
**SHIPOWNERS
PLOT
AGAINST
SPANISH
DEMOCRACY**

By ROY HUDSON

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BASIL HARRIS is Vice-President of the International Mercantile Marine.

Basil Harris is also Chairman of the "American Committee for Spanish Relief."

On May 4, the Spanish Ambassador, who is the duly accredited representative of the Spanish government, and is recognized as such by the United States government, issued a statement exposing this committee as a fraud. In the name of the Spanish government, the Ambassador warned that the Committee headed by Basil Harris of the I.M.M. does not aim to provide relief for Spain, but to help the German and Italian fascists, who, together with their Spanish agent Franco, are trying to destroy the democratic government elected by the Spanish people.

The reasons why Basil Harris is Chairman of this Committee for support of fascism are not hard to discover. Has not the I.M.M. resisted every effort of the marine workers to establish an American standard of wages and conditions and to maintain democratic unions? Basil Harris and

others like him have always opposed the real forces of democracy and progress in this country, and now he is actively aiding the fascist plot to destroy democracy and trade unions in Spain. Does it not follow that Basil Harris, and others like him, dream and plot of doing the same thing in the United States and hope that a fascist victory in Spain would strengthen the reactionaries in the U.S.?

Does not this incident show how the reactionaries of all countries cooperate for the purpose of defeating democracy and enslaving the people? This international solidarity of the bosses must be answered with the international solidarity of the workers!

Basil Harris and other reactionaries own the I.M.M. If he wants to aid the fascists, does it not follow that he and other reactionary shipowners may refuse to permit I.M.M. ships and other American vessels to carry material needed by the Spanish government? May they not try to use these same ships to carry war materials for the fascists? *But these ships cannot be used for the support of fascism if the marine workers say NO!*

This committee, headed by Harris, is organized

fascist-minded forces in America who threaten the democratic rights of the majority of American people. The Communist Party joins with all progressive forces in defending these rights, in supporting all measures that are in the interests of the American people, and in defeating the reactionaries. Only such united action of all progressive forces can defeat the reactionaries who would like to bring fascism in the United States. *Such united action of the people of Spain in support of their democratic government has prevented Hitler, Mussolini and Franco from establishing a fascist Spain!*

The Spanish people have received the sympathy and support of democratic people in all nations, especially the Soviet Union. Stronger united action of all supporters of democracy and progress throughout the world can now bring about the defeat of fascism in Spain. Such a victory would make the danger of a world war less great, and weaken the position of all the fascist-minded forces in the United States.

The American maritime workers, more than any other section of the American people, have it within their power to help bring about a victory

for democracy in Spain. The American maritime workers have every reason for doing so.

Basil Harris, Vice-President of the I.M.M., has shown where he and other reactionary ship-owners stand—and the maritime unions certainly cannot have a united front with the shipowners against the Spanish workers and people!

If the maritime workers want to maintain democratic unions and a democratic government in the United States then they must help defend democracy in Spain.

If the maritime workers want to help prevent another world war, that will cost the lives of tens of thousands of marine workers, then they must help defeat the fascists in Spain who are the forces that are preparing this war.

If the maritime workers want to remain loyal to their brothers who fought shoulder to shoulder with them on the picket line, and are now fighters in the Lincoln Battalion, then they must stand solidly behind the Spanish People's government!

MARITIME WORKERS! ACT!

Collect funds on your ship or dock to provide relief for the women and children whose rela-

320

Box III

Item

82

tives have been slaughtered by the fascist butchers of Hitler and Mussolini.

Pledge not to sail on any ships carrying cargo consigned to the fascists!

Repudiate the embargo. Declare your willingness to man vessels needed for carrying food, medical supplies and other equipment needed for the Spanish people's government. *The British seamen have done this—you can do no less!*

Demand that the United States government provide protection for American ships, manned by American crews, bound for Spain carrying material for the defenders of Spanish and world democracy.

Remember the Seattle longshoremen who in 1919 refused to load arms that were to be used in the war against the Russian workers' government. Show that this spirit of international solidarity still lives!

Expose the "American Committee for Spanish Relief," camouflaged aid to the Spanish Fascists!

Support the North American Committee for the Defense of Spanish Democracy, 381 Fourth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

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