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Verbatim Report of Meeting

of

COMMITTEE ON SPAIN  
Room 1-324, Hunter College  
New York

3:00 P.M.  
May 27, 1946

PRESENT: Dr. H. V. Evatt, Australia - Chairman  
Dr. Shu Shi Hsu, China  
Dr. Oscar Lange, Poland  
Dr. Pedro Velloso, Brazil  
Mr. de la Tournelle, France

CHAIRMAN: I call the Committee to order.

MR. VELLOSO (BRAZIL) (Interpretation): Gentlemen, I think that I must have the honor to interpret the sentiments of all the members of the Committee in welcoming Dr. Evatt amongst us. Dr. Evatt, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Australian Government. Personally, it is a great pleasure to me to welcome him in this way. It is not the first meeting I have had with him. I met him already in San Francisco, and everyone knows the great role played by him in the preparation of the Charter. This Committee has great honor to have him now here as President and to receive the terms of reference in behalf of the Security Council which are very important in this period of our Organization. We have very great responsibilities, and this work has been conducted until now with a great spirit of equity and justice, and I hope we are going to fulfill the deliberations assigned to us in the same sentiment.

But I think I must add a few words to say how happy we were to have our work until now under the presiding office of our distinguished colleague, Mr. Hasluck. We owe it to his goodwill, his courtesy, his intelligence, his professional capacity, if we accomplished in so few days the enormous task accomplished until now.

Dr. Evatt, in the name of my colleagues as well as my own name, I wish you very happy welcome here and good luck.

CHAIRMAN: Mr. Velloso and Fellow Members, on behalf of Mr. Hasluck and myself, I thank you for your welcome. It is an honor to be associated with the work of the Committee.

The first business is to ask certain additional questions of Mr. Giral, the Prime Minister of the Spanish Republican Government. These questions are questions which I shall ask of you and which have been put in this form by the Committee.

In Annex XIII of your document, you deal with the activities of the Gestapo in Spain, and in that Annex the charge is made that the Spanish Intelligence Service, both military and political, is strongly interwoven with the German Intelligence Service; also that the German personnel occupy various key positions in the Spanish Service, and that it is engaged at present in subversive activities in France, Germany, and North Africa, and then names the German agents, the Spanish contact personnel, their addresses in the area and their activities. Now, Sir, the Committee asks you to give us this information: first, how recent is it? How did it reach your Government? Can you elaborate further on the allegation that contact is maintained with Nazi organizations in Germany by radio and couriers? There are a few more questions, but I think that is sufficient, perhaps, for you to deal with first.

MR. GIRAL (Second interpretation): The information which I have communicated to you during the last meeting of the Sub-Committee was relatively recent. It was all more or less from February of this year. It has been received by the Republican Government in Exile through the clandestine agents of this Government inside Spain. So far as the question is concerned of giving more details on the activities of agents of the German clandestine army which is acting in Germany with correspondents in Spain, I think Annex XIII which we have given in our information gives the details which you are asking about this situation.

CHAIRMAN: Do you wish to add anything further on those questions? Then the next question that the Committee has drafted is this: Have you

information on specific cases of such contacts? Would you answer that one first?

DR. GIRAL (Second interpretation): This answer is included in the answer which we give to the other question further in the agenda on war criminals. If you so desire, Mr. Chairman, I will give the answer right now, or if you prefer, I could give it when we deal with the question relating to war criminals.

CHAIRMAN: We will take it in such order a little later. In Annex 12 that is the annex to which you referred, reference is made to three organizations: the German-Spanish Cultural Organization, the Yassine Committee and the Agrios Exportation "Agret" .... These three organizations functioning in Spain at the present time.... Have you any further information with regard to the present activities of these three organizations?

DR. GIRAL (Second interpretation): As I have indicated in Annex 12, these three organizations, that is the Spanish-German Cultural Organization, the Yassine Committee and the Agrios Exportation "Agret" are in fact still functioning.

According to information we have, they are still active in Spain. I have no further information to give on them for the time being.

CHAIRMAN: In Annex 13 it gives the names of German personnel and of Spanish firms on which control is exercised either by that <sup>personnel</sup> or by German capital. The Committee desires to know if you can give us information with respect to that and to know how recent is that information, and the sources of that information.

DR. GIRAL (Second interpretation): This information is recent. It was received about a couple of months ago. We have received it from the same service and through the same means as I mentioned before, that is from our clandestine agents inside of Spain.

On the other hand, we have found information on this topic in the official Spanish yearbook and furthermore, I was going to give you more information on this subject when we will come to the other questions concerning the extent of German interest in Spain.

CHAIRMAN: Now, the last subject we dealt with covering relations with German organizations... does any Member of the Committee wish to ask a question?

MR. VELLOSO (BRAZIL) (Interpretation): There is one question I wanted to ask. We know what country organizations are or what exportation firms are

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but I want to ask what exactly is a Yassine Organizations, a Yassine Committee.

MR. GIRAL (Second interpretation): The name of this committee, Yassine, as is indicated in the annex which I have already mentioned before, is the name of the former speaker, the radio speaker in Berlin in Arabic language. This committee, the Yassine Committee, is mentioned by German agents who previously served with the German Intelligence Service. It is connected with the Nationalist Arabic League and has agents also in France and especially North Africa. It is as we have mentioned in the Annex.

This committee tries to create incidents in the French part of North Africa.

DR. LANGE (POLAND): There is one question I wanted to ask. There were reports of there being a German or Nazi controlled school system in Spain, and I would like to know what is the present situation.

MR. GIRAL (Second interpretation): The German schools in Spain have functioned for a long time but their development dates especially from this last World War. They now are in the hundreds all over Spain and are directed by Germans in a German spirit. General Franco has promised the closing of the schools, but in reality, they continue under a disguise with a mixed Spanish and German staff.

CHAIRMAN: Any other questions? Then we pass on to the next subject, that is the question of atomic energy.

There is a statement in the memorandum that Spain has the raw materials, the qualified personnel, for the research and production at some later day of the atom bomb and other weapons of mass destruction. The committee would like you to tell us to the best of your information, how substantial are the deposits of Uranium in Spain and what is their production. To what extent are they being mined and where? (c) What are the centers of research and (d) what is the nationality of the personnel conducting this research?

MR. GIRAL (second interpretation): The atomic energy, the exploitation of which has impressed the world so strongly is based on the disintegration of the atom. Though it is sometimes believed that the atom is divisible, it is really more a problem of decomposition of the atom. To obtain this decomposition, we need first of all the adequate raw materials and a great amount of electrical energy to obtain the necessary disintegration of these materials.

Therefore, we have three factors which we must take into consideration: The first one being the fact of the available raw materials, the second, of the available electrical power, and the third, of the technicians needed to do these operations.

As far as raw materials are concerned, there are various minerals which could be taken into consideration, but at the present time it is mostly uranium which is being used, and especially the pitch-blend variety which exists in Spain and various regions. I remember when I was, myself, a Professor at the University of Salamanca, that already at that time pitch-blend was being exploited nearby Salamanca, in the neighborhood of the Portugese frontier, in a place called Barca<sup>de Alba</sup>. This pitch-blend was used for the extraction of radium for medical purposes. There are other regions of Spain where such deposits are known to exist as, for instance, near the Pico de Europa region in the north of Spain, in Asturias and in the province of Cordoba. This doesn't exclude the possibility of employing other minerals and the present scientific research shows that there is a hope and possibility to be able to disintegrate the atom with other minerals, for instance with lead and mercury, which are quite abundant in Spain.

The other factor I mentioned is the electrical energy. The geographical location of Spain permits the utilization of the numerous waterfalls of this country for the production of strong electric power. I would mention only as an example the Saltos del Duero, the falls of the Duero River where it will be possible to utilize, for the production of electrical energy, waterfalls which will give at least ten million kilowatthours. In many parts of Spain - Spain being a mountainous country - there is a great



possibility of utilizing the waterfalls for the production of electrical energy, both at present and as a potential, Spain can be considered as a country where large quantities of electrical energy can and is being produced.

During the last few months, the Franco Government has received from England a large amount of equipment for electrical<sup>generation</sup>/plants, some of which may be used for this purpose:

The third element which I mentioned and which is necessary for the development of atomic energy, is the sufficient number of technicians. There are at present German technicians in this field in Spain. Most of them are under disguise. There may also be Spaniards who have had special instruction in Germany. As a matter of fact, I can inform you that on 2 May 1945, by an order signed by Martin Bormann, Substitute for the Fuehrer, three German scientists have entered Spain, who came from the world-famous institute for such research, the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute in Dahlem, Berlin. With this group, several other groups of Germans entered Spain - little groups from six to twenty people - among which I can mention Mr. Gruenmann of the same Institute, who was one of the oldest Nazis, as his Nazi card had the number 1286. These men are specialized in the research concerning heavy water bombs, the German version of the atomic bomb, and, also, in research concerning radar and the control of planes from the distance according to the plans set up by the Messerschmidt factory in 1944. These people have worked so far especially in the province of Almeria where strange phenomena had been seen, not to be explained by normal means; such as kind of fire waves, which may be due to these experiments. It is also possible that these experiments are being conducted in isolated regions of Spain, such as Urdes, between the provinces of Caceres and Salamanca, which is a very little inhabited region - isolated - but near both the sources of uranium, the Barca de Alba region I have mentioned and the sources of electrical energy, the waterfalls of the Duero.

CHAIRMAN: Have you any evidence at all that uranium deposits have been mined in Spain?

CHAIRMAN: Have you any evidence at all that the Uranium deposits are being mined in Spain?

DR. GIRAL (Second Interpretation): It appears evident that these deposits must be exploited because on October 5, 1945, there has been a decree signed which puts under the direct control of the Spanish Government and even under the personal control of General Franco all the deposits of uranium in Spain.

CHAIRMAN: May I ask you again, have you any information at all that uranium is being mined?

DR. GIRAL (Second Interpretation): At the present time these mines are being exploited. However, I have no precise information on the manufacture of atomic bombs or of another utilization of this mineral. I have only expressed the possibility of such activity because the various elements which are needed do exist in Spain.

I would like to add another word, Mr. Chairman. It is the following: As the Spanish regime of General Franco was not accepted by the United Nations, it will, of course, not feel bound by any international agreement taken in this respect, such as the January 24, 1946 agreement, creating a control commission over the use of atomic energy.

CHAIRMAN: We are trying to get the effects, and this is the next question. The memorandum mentioned COMATE. It is a body controlling all strategic materials, including uranium. The committee would like to know when the body was established; was it established by special decree; which ministry has jurisdiction over it; what is the nationality of the personnel in charge of this body? I think we have covered that question to some extent already. Would you complete the answer?

DR. GIRAL (Second Interpretation, see below. During the French interpretation the Chairman made the following remarks:)

CHAIRMAN: Excuse my interrupting. If the Committee agrees, we will embody the details of these minerals and their control because they are all set out here in writing. I think only the last one deals with uranium, isn't that

The last of all these deals with uranium? The decree in relation to uranium was the fifth of October of last year, is that correct?

DR. GIRAL (Second Interpretation): Absolutely correct.

(Complete second interpretation, as referred to on previous page:)

The organization is COMIEM. It means coordination council for Spanish minerals of military interest. This organization was set up by decree of June 4.

CHAIRMAN: Yes, we will make that correction.

(BRAZIL)

DR. VELLOSO/(Interpretation): May I put to you a question? The organization we are dealing with was set up originally under the name Consejo ordenador de minerales e espanoles de interest militar. Could you tell us at which precise date there was a change in the denomination?

DR. GIRAL (Second Interpretation): I have no other information than the one given by the decree of July 11, 1941, which establishes the Coordination Council for Spanish Minerals of Military Interests.

DR. VELLOSO (BRAZIL) (Interpretation): I put this question because in the first report we got here about this organization, it was given the name I gave when I asked you the question.

CHAIRMAN: Any other questions? Now, we pass to the next subject in regard to war criminals now in Spain. Is there any information that your Government possesses in relation to that? Any names? I will read the question in full Does the Republican Government possess any information about the presence of war criminals in Spain and are any names known to your Government of such criminals?

DR. GIRAL (Second Interpretation): In the first place, Mr. Chairman, I must add that on May 10 of the present year the Franco Government delivered to the Allied Authorities twelve German agents whose extradition had been asked for and the names of which are to be found in Annex 11 of the file of reports we submitted to you. There are, however, many more still in Spain, among which can be mentioned the Naval Attache of the German Embassy in Madrid, the Air Attache of the same industry, General Kramer, well known chief of the German Secret Servi

Gustav Lenz, Eberhard Kieckensbuch, Gustav Fock, Karl Heinrich Albrecht  
Gospartsch, Dembinsky, Frederick Kreh, Hermann von Wehckstern, Hans Gude.

Secondly, I can mention - and this fact has been made public already -  
that the United States Government indicated that there were still in Spain  
2,065 Nazi agents. On the other hand, the Government of the United Kingdom  
mentioned the existence in Spain of 2,500 German agents.

Thirdly, I think other war criminals should be mentioned who have been  
asked to be delivered by other countries, and this includes, notably, Mr.  
Degrelle of Belgium, a number of war criminals from France, and I believe the  
list should also include the head of the Blue Division on the Eastern Front,  
General Munoz Grande, who is now Captain General of the Madrid region.

MR. GIRAL (Second interpretation): I would also want to add that according to recent information which has reached us, a certain number of German agents have installed themselves in fortified houses in the provinces of Coruna and Lugo, especially the first, where they devote their time to activities of such a reserved character that they escape the attention of the outside world. These houses are very large, and in the majority located near the coast of Galicia. Their locations are as follows: In Santa Cruz de Mera, sixteen kilometers from La Coruna; another in San Pedro de Nos, nine kilometers from Coruna; another at Obaoiro, another at Alvedro, and another one in Sarria in the province of Lugo. All these country houses have been bought or rented by Germans very recently, all of them toward the end of 1945, that is, after the German defeat.

CHAIRMAN: I really asked in relation to war criminals, that is, persons wanted by the Allied Governments or the War Crimes Commission. That really was the purpose of the question. I think you have answered it, and I don't suppose it hurts the answer that you have answered some other things too.

Now, the next question deals with German assets. Have you got any information as to that subject?

MR. GIRAL (Second interpretation): In the first report we submitted to you in Annex XIII, there is a list of numerous German enterprises and firms which at present function in Spain. To this list can be added a new list which I am now going to hand you, Mr. President, and which gives another number of German firms in Spain with indication of their capital. These two lists are naturally very incomplete, and I can remind you that the State Department of the United States and the Foreign Economic Administration have far more complete information than what we can give you. According to the calculation of the State Department, the total investment of German firms in Spain represents one hundred million dollars, which at the present rate of exchange, represents one billion pesetas. The list which I am giving you now, I won't read it, I transmit it to you for inclusion in your documents.

CHAIRMAN: Then follows the list. If the Committee agree, we will embody that in the Prime Minister's evidence.

Of course, though the list is not being read, it is available to any person in the room, including the press, if they desire to look at it. We are just not reading it out in order to save time and bring the work towards finality.

Now we will deal with the last important question the Committee prepared for you, and that, Dr. Giral, is the question of the violence toward the Spanish people. The memorandum gives information on the persecution of political opponents, executions, imprisonments and other forms of the suppression of free political life in Spain. The question we desire to ask you as a Committee is this: Can you furnish the Committee with some samples of the reports on that subject in the form in which they reach you, that is, in the form of letters, or microfilms, or even underground press reports indicating the type of report that comes to the Government on this very important subject.

MR. GIRAL (Second interpretation): In order to answer this last question, Mr. Chairman, I prepared a short memorandum, and I am now asking you if you prefer me to read it in Spanish, or if you think we could immediately give the translation in French and English without reading the Spanish text.

CHAIRMAN: Yes, I think it would be convenient--that is, if everybody agrees. Of course we can embody that in the evidence, but for the information of those present it would be best to have it read in English if that is agreeable.

INTERPRETOR (Reading report): The approximate text of the memorandum in English is as follows: "The dictatorial regime of General Franco was created a few months after the inauguration of the Spanish Republic when in 1932 General Sanjurjo, aided in 1934 by Mussolini, and helped in 1936 by a military rebellion with the help of the higher clergy and the efficient help of Germany and Italy.

Therefore, we can be justified in saying that the world war which just now came to an end was born in Spain.

"The persecutions, and assassinations which have been perpetrated against Spanish Republicans can be calculated in the millions and continue after seven years after the end of our own war. In order to give legal appearance to these persecutions, the Franco Regime established a monstrous special legislation which set up arbitrary courts and has organized a police and an extensive spying system, very expensive and of German inspiration. In the three reports which we submitted to the sub-committee, there are documents in abundance, which prove these facts. They are especially the 59th text referring to Point 1 of the Questionnaire of the sub-committee and the 42nd text regarding Point 6. All these are included in the last report remitted by ourselves to you, and also in the letter subscribed by various generals and chiefs of the Republican Spanish Army which are now in the Argentine Republic and which has been sent to the Chairman of this Sub-Committee.

"In these documents, it can be clearly seen how only three generals of the Eleventh Division who were in command of the Spanish Zone<sup>and</sup>, one of them who was General Franco rebelled against the Government and killed five of their colleagues, the three remaining others being able to liberate themselves. When the Franco regime was established as a Falangist Doctrine State by the decree of July 31, 1939 and the law of November 6, 1941, the decree of December 20, 1942 speaks of Franco before the Diplomatic Court of December 7, 1942 and documents 1925 and 48 of the 5th of the last report I have submitted to you.... It came out clearly that all the liberties, the human liberties have been suppressed. This regime establishes a law of the press, 22 April 1938, document 137 of our report"

CHAIRMAN: You needn't read the references, they will be available.

MR. GIRAL (Second interpretation): "... law which organizes the control of the Government over the life of the country with a strong censorship and strong penalties to those contravening the disposition of the Law. It establishes also the law on trade unions in order to organize the Falangist as the only party admitted suppressing all the other parties of the so-called popular front which are put outside the law.

"It also establishes the fidelity to the chief Caudillo for the students the teachers, academiissions and so forth, public servants, et cetera, and it approves official questionnaires for the study of law and order and discipline in which these exceptions are included. For instance, 'the United States of North America... the materialistic sense of North American civilization, its financial immorality'. It extends its actions to all the nations of Latin America where the enormous Falangist activity has been abundantly providing the law for political responsibility similar to the German and Italian laws of the same kind; according to the French jurist, Mr. Labronquer, is a law of terrorism and inequities. According, also, to the Catholic writer, George Vidault, on February 19, 1939 this law was adopted and it has been applied retroactively until 1934. It suppresses all the political parties, makes all the civil servants of the Republican Spanish Regime responsible, and creates new crimes of being a Mason and a Communist.

"Another later law obliges to make a claim of every Spaniard who was a Mason to declare himself as such, or everyone who is a foreigner to be subject to penalties which can go from 12 to 20 years imprisonment... the law of amnesty."

CHAIRMAN: Excuse me a minute, Dr. Giral, these questions were drafted before this meeting, before I had seen them. What the Committee wanted from you on this point, what they specifically asked you to give them if you can do it.... I know the difficulty and I am sure they appreciate your difficulty... was to give them samples of the reports in the form they reached the government. They might have reached the government in the form of a letter, in the form of a film, in the form of a newspaper, or some such sheet, and the Committee did not ask for a general discussion of this, although we are going to include this in your evidence, of course.

First, all that you are giving us, although it is not asked, will be included in the records of the Committee. It is being translated and made available to the public and the press, but I think in order to get the precise question to your mind, it is proper to ask you whether you could get that specific information for which the Committee is asking to the Committee. If it



cannot be obtained, well, it's quite easy to say it.

MR. GIRLI (Second interpretation): What has been read so far was a kind of introduction in order to indicate it, give an explanation of the enormous size of the persecution of the enemies of the Franco Regime in Spain.

My document immediately afterward gives evidence and in special cases with all details that can be desired and if you authorize me to do so, Mr. Chairman, I would suggest that you allow for the reading in English of a few of these paragraphs which follow and which give exactly such indications as you will desire.

CHAIRMAN: Would you mind selecting the paragraphs that would do it and it will all be available to us; but selects the paragraphs you would like.

MR. GIRLI (Second interpretation): This paragraph reads as follows:

"The Law of Amnesty of September 23, 1939 is in its monstrosity greater than all preceding ones as it establishes that the homicide, damages, and other things committed by persons <sup>whose</sup> ideology is that of the National Movement and can be attributed to a social political motive do not constitute a crime."

CHAIRMAN: What is the next?

MR. GIRLI (Second interpretation): The next paragraph which I would ask to read is the following: "All that has been explained beforehand, shows the enormous repression on ideas and persons contrary to the Franco Regime which is being done in Spain. The Annex 14 of the first report presented, submitted to the sub-committee indicates the list of political prisons in Spain. There are more than 160 such prisons which have a total number of inmates of about 170,000, the number having diminished somewhat in the last year by the liberation conditionally of several thousand individuals and more than 300,000 at present who have been placed on probation to work, and who must present themselves practically daily to the authorities.

"In 1944 there were still in one of the prisons of Madrid 1,944 people condemned to death and until a few months ago, the General D. Pedro Losano of Madrid declared that there still were 25,000 people condemned to death in the Madrid prisons. At the present time, people, Republicans, are still being put into jail by the thousands and submitted to atrocious tortures." In the Annex 14 of the first report which we submitted to you, you will find various details

on hundreds of such cases. Women expecting children, children and invalids have been beaten. People have been submitted to the punishment of having nothing to drink during weeks or hung by the feet for full days or obliged to breathe toxic gases, enclosed in small places without air or light, simulated shooting from the back from those who have tried to run away, injection of turpentine extracts, introduction of little pieces of wood between the nails, use of continuous drops of water falling over the heads, and other such horrible tortures. Many of the people condemned to death are hung up and the case related in document 36 of our last report the case of a person lasted for 40 minutes while a Falangist doctor examined the variation of blood pressure to make experiments on the living person.

Another page which I would like to read: "Mr. Sanchez y Guerra, now Minister of Government, a conservative Republican and faithful Catholic, just was able to escape clandestinely from Spain where he has been in jail during varying years in four different jails. He has much information on the repressions exercised by the Franco Regime, the continuous persecution of those political adversaries and of those who throw anonymous denunciations are made to appear opposed to all the social classes."

"The various documents of Annex 6 indicate all this. You will find there a long list of Catholic priests, past Catholic priest, of teachers in universities, of deans and presidents of Spanish universities, of members of the Parliament, generals, chiefs and officials, professionals and magistrates of the Supreme Court of Justice, all of whom have been persecuted by the Franquists. Among others, the eminent professor D. Julian Besteiro, former president, Chairman of the Spanish Parliament who died in the castle of Cardener after an infection produced after he had been compelled to sweep in person the floor of the prison without permitting him the assistance of a doctor which his family had declared they were ready to send for."

CHAIRMAN: Is that word "sweep" or "scrub"?

DR. GIRL (Second Interpretation): "Another sentence condemns to 12 years imprisonment the Catholic doctor Don Pedro Losano in document 13 of the report which we gave you. He was a model of professional assistance in the Basque Hospital in Durango. The sentence is based on the following which does not

necessitate any commentary.

It is as follows: the fact that a person has or has had Rightist feelings and even including religious beliefs cannot be considered as a diminution of the criminal responsibility which he could have incurred. But in the present case, it could be appreciated and it would only serve as an aggravating condition (as it is inconceivable that in such conditions the accused should have given his services -- his technical services -- with such appearance) in the hospital of Durango which he directed, that it became a model, and that his intervention for the maintenance of the religious life of the hospital would have been for the accused a little less public, and each time indisputably the appearance of normalcy of social as well as religious life in the government where it was excessive and contrary to the rapid triumph of the Nazi troops and to the international aspect of our people to which he contributed, to which the accused contributed.

"From a special case of execution, I want to make a mention here that it is the case of the professor of the University of Valencia, Don Juan Pesels. He was in Spain the only doctor in the five faculties of medicine, in the university itself, medicine, law, sciences and also pharmacy, Chairman of the Spanish Academy of Medicine of this town and a well-known professor of international name. He was a fervent Catholic and a man, a good person, who did not know and who did not have any enemies, but he had been a Republican.

He was condemned three times to death. The Chaplain of the prison protested against the condemnation because he knew him and admired him. The Archbishop of the Diocese and all other Valentian authorities asked for a less severe treatment. The Captain-General of the region Sr. Mascardo, refused to approve the sentence of death, he was destituted and his successor signed the sentence. However, all the Military Chiefs of the locality refused to set up the execution squad. Then General Franco sent part of his own personal Moorish guard and Dr. Pesets was assassinated by those savages. The whole population of Valencia protested against those criminal facts.

In Document 29, and especially in the memorandum presented to the sub-committee, by the autonomous Basque Government, you will find the details concerning the numerous cases of Catholic priests executed by the Franco Regime without any previous judgment, without even being questioned, and who have been buried without any casket and without any ceremony and whose deaths have not even been officially registered. The list of priests and monks put into jail and persecuted runs into the hundreds. All this gave rise to an energetic protest on the part of Msgr. Mugica, the Bishop of Victoria to the Holy See and the voluntary expatriation of such an illustrious member of the Catholic Church.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any questions by the Committee?

MR. VELLOSO (first interpretation): I should like to refer to my previous question; that is, what I said about Council of Control of Minerals which was based on your own remark in the last line of Page 43 of your report. You mentioned Consejo Ordenador de Minerales Especiales de interes especial, and you translated it yourself into French in your report, and you said "Consejo Ordenador de Minerales Especiales de interes especial". So you recognize that this statement isn't correct in the report.

MR. GIRAL (second interpretation): It is true that a mistake has been<sup>mad</sup> a printing mistake - in the text of our memorandum. It is connected with the repetition of the word "especial" - "special" - Instead of dealing with special minerals of special importance, it should really read "of Spanish mineral, (the same initial anyhow) of military interest." And that gives the

initials C-O-M-E-I-M, instead of C-O-M-E-I-N, as was given by mistake.

MR. VELLOSO (first interpretation): I am satisfied.

MR. LANGE: There is one specific question I would like to ask: namely, I read with great interest the report submitted by the autonomous Basque Government and the passages which spoke about the persecution of priests. Now this report mentions that Bishop Mugica and about those countries where the large number of the priests went into exile who refused to work under the Franco Government. I would like to know how large this group of exiled priests is and also I want to know whether the priests who have been either condemned to death, prison, or went into exile, are recognized/as being on good standing by the ecclesiastical authorities.

MR. GIRAL (second interpretation): The Basque Catholic priests who are now in exile find themselves in various countries of Europe and overseas, and especially in France, England and in Belgium; in American countries, especially Latin-America, such as Cuba, Argentina and others.

All the Basque Catholic priests persecuted by the Franco regime, or who are in prison in Spain today, have not encountered any criticism or been attacked by the Holy See or by any service depending on the Holy See.

MR. LANGE: Mr. Chairman, I have a few questions of a more general character, and I wonder whether I should ask them separately or together.

CHAIRMAN: Would you ask them one at a time?

MR. LANGE: For general explanation, I would say that these questions refer to two or three problems: One is the question which refers to the authority with which Dr. Giral spoke to us and what authority is behind his testimony. The other, which is very brief, refers to the question whether the debates of the Spanish issue in the Security Council had an internal affect in Spain. Third, what, in his opinion, would be the consequences both within Spain and without, of certain actions taken or not taken by the United Nations.

Now the first question would be this: As we know, Mr. Giral represents the Republican Government of Spain which is recognized by some of the Members of the United Nations. I would appreciate it if you could tell us the

political composition of his Government and in particular,

CHAIRMAN: What is the question?

MR. LANGE: I am stating that now... and in particular, how many members of the government can be classified as Catholics in the sense of adhering to a political doctrine...

CHAIRMAN: In other words, their composition.

MR. LANGE: ...and how many are Communists and how many of other parties

DR. GIRAL (Second Interpretation): The composition of the Government, which I have the honor to represent here is as follows: The Prime Minister, myself, used to belong to the Left Republican Spanish Party, which is a party of intellectuals, professors, middle class people, and so forth. The various Ministers of my Cabinet represent the following political parties: Republican Left; Republican Union; Spanish Socialist Workers Party; Communist Party; Rightist Party or Conservative Party; Representatives of two workers' organizations, the General Workers Union and the National Confederation of Workers; Representatives of the Economist Parties; organizations of the Basque Country and of Catalonia; and a number of other persons not affiliated with any political party.

As a rule, each party has only one representative, with the exception of the National Confederation of Workers, which has two ministers. All the other groups have only one minister representing them.

As far as Catholics are concerned, there were one independent minister, that is, not affiliated with any political party, Mr. Oserio y Gallardo, who died recently in Argentina; and Mr. Nicolao d'Oliver, present in this room, who has recently been designated as Ambassador to Mexico. There are also representatives of the Government and the Nationalist Basque Party, Mr. Irujo. Another Catholic is Mr. Sanchez Guerra of the Conservative Republican Party, who recently escaped from Spain and joined us in the Cabinet. These are the Catholic ministers who are Members of the Government. The Communist Party has no representative in the Spanish Republican Party.

DR. VELLOSO (BRAZIL) (Interpretation): To be more precise, the Catholic Ministers at present in your Government are two in number?

DR. GIRAL (Second Interpretation): There are actually three now. I have forgotten a representative of Galicia, Mr. Castellado.

DR. LANGE (POLAND): The next question is this: On what authority do you claim to be the legitimate Government of Spain?

CHAIRMAN: Your case on that is set out in the history and in the documents, from beginning to end. The case is set out.

DR. GIRAL (Second Interpretation): I could explain it in two words.

CHAIRMAN: Well, explain it.

DR. GIRAL (Second Interpretation): Our Government is legal and legitimate because it is constituted in accordance with the Rules of the Spanish Constitution, which asks for the confidence of both the President of the Republic and the Parliament, or Cortes, to recognize the validity of the Government. The President of the Spanish Republic accepted immediately when the list when the list and names of members was submitted to him and the Cortes unanimously approved of it in their session of November 7, 1945, in Mexico.

DR. LANGE (POLAND): Has there been a persecution of political terms by the Franco regime during the period in which the Spanish case is discussed before the United Nations?

DR. GIRAL (Second Interpretation): The persecution of political adversaries of the Franco regime has been considerably increased during the last few weeks and there are thousands of people who have been in prison and submitted to torture quite recently. Details about this increase of persecution are contained in the answer to the last question, which I could not read in its entirety, but which has been submitted to you. You will find there the answer to this question.

CHAIRMAN: Next question.

DR. LANGE (POLAND): Do you consider that there is a danger of Civil War?

DR. GIRAL (Second Interpretation): The danger of Civil War depends on the attitude which the United Nations will adopt in the case of the Franco regime. It is natural that a people whose members have been oppressed, tortured, and killed during so many years - and I will remind you that it is now ten years since the civil war started in Spain - such a people hopes, naturally, that the regime which oppresses him should disappear specifically. But there is a limit to this desperation, and if the solution does not come soon, it is quite possible that violence will be used to dismiss this tyrant.



We do not desire this civil war, but we are afraid that it will happen if these conditions last too long. The road of violence will be followed and it will always be justified for a people to use it in order to get rid of its tyrants.

DR. LANGE (POLAND): Next question: Do you consider that the Franco regime is a source of international friction and a danger to peace? If so, why?

DR. GIRAL (Second Interpretation): As far as we are concerned, the Franco regime is evidently a danger for international peace and we have no doubt about this. We have expressed this, and the reasons for our conviction in the whole of our documentation. In the various annexes which we have submitted to you, you will find the demonstration of this danger and especially in the second report, the one submitted by the President of the Basque Government, Mr. Aguirre.

DR. LANGE (POLAND): The last question is this: Is, in your opinion, action by the United Nations desirable? Is there a possibility that such action would strengthen Franco rather than weaken him? Finally, what action should be taken, in your opinion?

MR. GIRAL (Second Interpretation): It appears evident to all that the Spanish problem is an international problem, and its solution depends not only on the Spanish people, but on all the nations of the world, and especially of the nations Members of the United Nations. This has already been recognized by the simple fact that the Spanish problem is being discussed here in this subcommittee. It is also evident from the decisions taken at San Francisco, at the United Nations Assembly in London, and at the Potsdam and Yalta Conferences. I do not think I need to go more into this. It appears to me that the United Nations recognized that the Spanish problem is an international problem affecting all countries of the world and that its solution, in consequence, must be international too. The United Nations can make the Franco regime disappear by applying the principles of the Charter and by especially applying the sanctions, more especially the economic sanctions, provided for in the United Nations Charter.

It may indicate too that there are already a large number of nations which have recognized the Republican Government, and still a greater number which have not any diplomatic relations with the Franco regime. Moreover, in a certain number of countries, the legislative authorities are studying the breaking of diplomatic relations with the Franco regime. The list of all these countries is given in one of the Annexes of our report, and we believe this is the only way to - to follow the strict application of the Charter - if the United Nations want to see the Franco regime disappear.

I would ask you, Mr. Chairman, to allow me to read two pages I have here in which there is a condensation of this whole question.

"Before I withdraw from this room I would like to express my profound gratitude to the United Nations and to the subcommittee for the interest they have shown in trying to determine the exact situation of Spain. I also want to declare in the name of my Government and of the Spanish Republican regime which was destroyed by the coalition of the forces established in Spain with the aid of Nazism and Fascism, the following: "1. That our faith in the principles of the Charter is the result of a large, long historical process in which the liberal and democratic Spanish forces have always remained faithful

as the Republican Constitution of 1931 and the conduct of our representation in the League of Nations in the cases of Abyssinia and Manchuria have demonstrated.

2. Though we represent the legitimate Government, we do not appear here to ask that we be re-installed in power because this is to be only the work of the Spanish people when it becomes free to express its will.

3. What we ask the Gentlemen of the Subcommittee of the UNO is that inspiring yourselves in the principles invoked to justify the war and in the norms indicated in the Charter of the United Nations for the protection of the peace, you look for the most adequate method to bring about joint action in this key zone so that the country may be able to master her own destiny and create a regime compatible with the principles of the Charter in which the rights and obligations which come from the Charter can be observed.

4. We consider that it is out of any doubt because it has been proved by documents and has been internationally recognized on many occasions; at San Francisco, at Potsdam, at London - this is proof of it, and the situation created in Spain is not only a national, but an international one. This is demonstrated by its exclusion from this International Organization as was decided by the constituent Assembly of the United Nations.

Now the Spanish regime of Francisco Franco is the consequence of this period which goes from the time of the Committee of Non-intervention where the non-intervention was really consolidated until the hours of Munich when the capitulation gave even more appetite to the thirst for power of Hitler. Later on, the victory of the Allied armies destroyed Fascism, destroyed Nazism and has only left it in Europe in the State created by Mussolini and Hitler - only the one, the Franco regime, of which Hitler said in a document made public in March last by the State Department of Washington that "without him this regime would never have existed."

5. The Spanish people and the Spanish Government which I represent feel sufficiently assisted to consider themselves capable of upsetting the tyranny in Spain. We will not lack either friendly countries nor assistance of all kinds. However, the Government of the Republic, faithful to this democratic spirit of the Spanish people and to their desire of peace is confident that in a conflict like the one in Spain which was created and maintained by

the foreign intervention of Nazism and Fascism, this conflict can be favorably solved in all justice if the International Organization created for the promotion and maintenance of peace can avoid these new and grave risks. It would be sufficient to avoid these new risks that the United Nations decide and apply these practical measures which would permit the Spanish people to decide freely of their own destiny. The numerous condemnations against the regime of Franco can not find any other explanation in front of the democratic conscience of the world, if they do not mean a direct invitation to violence and to rebellion in the name of the Spanish people deprived of the right to speak and organize themselves, in the name of the thousands of people imprisoned in the Spanish jails, and in the concentration camps, and of those who live in constant peril of being executed and of those who fell defending freedom. I declare that if this supreme hope of peace which we deposit in the international society disappears, the only way is the way of violence - that is the only way that will remain open to our great democratic people.

If I have come before this high organ, it is because myself and my Government want peace in liberty, and we hope that the United Nations will not go against this desire of the Spanish people. We ask, therefore, Gentlemen of the subcommittee, that Spain be liberated of the chains which were put over her people by Mussolini and Hitler. The Charter amply provides for efficient means to satisfy these demands of justice.

CHAIRMAN: We shall give very full consideration to all you have said.

That concludes the information which we asked, and the Committee will, in accordance with its previous decision, meet in the morning in private session at eleven o'clock in the Gymnasium Building.

(The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.)