

FOR COMMERCIAL FREEDOM WITH REPUBLICAN SPAIN

The initiators and those who defend the policy of Non-Intervention have stated that by this policy they desired:

- 1) To prevent an extension of the conflict, by giving no pretext for a massive intervention on the part of the international fascism against Republican Spain.
- 2) Hence to render it possible for the forces within Spain to settle the issues of the civil war themselves, a settlement which in any case would have preserved the independence of the Spanish State.

Whatever may be the opinion on the "civil" character of this war since July 1936, or on the judicial and moral value of the policy of non-intervention, we must now recognize that:

- 1) this policy has practically destroyed the regular commercial relations between Republican Spain and all other countries, notably in connexion with materials required for defence purposes, while placing no obstacle in the path of the intervention of the totalitarian states on the side of Franco;
- 2) and that under the guise of a policy of non-intervention, there has actually developed a policy of one-sided intervention in favour of the fascist aggressor.

Indeed it is no longer possible to maintain a policy which runs counter to the very aims and objects desired by its creators. The entire framework of non-intervention has collapsed as a result of the attitude of the fascist powers of the Rome-Berlin Axis, as a result of their direct and ever-increasing massive intervention in favour of Franco, and because they are more and more playing an active part in the war - a fact which is openly gloried in by the dictators themselves. This state of affairs has now reached such a pitch that today the non-intervention Committee is obliged to demand more as it received less on the basis of its previous proposals.

According to the official thesis itself, the British Plan of the withdrawal of the "volunteers" hoped to achieve no longer the elimination of this or that interventionist element, but the evacuation from the Spanish territory of a veritable foreign army of invasion. This plan, accepted by the Republican Government, has been rejected by Burgos. Any further illusions as to the intentions of the latter would be sheer ignorance or complicity.

The undersigned, putting aside all considerations of political sentiments as to the origin of the Spanish War, and considering only their attachment to the Spanish people and Spanish culture on the one hand, and world peace menaced by the aggression of certain powers and the cowardice of others on the other hand, appeal today to world opinion to join them in demanding of the democratic governments the official recognition that the policy of non-intervention which has been sabotaged by the totalitarian states, has failed, and that in consequence we must immediately restore to Republican Spain her full rights as a sovereign nation.

TELEPHONE No. : CANBERRA 531.
TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS : "PRIMISTER," CANBERRA.
CABLE ADDRESS : "KINDLIER," CANBERRA.



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT,

Canberra, 20th January, 1939 .
In reply quote No. H.323/1/4.

Dear Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 16th December, 1938, and enclosures relative to the question of making credits available to the Republican Government of Spain for the purpose of purchasing Australian wheat and other primary products, and to inform you that the representations made have been noted and will receive consideration.

A further communication will be addressed to you as early as practicable.

Yours faithfully,

J. McKenna
for Secretary.

P.T. Thorne, Esq.,
Hon. Secretary,
Spanish Relief Committee,
Box 305, P.O.
Haymarket,
SYDNEY. N.S.W.

Spanish Relief Committee

TO AID THE VICTIMS OF FASCISM IN SPAIN

Address All Correspondence to—
Box 8, Post Office, King Street
Sydney, N.S.W. • Phone MA5914

Office: Room 816 . Daking House . Rawson Place . Sydney

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

PRESIDENT:

A. McAlpine
Asst. Sec. Sydney Labor Council

TREASURER:

Ex-Senator A. Rae

TRUSTEES:

Dr. Lloyd Ross, M.A.

J. Robertson
Furnishing Trades Scty

SECRETARY:

P. T. Thorne,
International Labor Defence

ASST. SECRETARY:

Miss T. Vinegrad

D. C. McLean,
Christian Socialist Movement

The Rev. J. Faulkner

Rev. G. Cowie

Miss C. Jollie-Smith,
Solicitor

Arthur Kennedy,
Solicitor

Mrs. W. A. Holman

Mrs. Sandblom

Mrs. Harrington

Mrs. L. Gapp

Bartlett Adamson

Mr. J. Lynch

Sister M. Lowson

Mr. R. Mas

Miss Lambert,
Writers' League for Culture

R. A. King,
Sec. Sydney Labor Council

O. Schreiber,
Sec. Furnishing Trades Scty.

L. J. Hatley,
Hurstville, A.L.P. League

H. E. Boote,
Editor "Aust. Worker."

J. B. Miles,
Communist Party of Australia

Ald. D. Grant, M.L.C.

G. Hudson,
Sec. Plasterers' Union

R. Downing,
Sec. Textile Workers' Union

W. G. Martin,
Sec. Hotel Club and Res. Empl.'s
Union

W. Orr,
Sec. Miners' Federation

J. Reddie,
Sec. Moulders' Union

Mrs. Holloway,
A.R.U. Women's Auxiliary

A. W. Thompson,
Milk, Ice, and Dairy Employees'
Union

CIRCULAR:

22nd December, 1938.

To All Country Press:

The Editor,

Dear Sir,

I am enclosing a copy of a circular and a post-card recently issued by our Committee in connection with the proposal that credits should be granted to the Republican Government of Spain for the purpose of purchasing Australian wheat and other primary products. It is considered that if this proposal is adopted it would be an excellent way of assisting the Australian farmers and at the same time assisting distressed people of Spain.

The information supplied in the circular shows that such a scheme would be a sound investment as the Spanish Government has shown that it will recognise its international obligations.

We would be very grateful if you would read through this circular and publish some of the points which we feel would be of great interest to your readers in country areas.

We would also be pleased to supply you with any further information in connection with this proposal if you would communicate with us.

Yours faithfully,

P.T. Thorne.

HON. SECRETARY.

Box 305 P.O.
Haymarket.

credits
campaign

20th December, 1938.

The Secretary,
Primary Producers Union,
Wincombe House,
48 Bridge Street,
SYDNEY.

Dear Sir,

I am enclosing circular recently issued by our Committee and a copy of a postcard in connection with a proposal that the Federal Government should grant credits to the Republican Government of Spain for the purpose of purchasing Australian wheat and other primary products.

We would be grateful if you would advise us of what you think of this proposal and if you agree with it our Committee would give every assistance in having it put into effect.

To us it appears an excellent way of assisting first of all the Australian farmers and the people of Spain.

Yours faithfully,

HON. SECRETARY.

Encl:

*credit
campaign*

Box 305 P.O.
Haymarket.

16th December, 1938.

The Hon. Dr. Earl Page,
Parliament House,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Dear Sir,

I am enclosing circular recently issued by our Committee and a copy of a postcard in connection with a proposal that the Federal Government should grant credits to the Republican Government of Spain for the purpose of purchasing Australian wheat and other primary products.

We would be grateful if you would advise us of what you think of this proposal and if you agree with it our Committee would give every assistance in having it put into effect.

To us it appears an excellent way of assisting first of all the Australian farmers and the people of Spain.

Yours faithfully,

HON. SECRETARY.

Encl:

Box 305 P.O.
Haymarket.

*Credit
Campaign*

16th December, 1938.

Mr. G.W. Walker,
C/- Lindley Walker,
Wheat Company,
Mark Lane,
SYDNEY.

Dear Sir,

I am enclosing a copy of a circular recently issued by our Committee together with a card which is being distributed throughout our branches and I have been directed by our Committee to communicate with you and ask if you would be good enough to read them and let us know of the proposed scheme.

You will note from our circular that this scheme originated from a statement made by you and published in the daily press early in November.

Our Committee would greatly appreciate any further advise you can give us on this matter.

Yours faithfully,

HON. SECRETARY.

Encl:

Box 305 P.O.
Haymarket.

*Credits
Campaigns.*

16th December, 1938.

Hon. J. Curtin,
Leader of the Opposition,
Parliament House,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Dear Sir,

I am enclosing circular recently issued by our Committee and a copy of a post card in connection with a proposal that the Federal Government should grant credits to the Republican Government of Spain for the purpose of purchasing Australian wheat and other primary products.

We would be grateful if you would advise us of what you think of this proposal and if you agree with it our Committee would give every assistance in having it put into effect.

To us it appears an excellent way of assisting first of all the Australian farmers and the people of Spain.

Yours faithfully,

HON. SECRETARY.

Encl:

Box 305 P.O.
Haymarket.

15th December, 1938.

Mrs. Lister,
Box 1136N. G.P.O.
PERTH. W.A.

Dear Mrs. Lister,

At a meeting of our Committee last night the question of credits for Spain as outlined in the circular we sent you, was again discussed and I was asked to write to you and see if any response has been received in Western Australia.

Melbourne Committee had a special circular letter printed and sent to all country organisations using some of the material that was given in our letter and reports indicate that the campaign is arousing a great deal of interest.

We feel sure that the Western Australian Government should be particularly interested in such a campaign as this and if leaders of the A.L.P. were approached they would probably make statements on the matter. We are approaching all such organisations as Wheatgrowers Union, Farmers and Settlers, Dairy Farmers, Primary Producers organisations and we enclose copy of a card which we are distributing widely. We will forward on supplies of these to you.

I have sent on the receipt for £17-1-9 to Messrs. Stowe and Stowe to adjust Mrs. Holloway's Account.

I received a letter from May Macfarlane yesterday. She is staying in France and is not going to London. She will leave by the "Oronsay" on December 23rd.

Would your Committee discuss this at your very earliest convenience and let us know what you would particularly like her to do. She says in her letter "I had a bright idea about breaking my journey at Perth but by the time I do this it will make complications for you so will let that go."

She will be travelling with Una Wilson and probably they would both like to come east after their stay in the West, and both no doubt are dreading speaking.

I would suggest that they stay for several weeks in Western Australia and then connect with another boat on to Adelaide instead of travelling overland.

As soon as your Committee discusses the matter I would ask you to write to us by airmail and we will reply by wire. We want to endeavour to avoid any hitches in our arrangements as have occurred in the past. Una Wilson has spoken in London and I think after she gets over her first nervousness that she will make a good speaker. They have done such a good job however that it would only be necessary for meetings to be arranged at which they could appear and say only a few words and another speaker would be able to be present. Perhaps concerts and other forms of gatherings such as that could be arranged also at which they could appear to say only a few words. The first thing for your Committee to decide however, is how long you would like them to stay so that we could get a boat to Adelaide.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Per.....

HON. SECRETARY.

Encl:

Box 305 P.O.
Haymarket.

15th December, 1938.

Miss H. Baillie,
Secretary,
Spanish Relief Committee,
MELBOURNE.

Dear Helen,

At our meeting last night we were again discussing the campaign for credits to Spain and we came to the conclusion that what is lacking at the moment is statements from leading country people and from farmers themselves. For instance we would like to be able to keep the news items going in all the press. For instance leaders of the Wheatgrowers Union saying that it would be a good idea if such a scheme could be put into operation.

We are making special efforts to get this in New South Wales and we hope that you will be able to do likewise in Melbourne. Mr. Dunstan, leader of the Country Party, if approached might make a statement. Even if it were made with reservations I am sure that it would carry the campaign further.

We received a copy of your circular on this question and would be glad to get news of any response. Was it sent to such organisations as the Wheatgrowers Union, Settler's Association, Primary Producers Association and Farmers etc., as well as to parliamentarians?

America has granted large credits for Spain and if we could prevail upon the Government here to do likewise it would have tremendous effect.

Yours sincerely,

Per.....

HON. SECRETARY.

TELEPHONE No. : CANBERRA 531.
TELEGRAPHIC Address : "PRIMISTER," CANBERRA.
CABLE Address : "KINDLIER," CANBERRA.



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT,

Canberra, 14th December, 1938.
In reply quote No. H.323/1/4.



Dear Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 8th December, 1938, in which a suggestion is made that the Commonwealth Government should grant the Republican Government of Spain export credits to enable it to purchase Australian wheat and other primary products.

The representations made in connection with this matter have been noted and will be given consideration.

Yours faithfully,

J. Strahan
Secretary *JS*

P. T. Thorne, Esq.,
Hon. Secretary,
Spanish Relief Committee,
Box 305 P.O.,
HAYMARKET. SYDNEY.

9th December, 1938.

Sir:

I have been directed by a special meeting of the above Committee to communicate with you and request that the Federal Government should grant the Republican Government of Spain export credits to enable it to purchase Australian wheat and other primary products.

Millions of Spanish men and women and children are homeless and starving as a result of the war in Spain.

The Spanish Government urgently needs food and clothing for the refugees who pour daily into territory under the control of the Republican Government.

Australia has a surplus of these goods: wheat, meat, and wool etc., which the Government of Spain would purchase if the necessary credits are arranged by the Australian Government. That such credits are a sound investment is proved by the Balance Sheet of the Bank of Spain published in May last which shows an increase of reserves by 600,000,000 pesetas since the outbreak of the war. In addition the Spanish Government has established an unblemished record in meeting its international obligations.

Government credits to Spain will help to feed and clothe the millions of refugees and will at the same time assist thousands of Australian primary producers and others.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) P.T. Thorne.

HON. SECRETARY.

Credit
Sanfuer
Box 305 P.O.
Haymarket.

9th December, 1938.

The Hon. J. Perkins,
Minister for Trade & Commerce,
Parliament House,
CANBERRA.

Sir,

I have been directed by a special meeting of the above Committee to communicate with you and request that the Federal Government should grant the Republican Government of Spain export credits to enable it to purchase Australian wheat and other primary products.

Millions of Spanish men and women and children are homeless and starving as a result of the war in Spain.

The Spanish Government urgently needs food and clothing for the refugees who pour daily into territory under the control of the Republican Government.

Australia has a surplus of these goods: wheat, meat, and wool etc., which the Government of Spain would purchase if the necessary credits are arranged by the Australian Government. That such credits are a sound investment is proved by the Balance Sheet of the Bank of Spain published in May last which shows an increase of reserves by 600,000,000 pesetas since the outbreak of the war. In addition the Spanish Government has established an unblemished record in meeting its international obligations.

Government credits to Spain will help to feed and clothe the millions of refugees and will at the same time assist thousands of Australian primary producers and others.

Yours faithfully,

HON. SECRETARY.

Spanish Relief Committee

TO AID THE VICTIMS OF FASCISM IN SPAIN

Address All Correspondence to—
Box 305, Post Office, Haymarket
Sydney, N.S.W. • Phone MA5914

Office: Room 816 . Daking House . Rawson Place . Sydney

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

PRESIDENT:

A. McAlpine
Asst. Sec. Sydney Labor Council

TREASURER:

Ex-Senator A. Rae

TRUSTEES:

Dr. Lloyd Ross, M.A.
J. Robertson
Furnishing Trades Socy

SECRETARY:

P. T. Thorne,
International Labor Defence

ASST. SECRETARY:

Miss T. Vinegrad

D. C. McLean,
Christian Socialist Movement

The Rev. J. Faulkner

Rev. G. Cowie

Miss C. Jollie-Smith,
Solicitor

Arthur Kennedy,
Solicitor

Mrs. W. A. Holman

Mrs. Sandblom

Mrs. Harrington

Mrs. L. Gapp

Bartlett Adamson

Mr. J. Lynch

Sister M. Lawson

Mr. R. Mas

Miss Lambert,
Writers' League for Culture

R. A. King,
Sec. Sydney Labor Council

O. Schreiber,
Sec. Furnishing Trades Socy.

L. J. Harley,
Hurstville, A.L.P. League

H. E. Boote,
Editor "Aust. Worker."

J. B. Miles,
Communist Party of Australia

Ald. D. Grant, M.L.C.

G. Hudson,
Sec. Plasterers' Union

R. Downing,
Sec. Textile Workers' Union

W. G. Martin,
Sec. Hotel Club and Res. Empl.'s
Union

W. Orr,
Sec. Miners' Federation

J. Reddie,
Sec. Moulders' Union

Mrs. Holloway,
A.R.U. Women's Auxiliary

A. W. Thompson,
Milk, Ice, and Dairy Employees'
Union

CIRCULAR:

16th November, 1938.

To Country Organisations:

Dear Sir,

Arising out of a statement recently published in the press by Mr. G.W. Walker, of the Lindley Walker Wheat Coy. Ltd., our Committee has discussed various proposals whereby the poor outlook for Australia's coming wheat crop might be considerably improved.

Referring to the low price of wheat, Mr. Walker said: "The outlook is not hopeless, but there are dark clouds ahead." He then suggested that the Government should raise a special loan to save the wheat industry.

Mr. Walker drew attention to the fact that Australia's wheat cheque had been as high as £50 million, while last year it was only £30 million, and it would be by chance if it reached that amount this year. In considering this question it occurred to our Committee that some effort should be made to utilise the excellent market offered by the Spanish Government. Australian wheat has been sold to Spain before, but owing to the destruction of crops by the war the Spanish Government will be requiring larger orders this year.

We suggest that credits should be issued to the Spanish Government by the Australian Government for the purpose of purchasing Australian wheat at normal prices.

The healthy financial position of the Spanish Government revealed by the balance sheet of the Bank of Spain published in May last shows that such credits could be met. Reserves at the beginning of May were 1,600,000,000 pesetas, compared with 1,000,000,000 pesetas when the war broke out.

The excellent financial record of the Spanish Government in meeting all its international obligations has been emphasised on many occasions, but particular note should be made of the series of articles published in the famous London Journal "The Financial News" in March, April and November last year.

Dealing with the spirit in which the Spanish Government had promptly met its liabilities under the "Madlon" Agreement, one of these articles stated: "This act will go a long way to increase the prestige of the Valencia Government abroad. Pressed as it is by the financial requirements of national defence against the invasion of General Franco and his foreign allies, it has found the funds required for meeting an external obligation of Spain. This shows that, notwithstanding propaganda to the contrary, the Valencia Government respects private property, and the sanctity of contracts."

We ask your organisation to discuss this question and to bring the matter before the Federal Government with a suggestion that such credits should be made available to the Spanish Government for the purchasing of Australian wheat and other primary products such as butter, cheese etc.

We will be glad to supply you with any further information on this question and trust that you will advise us of what action you decide.

Yours faithfully,
P.T. THORNE.
HON. SECRETARY.