

In France

To continue with Pi Sunyer's letter to Cornudella: "I had thought of setting up a Delegation here in London, but now it would be much better for this to be done in France, where it would be much more representative and efficient, and from where it would be much more in contact with the comrades in Catalonia." In addition to this letter, Pi Sunyer sends Cornudella a copy of a declaration by the National Council to be sent to Catalonia. On November the 22nd Cornudella replied by cable that he would reproduce the declaration in France and Catalonia.

The chief correspondent in France of the Catalans of the National Council is at present N.M. Rubio in Paris, for Cornudella had only just arrived in Perpignan from Catalonia when Pi Sunyer wrote to him. Rubio wrote to Pi Sunyer on September the 21st: "Here they have formed a Spanish National Union, a part of which is a Catalan Alliance." (Here we note a survival of the Alianca mentioned on page 30 of the report of 16.9.41.) "It seems that at least one section of our people hesitates to take this line. Others approve of it and yet another section is hostile... I still do not belong to any party and am one of those who are working for the spiritual unity of the Catalans." On the same day he wrote to Batista Roca: "Here we have not taken the initiative. It has been left to the Spanish National Union which the Catalan Alliance is an offshoot. We are very isolated from the Midi, but we know that the same thing is being done there."

From the Catalan Communists, or rather from their bulletin published at the Hogar Espanol on October the 6th we learn that a Casal Catala has been set up in Toulouse, also that Lt. Colonel Aymerich, one of the Chiefs of the Spanish guerillas in France, Malgrau of the P.S.U.C. and Martorell of the Alianca Catalana took part in the meeting of the Assemblee des Conseils Patriotiques de la Jeunesse Combattante which took place in Toulouse on the 6th, 7th and 8th of October.

Solidaritat Catalana

On November the 18th Josep Terradellas wrote to Pi Sunyer: "A few days after my arrival in France" (from Switzerland) "I had the pleasure of receiving the visit of delegates of the Esquerra who had come straight from Catalonia, likewise of other delegates of the Catalan National Front." Terradellas says that conversations with these people made him decide to hold a conference of members of the Esquerra on October the 28th at Montpellier. "At this little meeting" he continues "... our friends did not succeed in understanding your attitude too well, not because of what you might have done, for nobody knows what that was, but because some people making use of your name had acted or wanted to act in a way that none would care to believe. For example, there is a certain Valls who during our war was director of Evuena, and whom we had a good deal of trouble with on account of his activities.... It was necessary to dissolve the Alianca Catalana and this has already been done. We had to set aside the Alianca Democratica and this has been carried out." The writer then explains that he considers that a new unifying Catalan movement should be created, a project to which the Catalan parties are agreeable; though the Trade Unions are too Spanish to be considered. "Before launching this", he says, "I had long conversations with friends of the Esquerra who had come from Catalonia. They returned with exact instructions. In addition, I received visits from a few people of the Liberty Front and the National Front in Barcelona. I told the former that they could not enter this movement either as the Liberty Front or in the name of the party which had led the Front. You must know that they are the friends of Kin." (the FOUM). "I did not wish to exclude anyone, nor did I wish to make the same mistake as before." The writer says that he told delegates of the National Front that they had done good work for a time, but that things had changed and that a more definite attitude was now required. "... I think they will accept our attitude" he says. "It is very possible that they will decide to dissolve their Front or that they are inclining towards forming a political party."

The latest news of this "unifying movement" comes from G. Alcoverro Falco writing to Jaume Cornudella on January the 14th. He writes: "... We do not know on what political-national programme it was agreed to form Solidaritat Catalana with the conclusion of the Lliga and the FOUM. We trust that one lot feel truly Catalan above other interests, and that the others, without reservations, will never again represent a danger as during the events of May in Barcelona.... It surprised us

very much that the formation of such an organisation should have been reached or signed without any previous communication to the National Council, and that all this should have been learnt through a communication of Sr. Terradellas. We understand that in Catalonia Terradellas does not enjoy over much sympathy, according to reports which have reached us from the National Front... Whether this movement supports the Catalan National Council has not yet been disclosed, but we recognise it as having been named after the coalition of 1906, which resulted from the military outburst of the previous year.

Galicians.

The position of the Exiles.

"The only really bold Galicians in Mexico are the Communists, who publish a paper called 'Loita' in our language, just as here" (Buenos Aires) "we publish 'A Fouce', but they are obsessed with compromising me in order to arrive at an understanding with the Galician Nationalists." This is what Castelao, the most important Galician exile, writes to Aguirre (29.11.43). And he continues: "Of course we have in Mexico a group of young Galician Nationalists who, while not very well versed in the political game, are proving their intellectual quality, their unity and their patriotism in the paper 'Saude' which is written in the choicest Galician, and these young men are only waiting for our permission to represent the party. The same is happening in Cuba, where we also have Alvarez Gallego on whom we can count, while in Puerto Rico we have Sebastian Gonzalez". The writer then explains that the former Deputy and leader of the Galician Agrarians Alonso Rios is with him in Buenos Aires, that Suarez Picullo, their fellow deputy, is joining them from Chile, because Buenos Aires has 300,000 Galicians, while no town in Galicia has more than 100,000.

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"Some twenty years ago", he continues, "A Galician Centre was established in Buenos Aires, which resembles the one in Havana and is something like a state body for all of us, and we are very proud of it. We have in addition many local Associations for cultural assistance purposes and to set up and support public institutions, usually schools, in the various localities. We have a Federation of all these Associations, thus stimulating the love of the Galicians for their country and for Autonomist and Republican ideals. This is a political body which has its own publication which has a wide circulation."

Galician National Council

On November the 17th 1944 Castelao sent Pi Sunyer the "Statute of the Constitution of the Council of Galicia". It reads: "Alfonso Rodriguez Castelao, Elpidio Villaverde Rey, Ramon Suarez Picallo and Antonio Alonso Rios, the only Galician deputies living in South America as refugees, by spontaneous decision among all of them, have agreed to join together to form one single political directive body, to guard, maintain and defend the final will of Galicia for the duration of this present period of subjection in which the people find themselves deprived of all democratic expression. These said directors affirm that the political will of Galicia is legally derived from the Statute effected by the plebiscite of 1936."

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