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Correspondence Between the Communist International and the Labor and Socialist International

RADIOGRAM FROM VALENCIA TO GEORGI DIMITROFF

Valencia, June 1, 1 A.M.

Georgi Dimitroff,
Communist International,
Moscow.

A National-Socialist naval squadron, fulfilling control functions in waters near Almeria, has just perpetrated on our town an act of base aggression which surpasses all the crimes committed by German and Italian fascism in its invasion of our country. Violating all rules of international law, trampling upon international treaties, German naval guns have bombarded the civil population of Almeria and inflicted the loss of life.

In face of this military action which is an outrageous expression of the war intentions of fascism, we workers and peasants of Spain, the masses of working people who are fighting in the front ranks of the struggle against national and international fascism and who are defending their freedom—and thereby also defending the proletariat of the world from the horrors of a monstrous war—appeal to you. We appeal to you, comrades of the Socialist and Labor International, the Communist International, the International Federation of Trade Unions, and the entire active proletariat in the ranks of the workers' parties and trade union organizations, and urge you to strengthen your solidarity with the Spanish people whose homes and unarmed children are once again subjected to criminal attack.

We call upon you to resist the fascist government which, with unprecedented brutality, attacks our civil population, menacing the lives of the aged, of women and children. We once again appeal to you, the vanguard of the world proletariat, to the glorious standard bearers of the struggle of the proletariat, to take the most energetic joint action in order to mobilize proletarian solidarity of all peoples who are determined to frustrate the realization of the plans of fascism, the intention of which is to kindle the fires of world war.

Long live international solidarity of the proletariat in the struggle against fascism.

Forward, together with the people of Spain.

Forward, for peace and freedom throughout the world.

On behalf of the Workers' Socialist Party of Spain,
Ramon Lamonedá, Secretary.

On behalf of the Communist Party of Spain,
Jose Diaz, General Secretary.

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the General Confederation of Labor,
Felipe Pretel, Acting General Secretary.

REPLY BY GEORGI DIMITROFF

To Ramon Lamonedá, Secretary of the Workers' Socialist Party of Spain; to Jose Diaz,

General Secretary of the Communist Party of Spain; to Felipe Pretel, Acting General Secretary of the General Workers' Union of Spain:

In reply to your radiogram of June 1 we draw your attention to the fact that the Executive Committee of the Communist International fully supports your proposal as to the organization of joint action by the Labor and Socialist International, the Communist International and the International Federation of Trade Unions in defense of the Spanish people who have been subjected to an onslaught by German and Italian fascism.

Steadfastly pursuing the policy of establishing united action by the international proletariat in the struggle against fascism and war, standing unreservedly on the side of the Spanish people, engaged in a heroic struggle against the fascist rebels and interventionists, the Communist International has on several occasions proposed to the Labor and Socialist International the organization of joint action by the international workers' organizations as the most decisive means in the struggle against fascism, in the defense of democracy and peace. Unfortunately these proposals have not up till now produced any positive results by reason of the fact that they have been turned down by the leadership of the Labor and Socialist International.

Taking account of the seriousness of the position which has arisen after the bombardment of Almeria, and on the basis of your appeal, we are taking corresponding steps to establish contact with the Labor and Socialist International.

Today we have dispatched the following telegram to De Brouckere, Chairman of the Labor and Socialist International. [Here follows the text of the telegram to De Brouckere. See below—*Ed.*]

We shall do everything we possibly can to ensure that the international proletariat finally achieves the unity so urgently required in respect to the defense of the Spanish people against the fascist barbarians and to maintain international peace.

In the name of the Executive Committee of the Communist International,
Georgi Dimitroff, General Secretary.

DIMITROFF'S TELEGRAM TO LOUIS DE BROUCKERE

To M. de Brouckere, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Labor and Socialist International,
Brussels.

We have received an appeal from Valencia, from the Socialist Party, Communist Party and the General Workers' Union of Spain suggesting joint action by international working class organizations in defense of the Spanish people who have been subjected to an onslaught by German and Italian fascism. We presume that you also have already received this appeal.

In this connection we draw the fact to your attention that we are in full agreement with the proposals of the Spanish comrades and entirely support their initiative. We on our part propose that a joint contact commission of all three internationals (Communist International, Labor and Socialist International, and the International Federation of Trade Unions) be established to bring about united action against the military intervention of Germany and Italy in Spain. We are prepared to discuss any proposals that either you or the International Federation of Trade Unions may make in respect to the defense of the Spanish people.

In the name of the Executive Committee of the Communist International,

G. Dimitroff, General Secretary.

REPLY OF LOUIS DE BROUCKERE

Georgi Dimitroff,
Communist International,
Moscow.

Have received similar appeal from Valencia. Fully realize necessity of energetic action and more determined than ever to carry it out. We informed our Spanish friends of our intentions even before receipt of their message. Our International will do its duty fully under its own responsibility. As you know, neither the chairman nor the secretary of our International has the necessary powers to participate on its behalf in the committee which you propose.

De Brouckere

REPLY OF DIMITROFF TO DE BROUCKERE

Unfortunately your telegram does not give a clear answer to the concrete proposal made by us. Your reference to the fact that neither the chairman nor the secretary of the Labor and Socialist International has the power to decide a question of creating a contact committee does not seem convincing to us, if only because you could request such powers from the corresponding authorities of your International.

Nor can it be assumed that the absence of formal powers is decisive when it is a question of the life and independence of the Spanish people, subjected to an attack by German and Italian interventionists.

Nor can we share your opinion that the Labor and Socialist International is fully carrying out its duty, inasmuch as it continues to refuse to unite all forces of the international proletariat for the defense of the Spanish people.

The solidarity movement in favor of the Spanish people is still far from being adequate, chiefly because the actions of the international organizations are disunited. This movement would acquire a tenfold greater force if, in spite of all the difficulties, international unity of action could be established.

It is precisely with this object in view that we propose the creation of a contact committee of the three Internationals. If, however, for one reason or another, you consider the form of contact proposed by us to be unacceptable, the interests of the common cause of aiding the Spanish people nevertheless demand that you, on your part, make other concrete proposals for the achievement of this aim.

The chief thing for us is not the form but the essence. The Communist International, which is doing all in its power to ensure the victory of the Spanish people over the fascist rebels and interventionists as speedily as possible, is ready, without delay, as we stated previously, to discuss any proposals you may make.

Together with the Spanish workers' organizations we have the right to expect your concrete proposals on this vitally important question. We should also consider it advisable with a view to speeding up the realization of the necessary joint action, to have a preliminary exchange of opinions between representatives of the Communist International and the Labor and Socialist International.

In the event of your agreement, we await information from you as to the time and place of such a meeting.

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the Communist International,

Georgi Dimitroff, General Secretary.

TELEGRAM FROM GEORGI DIMITROFF TO LAMONEDA, DIAZ AND PRETEL

Alluding to motives of a formal character—the absence of the required powers—the chairman of the Labor and Socialist International has evaded giving a straightforward reply to our proposal for establishing a contact committee for joint action of the three Internationals in defense of the Spanish people.

We continue to insist on concrete proposals on the part of the leadership of the Labor and Socialist International directed towards the establishment of international unity of action.

With this aim in view, we have also proposed a meeting of representatives of the Communist International and the Labor and Socialist International. Upon receipt of a reply we shall inform you.

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the Communist International,

Georgi Dimitroff, General Secretary.

TELEGRAM FROM LOUIS DE BROUCKERE TO GEORGI DIMITROFF

G. Dimitroff,
Communist International,
Moscow.

We, too, think that what is important is the essence, and the essence is agreed action in favor of Spain. We are always ready to meet your representatives for information purposes and to exchange views on the best way of pursuing this action, by common agreement where possible, without useless friction. We can meet your delegates in any place you may select in Geneva or its environs. We ask you to give us 48 hours' notice. We shall come to an arrangement as to the time of the meeting.

De Brouckere

DIMITROFF'S REPLY TO DE BROUCKERE

De Brouckere, Chairman,
Labor and Socialist International, Brussels.

In reply to your telegram we wish to inform you that the Presidium of the Executive Committee of the Communist International has appointed the following delegation to negotiate with representatives of the Labor and Socialist International on the question of aid for the Spanish people: Maurice Thorez, Marcel Cachin, Jose Diaz, Franz Dahlem (members of the Executive Committee of the Communist International) and Luigi Gallo (member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Italy). Comrade Thorez has been commissioned to communicate with you directly regarding the place and the date of meeting.

In the name of the Executive Committee of the Communist International,

Georgi Dimitroff, General Secretary.

FELIPE PRETEL'S RADIOGRAM TO GEORGI DIMITROFF

G. Dimitroff,
Communist International,
Moscow.

We have received your message reporting measures you have undertaken in the interests of the Spanish people. Our Executive Committee expresses its thanks.

Felipe Pretel, Acting General Secretary, General Workers Union of Spain.