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EDITORS NOTE

The response to the appeal in the last issue for subscriptions has been good and circulation has been growing. However, I would appreciate it if those comrades who have received copies and who have neither written or sent money, whether or not they wish to continue receiving Anarchist International. A subscription for six issues of the bulletin is 5/- postage paid, 12 issues 10/-. Those who think that this is expensive should remember that air-mail rates are high; also on top of this the high cost of foreign dailies in this country.

Some readers have criticised the contents of the first two issues saying that there was (i) too much material on Spain: (ii) repetition of items which have already appeared in anarchist or other press; or (iii) not enough news about non-anarchist events or movements of interest to anarchists. Regarding Spain, I think it is true to say that the Asturian strikes and recent repressions of the anarchist militants are, at the moment the main focus of attention of the international movement. Some readers may also consider the arrests of the Spanish comrades in France are 'Spanish' items. The plight of these comrades is directly due to their being exiles from Spain, true; but this is a separate issue from the strikes and repressions in that country. What is more, it seems quite likely that a considerable number of items will continue to feature our Spanish comrades. The CNT and the FIJL are international organisations (current banning of the FIJL in France notwithstanding).

Repetition of reports occur for three reasons. First, though I often receive news at the same time or before other papers, their more frequent publication means that I get scooped. Second, this paper is intended as a bulletin, not just a filler, and so it would be pointless to exclude a major event just because it had been covered elsewhere. Third, I think that comrades will find that my reports of anarchist events are generally more full than those appearing elsewhere.

I agree that it would be desirable to have a comprehensive review of events and movements abroad of interest to anarchists, whether or not they involve comrades, other libertarian socialists, anti-militarists, or organised disobedience. But this would be almost unlimited in scope and would therefore have to be highly selective. It would also exceed the task delegated to me by the summer school (as reported in Peace News, Freedom, and Direct Action) and be quite beyond my resources of time, energy and command of foreign languages. This paper is a bulletin of international anarchist news, and only by remaining as such can it be comprehensive.

It might appear from the second note above that I alone have collected, translated and re-written articles as well as produced and distributed the paper. This would be far from the truth, as the accredited articles - and the assorted type-faces - should show. At the same time there have been inevitable teething troubles which, if readers will not despair, should soon disappear.

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"CARAQUEMADA" - by a Spanish Comrade.

During the first week of August this year comrade Ramon Vila Capdevila was shot down by the Civil Guard at (according to official handouts) BERGA, which is about 70 miles north of Barcelona. He was 56 years old. He was known as "Caraquemada" - Burnt Face, by the Civil Guard, because they thought the name degrading. (His facial scars date from childhood when the shack where he lived with his parents was struck by lightning and caught fire. His mother died in the fire, and his face was badly burnt).

RAMON became an active member of the C.N.T. (National Confederation of Labour) - F.A.I. (Iberian Anarchist Federation) at the age of twenty. At the end of the Spanish Civil War, after three bitter years of fighting the fascists, he crossed the border into France. During the occupation of France he fought the Nazis as a 'maquisard'. At the end of World War II he returned to Spain to continue the struggle against fascism, as a guerilla fighter operating from his hideout in the mountains.

RAMON was a fine mountaineer and few people could equal his ability to move freely in the mountains. Even the most fearless Civil Guard did not dare confront him on his home ground. They feared every shadow of the night, every whistle of the wind - which to them was Ramon.

Few have fought so long and in such inhuman conditions - like an animal in the wilderness - for their ideals. He had no time to build a home of his own and, although he had brothers in Spain, he never dared to visit them for fear of implicating them in his activities.

In August the Spanish Press published an article reporting the death of the "terrorist" Caraquemada. The Spanish Press also published a photograph showing his body - he was on his back with one leg awkwardly bent, and a rope tied round his waist and arms - by his side lay a pistol. The first official news stated that he, and a group of others, were halted by the Civil Guard - the group dispersed, there was an exchange of fire and when the Civil Guard closed in they found Ramon's body. However, a second version was subsequently published which stated that the Civil Guard, knowing his whereabouts, were waiting in ambush. When they challenged him to halt Ramon replied with a burst of fire. The Civil Guard returned the fire and killed him.

Neither version of the manner in which he is supposed to have

"CARAQUEMADA" Continued.

died gives any explanation of why his body had been bound with rope. It isn't customary to tie a man up after he has been killed! Did the Civil Guard capture him and then kill him? No, this is highly unlikely, for such was Ramon's relationship with the Civil Guard that they would have shot on sight and with intent to kill.

Who then bound Caraquemada with rope and why?

Could the French Police perhaps shed any light on this affair? It is doubtful whether the truth concerning his strange death will ever be known.

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Around the World.

CHICAGO, U.S.A.

With the dual purpose of discouraging Chicagoans from planning a vacation in Spain and arousing public interest in the strikes now going on in the Asturian and Basque regions of Spain, the Chicago General Membership Branch of the IWW last Saturday staged an hours long rally in front of a loop travel bureau which specialised in directing tourists to Spain and Portugal.

A half a dozen pickets carried banners proclaiming the foul character of Franco's government and economic set-up. Other participants distributed handbills especially prepared for the occasion; still others passed out regular IWW leaflets. With relief workers standing around, the turn-out was more than ample to crowd the sidewalk area in front of the fascist agency.

The public response was friendly. The IWW emblem - not too commonly displayed in a demonstration of this kind came in for a good deal of attention.

The "Boycott Spain" leaflet was handed out by the thousand to passers by, until the supply was exhausted. The Chicago members hope that it will help to stimulate interest in the bitter fight of Spanish fellow workers for the right to live, to organise and to progress towards a free society, which they, perhaps more clearly than most others, have long envisioned as the goal of the labour struggle."

(Industrial Worker 25.9.63)

REPORTS OF CUBAN EMBASSY DEMO

The demonstration at the Cuban Embassy (Freedom 27.7.63) by London comrades has recently been mentioned in the world libertarian press.

LE MONDE LIBERTAIRE (French Anarchist Federation) In the October issue there is an account of recent British demonstrations, with specific reference to that of the Cuban Embassy. This article, by Marc Prevotal (International Secretary of the French Anarchist Federation) also applauds the fact that most of our recent demonstrations have been ones of international solidarity.

ARBITAREN (the weekly paper of the Swedish Syndicalist Organisation - S.A.C.) in an article describing the Cuban demonstration Helmut Rodiger translates in full our leaflet (which gave details of Cuban comrades shot or imprisoned by Castro, and the names of Batista's ex-collaborators who are now in the present administration).

Unfortunately he refers in the article to the F.L.A. (Federation of London Anarchists) as the ARGENTINE FREEDOM FEDERATION (Argentinas Frihetliga Federation).

ANARCHISMO. (An Italian internal bulletin of international information, produced by the anarchist group 'Michael Bakunin' of Turin and the anarchist Federation of Carrera, in co-operation with the Cuban Libertarian Movement in Exile). In the second issue of this bulletin there appeared a full length translation of an account of the Cuban Embassy demonstration that originally appeared in Direct Action in August. In a brief note the translator mentions the activities of British comrades in the Committee of 100. He also compares the efficiency with which the demo was carried out with that of our Milanese comrades when they kidnapped the Spanish vice-consul last year.

SOLIDARIDAD OBRERA (bi-monthly of the CNT in exile in Mexico) gives an account of the Cuban demo and also mentions that comrades took part in the Queen Frederica demonstrations.

NOIR et ROUGE

While mentioning the Cuban demo in its current issue it also mentions some of the other demonstrations including a non-existent demo at the South African Embassy.

I T A L Y - demo at Venice Film Festival

.....

A film called "The Executioner" was recently shown at the Venice Film Festival. It was about a reluctant executioner who did not like to garrot people. This film was shown shortly after the murder of our comrades Delgado and Granados in Madrid.

As the crowds of spectators began to assemble outside the cinema where the film was to be shown a small 'cortege' made its way through the middle of the crowd. The cortege was composed of young Italian comrades and other anti-fascists, and at the head four masked men carried a model of a garrot on their shoulders.

Simultaneously, another group of young people started to distribute leaflets attacking the Franco regime. The police had anticipated the demonstration and were present in large numbers. As the demonstration started the police moved in quickly and began to break it up, immediately arresting the bearers of the garrot and several of the people distributing leaflets.

Fourteen demonstrators were arrested and taken to the Lido police station. At the same time about a hundred people gathered on the steps of the cinema and sang the Internationale.

After the film performance 50 Italian and foreign journalists sent a petition to the Director of the Festival, Luigi Chiarini, demanding that he protest against the intervention and violence of the police. In an article, "Commentary on the Life of the Cinema" in the Italian publication "Giornale del Specttacalo" Vinicio Marinucci commented....

"The presentation at the Venice Film Festival of "The Executioner" provoked lively anti-Franco demonstrations by young anarchists and communists. The anarchists, in the splendid political isolation that their ideas require, might appear to have been forgotten today in this cesspool created by Political Parties. On the contrary, some of the libertarians, just as much as the adherants of Parties, calmly face death for a principle of liberty, for a noble concept of moral independence, a rigorous self-government.

The young anarchist of the Lido were not brandishing bombs - they courteously thanked everybody who accepted their leaflets. A pointless demonstration, somebody said. On the contrary, it seemed to me opportune to remind the jewel-decked women and their immaculately dressed gentlemen that there are still, in these mad times, men dying for an ideal. And I am happy that the Cinema has offered this opportunity to remind people".

A film is at present being made on the life of Sabater, the Spanish anarchist guerilla fighter who was shot down by the Civil Guard in Barcelona in 1961.

The film "BEHOLD A PALE HORSE" is being directed by Fred Zinneman, with Gregory Peck in the role of Sabater. Anthony Quinn is also in the film.

Fraternal greetings have been sent to the Japanese Anarchist Federation on the occasion of their annual conference from the L.F.A, Notting Hill Anarchist Group (LFA), Woolwich Anarchist Group (LFA), the Southern Federation of Anarchists, the Bristol Anarchist Federation, the Bath Anarchist Group and the Glasgow Anarchist Federation.

URUGUAY

A letter has been received from our comrades of the FAU (Federacion Anarquista de Uruguay)

Comrades,

At the same time as we give information of our anti-Franquist activities in our city (Montevideo) following the sentencing of our comrades Granados and Delgado, we would like, with this circular of the FAU to make a regular exchange of information and criteria with the rest of the international anarchist movement.

Studying those things which our organisation has done in the past seven years (the FAU was founded in 1956) we realize that international relations have been the one aspect which has suffered a great deal in our work.

