



The Volunteer

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The Political Future of Spain: Is Francoism Dead?

By **BILL WATSON**
(Nov. 29, 1976)

Watching Spanish politics from a distance used to be a relatively simple process. There were rarely any fundamental changes in the Franco regime, and the few changes there were did not challenge the repressive character of the dictatorship or the firm grip - stranglehold would be a better word - General Franco maintained over political life. In fact, watching Spanish politics from the outside was even an advantage, because one could learn more from *IA Monde*, *The New York Times*, and Spanish exile publications than one could from anything published in Spain itself.

All that has changed in the last couple of years, especially since General Franco's death. The press in Spain still lacks the guarantees of a free press and is still timid on a number of topics (see, for example, the sentimental article on the anniversary of Franco's death in *Cambio 16* for the week of November 22-28). But it is nonetheless an interesting press, willing to take risks (such as the

articles on police torture) and determined to get out the important news.

The "opening" of the press itself reflects the most astonishing development since Franco's death - political life is quickly resuming its former vitality to the point that Spain is becoming the most politically conscious country in Europe.

In virtually every region of Spain preparations are underway for a different kind of political future. Political parties are being organized; the free trade union movement is gaining momentum; there is talk everywhere of reforming the antiquated structures of Spanish education; women's groups, neighborhood associations, and professional organizations are asserting their initiative in ways that would have been impossible a year ago. And with the resurgent democratic mood and activity has come the reassertation of regional interests, not only in the traditionally strong centers of Catalunya and the Basque Country, but also in Galicia, the Levante, and parts of

Reunion In Florence By Alvah Bessie.

FLORENCE, October 10 - On the face of it, it was incredible. Here were about 1,000 veterans of the International Brigades from over 20 nations, including 68 of our own from all over the United States, meeting in Italy over an October weekend to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Brigades.

It was so long ago! Franco had been dead almost 11 months, but his regime was far from dead, and all the veterans we saw - some for the first time in 37 or 38 years - all looked anywhere from 10 to 20 years younger than they actually were.

In that beautiful Renaissance city in Tuscany, the home of Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci, of Botticelli and Dante, time rolled away in the beautiful golden haze that seems to lie over the city all the time. We were there - but we were also back in 1937 and 1938 and some of the men on the platform had fought with the Garibaldi and at least one of them

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Political Future: Continued from pg. 1

Andalusia.

where this renewed political activity will eventually lead, no one can responsibly say right now. No doubt some of this energy will prove short-lived; some of it will be dissipated in factional in-fighting as parties and trade union organizations jockey for positions of power and influence. It is quite possible that the first flush of political freedom will produce political confusion in the country as a whole, with centers of liberalism socialism in the industrialized regions of Catalunya and the Basque Country and in some of the major cities and a conservative, perhaps even a Movement-style reaction in the rest of the country.

One political fact, however, is already clear: a year after General Franco's death Francoism is a disappearing legacy. To be sure, the old forms of Spanish fascism persist, the military still casts a shadow over political life, the trade unions are not free, political parties are still illegal, and the movement still controls key political institutions. But nobody in Spain believes or, more to the point, is acting as though this state of affairs is going to last for much longer. In the long run there is not a thing the present government, the military, or the old guard Bunker can do to prevent the upsurge of democratic sentiment from sweeping away the political legacy of General Franco.

This is why the November 18 vote of the Francoist Parliament to abolish itself in favor of a democratically elected Parliament is of historical importance. Nobody should be deceived that democracy has been established in Spain as a result of this vote, but neither should those who have been fighting for a democratic Spain for forty years discount its importance. The November 18 vote removes a major obstacle to political reform. It takes away one of the most visible platforms from which the appointed holdovers of the old guard

could campaign against political change. The size of the vote, moreover, (425 to 59 with 13 abstentions) indicates that an obstructionist campaign cannot even be organized within the now fragmented movement. The reason for Bunker's failure cannot be assigned to the persuasiveness of Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez, though he negotiated the government sponsored vote with considerable skill. The reason is that the Cortes members can read the political realities of the country as well as anyone. There is no political future in Francoism, and anyone who wishes to engage in political life in the next several years has to begin by accepting the fact that the rules of the game are now changed.

What precisely those rules will be, of course, is a critical question. The fact that a major Francoist institution voted itself out of existence does not mean that the interests embedded in Francoism have abandoned the struggle to determine the political future of the country or that the government will not try to control the democratic opposition by restricting its freedom of action. The political struggle in the next several months, therefore, will concentrate on the conditions governing the conduct of elections. The government has thus far refused to spell out the terms of the electoral law for fear of compromising the vote dissolving the Cortes. It has now scheduled a referendum for December in which the Spanish people will be asked to confirm the Cortes vote by accepting a multiparty parliamentary system.

The referendum has been rightly called a political fraud, because the Spanish people are being asked to approve of a system whose real character is still unknown. They took no part in formulating the plan, they have no way of knowing whether it will guarantee political democracy, and their decision, regardless of what it is, is not binding on the

government. Yet they will probably give it overwhelming support, because they really have no alternative. To vote "no" or to abstain could be interpreted - Undoubtedly would be interpreted - as support for the Francoist system, something that only a small fraction of the Spanish voters are prepared to do, as the government knows perfectly well before the referendum is held.

Thus the government's real purpose in the referendum is to legitimize its position. It wants a popular mandate, even if it is fraudulent, so that its hand will be strengthened in dealing with the opposition when it comes time to spell out the actual details of the electoral law. Already the opposition, in a joint declaration issued on November 27, has made it clear that the referendum and the general elections will not have democratic legitimacy unless they meet the following conditions:

- 1) All political party and labor unions, without exclusion, must be recognized as legal organizations before the elections are held;
- 2) The government must recognize and guarantee political and labor union freedoms so that campaigns can be conducted without harassment and obstruction;
- 3) The political apparatus of the National Movement must be dissolved and the political neutrality of the Administration guaranteed before the election campaigns begin
- 4) True political amnesty must be granted, not the selective political amnesty that has thus far excluded more than a hundred Basque activists.
- 5) Fair access to the government-controlled radio and television media must be guaranteed to all parties;
- 6) The opposition groups and not the government alone, must take part in negotiating the rules and procedures used in both votes;
- 7) The necessity of creating polit

ical institutions responsive to the interests of the various regions of Spain must be recognized.

How forceful the opposition will be in insisting on these conditions and how responsive the government will be to these demands in the next several months will determine whether Spain will have a genuinely democratic government or a mere democratic facade behind which the old forces of Francoism will continue to control the political future of Spain. Francoism as a political legacy is dead and gone, but the political forces behind Francoism are very much alive. Only a determined struggle by the opposition - a struggle requiring great discipline and political cohesion - will succeed in overcoming them and establishing genuine democracy in Spain.

(Dr. William Watson is Associate Professor of History at M.I.T.)

Franco Rally No Success

The much-touted nation-wide rally of Spanish Fascists in Madrid on November 20th, the anniversary of Franco's death, was no success.

The Falangists boasted that they would assemble from every corner of Spain hundreds of thousands in and around the Plaza Oriente. The N.Y. Times reported that "tens of thousands" attended. The Spanish press estimate ranged from 50,000 to 75,000 and judged the demonstration a failure and evidence of the isolation from the people of the extreme right.

The Archbishop of Madrid, Vicente Cardinal Enrique y Tarancon, denied the Fascists permission to celebrate a public mass.

A statement issued by the Cardinal's office noted that the Eucharist was a "sacrament of unity and a testament of love" and that this meaning might be "deformed" at the rally.

Post News - Chicago

By Milt Cohen

The Chicago Post met on Nov. 12th to hear a report on the 40th Anniversary in Florence. It was well attended, three fourths of the Chicago Vets attending. The reports on the events' in Italy were enthusiastically received with many questions asked.

The Chicago Post felt we have to redouble our efforts to help the democratic development in Spain giving the democratic forces all the support possible - with our efforts directed against the U.S. government's machinations to hinder the democratic development.

As part of a program in this respect, the Chicago Post is sponsoring a showing of the movie "Guernica", both as a fund raiser and as an educational.

Jaime Camino, the Spanish movie director whom we met in Florence, had his movie on the Spanish Civil War, the "Long Vacations of '36," shown in the Chicago International Movie Festival. This may be the first time it was shown in the U.S. It is a sensitive, excellent portrayal of what the Spanish Civil War was all about, as seen through its effect on a number of families. The movie was well received and, I feel, it would be worth while our trying to have it shown in different cities in the U.S.

San Francisco

By Ed Bender

The Bay Area Post held a membership meeting on November 14 with some 40 people in attendance. A report was made by Ed Bender on the 40th Anniversary celebration in Italy and by Walter Schetrum who attended the 40th Anniversary celebration in East Berlin. A lively discussion followed in which the other participants in the Italian celebration reported on their experiences.

The Bay Area Post is now

embarking upon organizing the Annual Dinner which we hope to make the largest in the history of this Post. The theme of the 40th Anniversary Dinner will be to honor the many women who have served in the Spanish Civil War as nurses, ambulance drivers, administrative, etc. It will take place on Sunday, February 6th.

The Dinner Committee consists of Frieda Wolff, Chairperson, Don MacLeod, Jack Lucid, Marion Bender, Phil Muller, Curley Mende and Zac and Sari Stadt. The funds will go to aid political prisoners who are still in the jails of Spain and a campaign for full amnesty and freedom in Spain.

Dr. Eloesser Is Dead

Dr. Leo Eloesser, one of the most notable figures of the American Medical Services in Spain, is dead. He died on October 4 of a cardiac arrest at the age of 95. His service as a military surgeon extended from World War I to Spain and World War II.

Already a world-renowned surgeon, Dr. Eloesser helped organize in early 1937 the West Coast Medical Unit for Spain and then led it for the rest of the war.

Among its many signal contributions, this unit provided exemplary medical support under fire on the Teruel front where it set up a hospital of 200 beds. In the last stage of the Brigade's action in Spain, Dr. Eloesser headed up the American Hospital at Vich.

Shortly after the victory of the Chinese Revolution, Dr. Eloesser went to China where he set up various public health systems and a national mid-wifery program.

VALB mourns the loss of a remarkable servant of humanity whose place in the annals of the American participation in Spain is forever assured.

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at University City itself that night m November 1938 when so many French, German and Italian comrades died helping to stop Franco's "four columns marching on Madrid" stone-cold.

Luigi Longo, whom we knew in Spain as Gallo, presided over the opening meeting in the Palazzo dei Congressi. It had been planned for the Sala Verde but was transferred at the last moment to the great auditorium because half of Florence's 500,000 people seemed to be trying to get in to witness the proceedings.

Longo is much older, as we all are, and he is recovering from a stroke, but the youth and vigor of this good man, who was Commissar-General of the Brigades, was amazing to behold.

"This gathering," he said, "must be a precise political act and at the same time, an impulse toward struggle. A political act because we intend to express our renewed solidarity with the Spanish people, who are beginning today to gather the fruit of a long, tenacious resistance. . .and, once fascism is ended, to establish the foundations and consolidation of democracy. . ." It was an impulse to struggle, he said, because the example of solidarity, heroism and self-sacrifice of the International Brigades will stimulate the young generation (of Spanish people) in their construction of a new society that will be more free and more just.

It is typical of the fascist "mentality" that Spain's monarchist newspaper, ABC, had the meetings in Florence covered by its Rome correspondent, Eugenio Montes, who reported on 15 October that, "The veterans, in nostalgia for the Madrid front, called for battle to in-stall communism in Spain."

The enemy dies hard but the enemy was defeated in Italy too, and Vittorio Vidali, a short and powerful man who was Inspector-General of the Brigades under the name of

Carlos Conteras, followed Longo with an impassioned short address stressing the importance of the Spanish struggle to the liberation of Italy from fascism. The partisan movement of 400,000 guerrilla-fighters - which was largely commanded by Luigi Longo - had a powerful nucleus of Garibaldi Brigade fighters.

Equally impassioned was a speech by the famous French soldier Henry Rol-Tanguy of the XIVth International Brigade. Tan-guy returned from a defeated Spain to be caught up in the defeat of his own republic. He joined the franc-tireurs and the Maquis and found himself in command of the French Forces of the Interior in the Paris area. Lieutenant-Colonel Tanguy, together with General Leclerc, accepted the surrender of the Nazi garrison.

The tanks that entered Paris on that day of liberation were manned by Spanish refugee soldiers whom the French government had held in concentration camps for years after the defeat of the Republic. Yet they entered battle for the country that had incarcerated them, riding tanks with famous names painted on their sides: Guadalajara, Brutete, Belchite, Ebro.

A short and most effective speech was delivered by Steve Nelson, commander of the veterans of the Lincoln Brigade, who noted that the speeches had been many and long and that the hour was late. He lightened the solemn mood of the time ~at had passed with his infectious smile and his patent love for all comrades and friends within sight and earshot of the podium. That love and comradeship, of course, were the hallmark of the entire reunion.

Because these events were not confined to Florence alone. In that area, famous for its Chianti classico, there are many small towns with lovely names like Poggibonsi, Oltrano, Castelfiorentino, Empoli and Madonnone-Firenze, and in each of these towns there are groups of men and women who fought the

Nazi from ambush while the troops of the United Nations were invading the Italian boot and driving north toward Rome.

In all these towns these groups of veteran partisans insisted on honoring the men and women of the International Brigades, so there were daily bus-loads going out to Scandicci and Prato, Pontassieve and Borgo San Lorenzo and the rest. Each bus had veterans from France and Czechoslovakia, from Hungary and Israel and Spain and elsewhere.

In these towns named Rifredi and Vie Nuove, Siena and Antella, American and Soviet veterans, Swiss and Belgian and Bulgarian, Germans from east and west, men from Holland and Austria, Romanians, British and Yugoslavs spoke in their many languages or in Spanish more often than not. There were many speakers and the speeches got too long because these people had something to say, the former partisans wanted to reply and their guests wanted to hear them, and when they parted after the inevitable festa, it was scarcely astonishing that they wept in each others' arms. It had been a long time since they had seen each other.

This seemingly "easy" emotionalism had nothing to do with the fact that Italians, like the Spanish and the French, seem able to tap their emotions more readily and are not ashamed to display them. It had to do with the nature of the Spanish experience - specifically, the Spanish war experience - which had brought these committed people together decades before and brought them together again with the same convictions and emotions.

It had to do with the roar that went up when a message was read from Dolores Ibarruri, La Pasionaria, who is 81 this year and does not travel very much, and who promised to "embrace you all in Madrid -the heart of Spain." That day is getting closer all the time

November 12

"The Jornada de Paro (Day of Stoppage) on November 12 turned out to be an unprecedented and astounding success. Called by the Coordinara de Organizaciones Sindicales (Coordinated Labor Organizations) to protest the economic policies of the government, the Day was in effect a test of the strength primarily of the working class forces fighting for Spanish democracy.

According to COS (which is the new united organization comprising the Comisiones Obreras, the Union General de Trabajadores and the Union Sindical Obrera) 2,030,800 workers and farmers, professionals and small merchants participated from one end of the country to the other. The Day is being hailed as the dress rehearsal for even greater, more powerful actions in the future'.

"Our forecasts of the participation in the Day of Stoppage were far surpassed," said a statement of COS. The action was by no means envisaged as an all-out general strike but as a more limited demonstration of the organized strength of the workers. The demands presented were simple - a general raise of 6,000 pesetas (\$90) per month to meet the skyrocketing inflation; a halt to the increasing layoffs; trade union freedom; amnesty.

Labor spokesmen denounced the extraordinary counter measures undertaken by the government. All the police forces were mobilized. About 450 workers leaders were arrested. Police attacked in some places, shooting down one worker in Eibar. Civil Guards detained Communist leaders in their homes, among them Ramon Tamames, Marcelino Camacho and Manuel Azcarate.

The government officially numbered the participants at 581,924. The "NY Times," for reasons known only to it, reduced that figure to a round 500,000.

The map below, detailing the participation by region, is from the important weekly "Cambio 16." The government estimates are denoted in the black rectangles, the union estimates in the figures above the rectangles.

The scope of the action can be judged by its extent in the Madrid area alone as one example. 340,000 workers were involved; 150,000 in the metal trades, 70,000 construction workers, workers in telephone and insurance, municipal employees. The largest, companies we're affected, among them Marconi, Chrysler, S.K.F., Joho Deere, General Electric, Telefunken, Babcock

Wilcox.

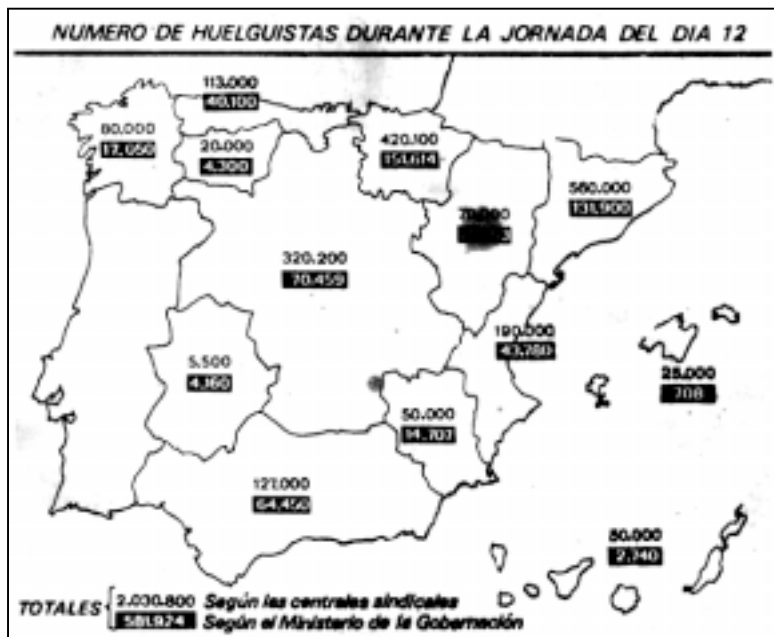
"Home by Christmas"

VALB has received a communication from the Committees of Solidarity of Catalonia urgently requesting support for the campaign of amnesty for all political prisoners without exception.

The Committees raise the demand "para Navidad todas en casa" - everybody home by Christmas. This means the over 200 politicals, mainly Basques and Catalonians, still in jail plus the over 100 newly condemned Basque politicals now added to the toll.

Also demanded is the Tight of return to Spain of all political exiles without hindrance or penalty.

Add your voice for amnesty. Write the Spanish Ambassador. Juan Jose Rozira, 2700-15th St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20009.



International Solidarity with the Spanish Republic

Reviewed By Milton Wolff.

This collection of short histories from twenty-one TB veteran's organizations, with forewords by Ibaruri, Dahlem and Longo (Gallo), and an afterword by the six Vets from different countries who made up the Editorial Board that put the book together, is an important and timely addition to the huge library of books on the war already in print.

It is not just another book on the Spanish Civil War repeating "old" soldier's tales. Though oft repeated items appear, there is an evident purposefulness that goes beyond the bare recording of history, that instead seeks to draw from those brave and bloody years some principles of life and struggle that were shaped then and remain operative still.

Briefly put, the lesson seems to be the essentiality of forging a United Front of all socialist, democratic and working peoples' forces in those countries where in one way or another the crisis of Capitalism now threatens its people with chaos and catastrophe. The United Front Against Fascism, forged and tested against great odds in Spain, is held up as an example of what can be done. Underlined is the role played by anti-communism - or anti-sovietism - in defeating attempts made at workable united fronts in other countries and between nations that, had they succeeded, would have broken through the "Non-intervention" blockade strangling Spain and then, through collective security, gone on to abort the aggressive aims of the Axis.

In 1936, as recounted in the book Hitler instructs Count Ciano, the tactical field on which we must execute the manoeuvre (intervention and aggression against the Spanish Republic) is that of anti-Bolshevism." It proves to be a ers are only too eager to play and too often

the players they field are some socialist, labor, liberal and democratic forces and leaders who have been disarmed by the tactic. Gathered in this book is the incredible saga of men and women of all nations coming to Spain to fight, some to die, in a demonstration of unity and international solidarity that is unsurpassed in history. This is not to say that the solidarity was universal or the unity without friction, but such as it was it commands the attention and the close study of all who are now involved.

To one degree or another this epic of unity, the willingness to sacrifice and the will to victory, as one of them puts it, is repeated in each of the twenty-one accounts. These are the stories of men whose commitment is not limited to a single engagement, to a moment in time. For most of them the struggle began before Spain, for many it still goes on.

The Irish Volunteers came to the defense of Madrid out of thirteen years of armed and political struggle for the freedom of Ireland. And from Spain into the battles of WW II and then home... those who survived carry on the fight even as you read this, forty years later.

The Austrians fought their own fascists on the streets of Vienna in 1934 and in 1936 were skiing and climbing' mountains making their way to Spain. And after Spain, they carried the fight to other fronts. They were with Tito, with the Garibaldi's and with the Maquis. Then with the underground in Austria, organizing the resistance, even in Dachau; rescuing priceless oil-paintings and everywhere at great peril carrying their Brigade banner into battle and finally bringing it safely to Vienna where it remains poised for a victorious return to Madrid.

Cubans who were with us at Brunete were with Fidel in the

Oriente and some of the Doctors who cared for our wounded gave and are giving their services to the Chinese People's Republic. And so it goes; everywhere still engaged - building socialism, helping democratic forces and resistance and liberation movements in Spain, Chile, Africa and elsewhere.

The book makes quite clear the leading role of the Communist Parties of the different countries in the defense of the Spanish Republic in this epic of international solidarity and anti-fascist unity. Nor is sight lost of the fact that this outpouring of international support became a reality because not only Communist but millions of freedom-loving, anti-fascist, progressive people all over the world also embraced the anti-fascist cause.

There were obviously some problems in getting this book between covers. Contributions from twenty-one different countries in almost as many languages was one. The six editors were similarly separated by borders and language~ Each article had to be translated, edited, perhaps retranslated, for the several language editions. Some of the flavor was lost, some names omitted and some countries overlooked in the process. Since the Editorial Board was European in location and Socialist in composition, there is understandably a European and Marxist cast to the work.

In spite of this or perhaps because of it, I found the book readable, informative and even inspirational - a rare stimulant at this stage in life.

Progress Publishers, Moscow.

"International Solidarity" is available from VALB. Price is \$2.50 per copy at the office, \$3.25 by mail. Make checks payable to VALB or Hy Wallach.

Larry Cane - In Memoriam

By Irving Weissman

Our dear comrade, Larry Cane, died unexpectedly Monday, November 8th. He was 64 years old.

Larry, a member of our National Board, was a man of great physical and moral courage. He fought with the Mackenzie Papineau Battalion in Spain and in World War II he was decorated with the Silver Star by the United States and the Croix de Guerre by France. He won battlefield commissions and left the U.S. Army a captain. In both wars Larry's zeal was not the mindless zeal of some one who happens to be, by genetic accident perhaps, a good military man. Larry had a natural aptitude in military matters but his excellence stemmed above all from the dedication that had been with him from his youth onwards to do all in his power to bring about a better world.

Hoping to take advantage of Larry's intelligence and prestige, the forces of rottenness in American society tried to induce him to work for them. He scorned their offers. Today the FBI campaigns of provocation, violence, burglary and job harassment are common and documented knowledge. Long before

the present exposes, just such an unforgivable campaign was carried out against Larry and his family in the late 40's and throughout the 50's. The- FBI saw to it that he should not hold a job for more than a few weeks. It was typical of Larry's modesty and staunchness that he took these blows as to be expected from the enemy, that he did not bend, and that he did not parade his integrity for even his closest friends to admire.

Larry, whose blood had never known frontiers, continued to bear Spain in his heart. He went back to Spain while Franco was still alive, and made contact with the student movement there. He took a group of students to the battlefields around Corbera and made a film with them, pointing out the positions the Fifteenth Brigade had held. This film was shown to student groups. Thus they became acquainted with their own hidden history and with the solidarity that had helped sustain the Republic.

Larry's last job took him all over the States. He used his travels to contact vets everywhere and to tie together loose knots so as to increase

the effectiveness of the VALB.

Larry was a radical in the literal sense of the word: he always went to the root of a matter. Above all, he held truth to be sacred. He remained devoted to democracy and socialism; thence derived his unwavering support to the struggle of the democratic forces in Spain. His support was free of outmoded concepts; he was sensitive to the new events and currents which have so altered the Spain we knew forty years ago. He has left us as a legacy the determination to carry on as he did, in a spirit of breadth, open mindedness and tenacity.

VALB Mourns Cane Passing

The Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade mourn the sudden passing of Larry Cane.

Soldier, hero and lifelong fighter for Spanish democracy. Larry will be sorely missed by his fellow veterans.

Larry's heroism in Spain continued in World War II where as Captain Cane he earned the Silver Star and the Croix de Guerre.

As a member of our National Board, he helped initiate activities to support the Spanish people in their forty year struggle against Franco fascism.

His overriding wish was to return to a free and democratic Spain. Though that visit is now impossible, we pledge to do all in our power to make Larry's hope a reality.

We extend our love to his wife Grace and his children David and Lisa and Joshua.

STEVE NELSON
NATIONAL COMMANDER



Larry Cane is decorated with Silver Star somewhere in France in WW II

PAUL SCHREIBER

In Memoriam

Paul Schreiber, for several years a member of the National Board of VALB, died suddenly on December 11 of a heart attack. He was a resident of New York City.

In Spain, Paul first saw action at the Battle of Brunete as a machine gunner in the Washington Battalion. He later served with the MacKenzie Papineau Battalion.

Back home, until his untimely death, he was continuously active in the labor and peace movements and in support of a Free Spain.

He leaves behind his widow Carrie and sons Allan and Jeff.

VALB, in great sorrow, extends its deepest sympathy to his family.

We have lost a most devoted comrade.

SPAIN COMMUNISTS OPERATE OPENLY

MADRID, Nov. 28 - Two members of the Spanish Communist Party's executive committee were arrested today while handing out party membership cards and detained for several hours, legal sources said.

More than 30 Communists have been arrested in the Madrid area since last Monday when the party began a campaign of open acts designed to establish it publicly after almost 40 years of clandestine life.

MADRID, Nov. 28- The Christian Democratic leader, Joaquin Gimenez, and other opposition leaders met here last night and set tough conditions for negotiations with the Government on the referendum and general elections next year.

They demanded legal status for all political parties, including the Communists, full civic rights, government neutrality in the campaign, an equal share of media coverage and dissolution of the National Movement, the only party allowed by Franco.

Crawford Morgan:

Witness for VALB

By Benjamin Goldring

Crawford Morgan was a comrade whose qualities were deep and pervasive. A telling and public, demonstration of this was given by him as witness for VALB - in the Attorney General's prosecution of VALB before the late Subversive Activities Control Board in 1954.

Morgan was one of the most effective witnesses of that long era of the Unamerican Inquisition. Not only one of the effective black witnesses, but one of an color, occupation, educational or other background.

Morgan, under cross examination, remained just Crawford Morgan and what he said flowed directly and lucidly from his life's experiences related simply and without sentimentality. This was anything but easy, especially for a Black man and in the super charged political lynch-atmosphere of the era. The prosecuting attorneys were young, bright, alert, and prepared. Crawford met and speared their well-planned attacks so cleanly that they hung limp.

Morgan was cross-examined on arrests and or convictions in California. His narration of what it meant to be unemployed, penniless

and young in the Great Depression unrolled with such classic and telling simplicity that it became a veritable "J'accuse", the condemnation of his condemners and all they represented.

The prosecutors spun out that Morgan was fervently opposed to fascism and sought to extract the implication that in taking up arms against fascism he had thus acted against the interests of the U.S. His answer was that, on the contrary, defense of Republican Spain was defense of the American people.

It became clearer and clearer that the prosecutors were becoming less and less inclined to tangle further with Crawford Morgan. In the end they were glad just to be rid of him. He was too much the exemplary "premature anti-fascist" for them. He vindicated the Abraham Lincoln Brigade.

He was Crawford Morgan.

Again "Men in Baffle"

Alvah Bessie's great war classic, "Men in Battle," is being re-issued again, this time in an inexpensive edition by Pinnacle Books. This makes the fifth English language edition. Publication is expected in April, 1977; the probable price, \$2.75.



Brigade banner is displayed at memorial service in Florence. Visible, from left to right, are vets Aaron Harris, John Rody and James Yates.