Irujo, Basque Nationalist Party.

Gobernación (Public Order, etc.), Julián Zugazagoitia, Socialist Party.

Health and Education, Jesús Hernández, Communist Party.

Agriculture, Vicente Uribe, Communist Party.

Public Works and Communication, Giner de los Rios, Republican Union.

Labor, Jaime Ayguadé, Catalan Left Republican.

In a general statement of policy which was at once made public, the new Government hoped that the U. G. T. and the C. N. T. would change their attitude, but nevertheless believed that the cabinet represented the broad masses of people. It promised to keep order in the rear guard inflexibly and to permit no organization to provoke disturbances. Furthermore, it announced its intention of reorganizing all war and economic activities and of calling the Cortes together at the earliest possible date.

It must be borne in mind that the mass of the U. G. T. is composed of Socialists and Communists. The Typographical Union, U. G. T. has protested against the U. G. T. executive's refusal to enter the Government.

(N. B., the executive of the U. G. T. was elected in 1932 and there has been no National Congress during the last four years.) Madrid demonstration of the U. G. T. May endorsed the government.

Summing up, it is clear that the formation of the new Government represents a serious effort to reorganize the machinery of war and to plan the nation's economy. The way is open for the dissident organizations to enter

U. G. T. to call National Convention shortly

At a plenary meeting of the National Committee of the Union General de Trabajadores held in Valencia Tuesday May 18, and on motion made by the Federation of Graphic Arts, supported by the Building Trades Federation, Teachers Federation, Workers of Petroleum Products and other Unions, a decision was arrived at to call at an early date a National Convention of the U. G. T.

Severe criticism was expressed by the representatives of several unions on the attitude of the Executive Committee at the time of the Government crisis.

The National Convention will be called not only to discuss and judge the conduct of the Central Committee, but also to deal with all the problems arising from the war and of the revolution.

NOTE.—The last National Convention of the U. G. T. was held in 1932.

What are they going there for?

"L'Humanité" of Paris publishes this ominous piece of news.

"From confidential and reliable sources we learn that a number of non-commissioned officers of the Italian Army have been sent to serve in the German Army and in territory adjoining Poland and Checko - Slovakia. In Italian fascist centers it is insistently whispered that a fascist putsch, backed by fascist intervention, is being prepared and is scheduled to start within one month against Checko-Slovakia.

French nation helps Bilbao

On Thursday May 12, the Paris Bilbao Committee received 30,000 francs and three tons of food for the Basque people. 130,000 francs had been collected previously.

the Government when they wish. The present cabinet is a true Popular Front Government and represents the people's desire and determination to intensify the fight against the fascist invaders.



Jesús Hernández,
Minister of Health and Education.

der and the suppression of provocation.

On Saturday evening "Mundo Obrero" in a leading article informed that the Government's resignation had been necessary because its errors had led to the Trotskyite's revolt in Catalonia, and had been reflected in the present military inactivity and the chaotic state of Spanish industry.

Sunday, May 16.

During the morning Largo Caballero made public his plans for