

THE GAP IN MEMORY

A Radio Script by JAMES E. SCHEVILL

Note: "The Gap in Memory" can be performed with one voice reading the entire script, or with several voices and music as indicated.

(Music)

ANNOUNCER:

Memory is timeless,
Does not exist on the face of a clock
Or in the living sound of a footstep;

Yet there is a gap in our memory,
An image that haunts our dreams,
An uneasy episode like a filthy room
in which we have lived,
An evil word whose spelling we would forget.

The word is Spain.

Do you remember?

VOICE:

Unfortunate, wasn't it?

ANNOUNCER:

And with these words go home
Out of the isolated night,
Away from the caverns of memory,
Forget—

(Music)

ANNOUNCER:

Now we, the living exiles from memory,
Enter the easy apartment room at night
Saying:

VOICE:

"Turn down the light."

ANNOUNCER:

"Turn down the light"
(Meaning the conscience of guilt
Which shines in our dreams with its white face)
Saying,

VOICE:

"We did not know.
The decision was not up to us.
Our homes were secure.
How could we risk our security?"

ANNOUNCER:

Secure?

The bones of Maidanek laugh,
The corpses of Buchenwald give their silent answer,
The graves on Bataan shine with mockery in the sun,
While the names of Stalingrad, Sevastopol, Normandy,
Salerno, and North Africa are freshly engraved in irony
in the history books.

VOICE:

Unfortunate, wasn't it.

ANNOUNCER:

But the mirror of history gives us the answer,
Eye to eye,
There was the future in miniature
And we turned away.

The uniforms were clearly marked,

The sides drawn up

And the stakes plainly in view.

The Spanish sky was marked with omens

And prophets from all countries

Enlisted in the International Brigades.

The price was not gold or territory

But the peace of the world

And we turned away.

(Music)

VOICE:

But it's over and done with now.

Let the episode rest in history.

ANNOUNCER:

The cure of guilt is not evasion

And the episode is not ended.

There is tension in the houses of Spain.

The firing squads are not forgotten.

The Spanish graves are not silent.

There was a poet the world remembers.

His name was Lorca and once

He jokingly said that he was

A Catholic, Communist, Anarchist,

Libertarian, Traditionalist and Monarchist

All at the same time, which was merely

His way of saying he was a Spaniard.

He was murdered by Franco's Civil Guard

Because he saw their terrorist face and wrote:

VOICE:

"Black are their horses
and black their horses' hooves.
Upon their capes stains
of ink and wax glisten.

Because their skulls are made
of lead they do not weep.

With patent leather souls
they come down the road."

(Music)

ANNOUNCER:

No, the dead are not silent.

The voice of the poet cannot be stilled.

The voices of the dead in Spain

Still wait for the inner voice of justice.

And with each sun that sets on the Spanish land

A prayer is chanted for the spirit of Lorca and the dead

Who fought for the life of Spain:

VOICE:

Here lies the soul of Spain

Guarded by the rain.

In the center of this ground

Listen to the living sound.

On the freedom of this death

Lay the final wreath.

From their graves shall flower

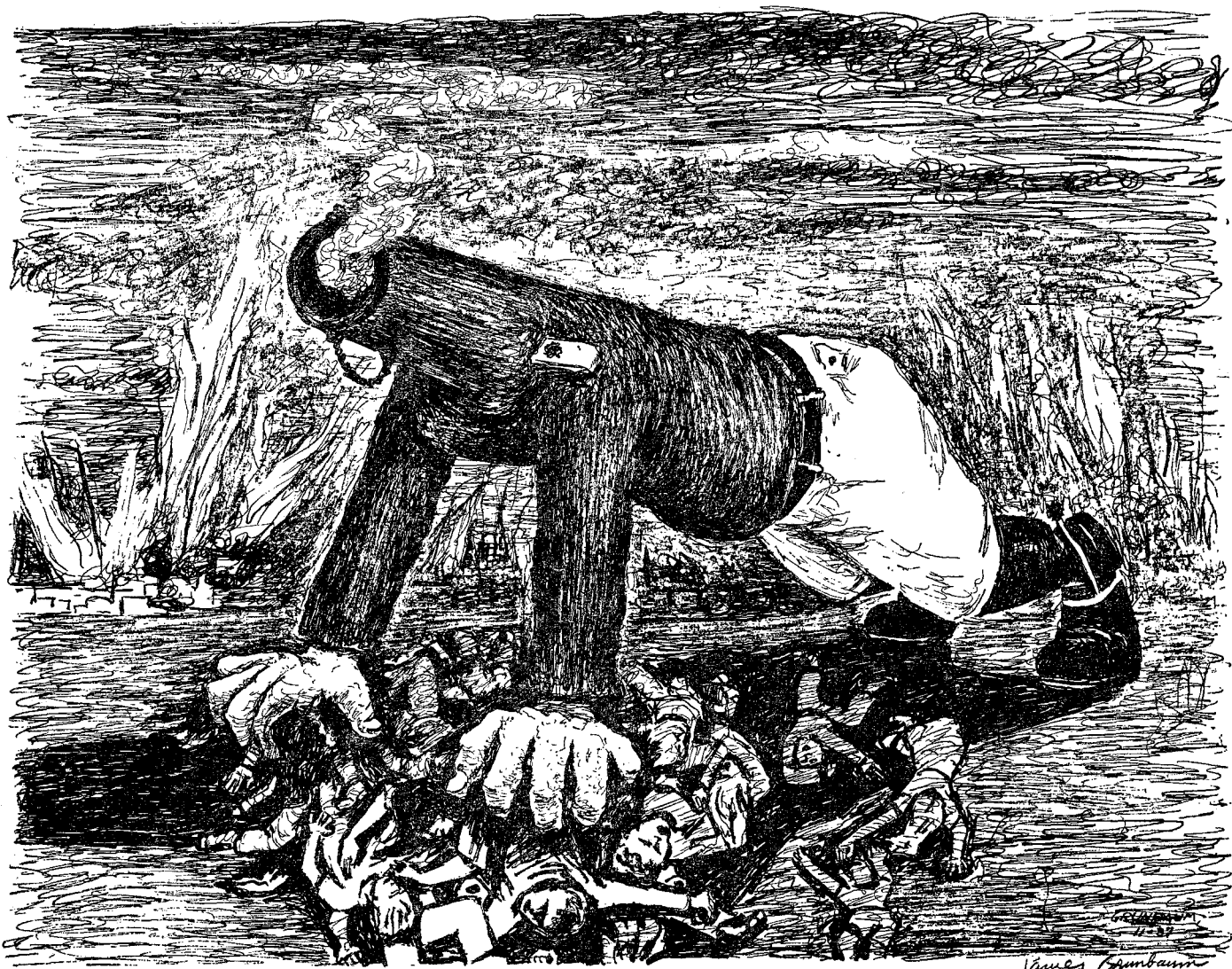
Spanish freedom in its future hour.

(Music)

VOICE:

But the dead are dead.

There is no one to carry on.



"Non-intervention: Spain, 1937," by James Grunbaum.

ANNOUNCER:

The words twist in the night of memory.
 No one to carry on?
 Are we to forget so soon?
 Have we forgotten the Spanish exiles?
 The thousands of so-called "displaced" persons
 Who survived German concentration camps
 And forced labor on the trans-Saharan railroad
 And the broken houses of exile
 In many an alien country?
 Can these people be forgotten?
 And the living in Spain.
 Have you heard of any new freedoms
 They have been offered?
 Is there freedom of speech, of religion, of education?
 No,
 The mirror of history again gives us the answer.
 The innocent shall not suffer while the guilty escape.
 The fate of the world rests
 In the simple belief in humanity,
 Faith in the brotherhood of men.
 Behind the mask of secrets between nations lies disaster,
 The failure of economic unity,
 The failure of world organization,
 And the molten face of future war.

(Music)

ANNOUNCER:

Now again the choice is clear.

The hour with its heavy hand
 Calls for the united action.
 Freedom cannot be purchased.
 It is a debt owed to the living.
 It is a debt owed to the dead.

VOICE:

The parliament with the representatives
 Elected by the people
 Must sit again in Madrid,
 The shining military uniforms disappear
 And with them shall vanish the sabres of fear.

VOICE:

The places of assembly must again be filled
 With those who desire to meet in peace,
 Then the pomp and ceremony shall melt
 And work replace the decorations of felt.

VOICE:

The hospitals and colleges must once more open
 To the knowledge and thought of the world,
 The exiled scholars and creators of Spanish culture
 Return to the halls which now are bound
 With the hollow echoes of military sound.

VOICES:

Then the Spanish republic will live again
 Though it waits now behind a wall of black rain.

(Music)

THE USSR AND ARGENTINA

An Editorial by **FREDERICK V. FIELD**

THE key to understanding the problem of Argentina today lies less in the internal politics of that country or in the nature of the Peron government than in the nature and policies of the United States. Since the death of President Roosevelt the international situation has changed drastically for the worse and it is only in terms of this change, resulting from the destructive role now being played by American imperialism, that the recent recognition of the Peron government by the Soviet Union can be understood.

The cardinal fact in the situation today is that the United States is the most dangerously aggressive nation in the Western Hemisphere. A year ago, when Big Three cooperation and the Good Neighbor Policy were still fairly intact, it was the fascist threat emanating from Peron's Argentina that constituted the most serious menace to international security in the Western Hemisphere. At the present time, however, not only has the deliberate ineptness of North American diplomacy solidified the position of the Argentine demagogue, but by discarding all the democratic concepts of the Roosevelt period the United States has embarked on a road of world domination which by comparison makes the blusterings of Peron insignificant.

Soviet foreign policy, as is well known, is practical and realistic. It reacts to concrete facts and specific situations. The recent opening of diplomatic and economic relations with Argentina is in keeping with that tradition. The objective of Soviet foreign policy is to provide security for the Soviet Union by contributing to an international security system and by combatting those forces and influences which threaten it. Soviet-Argentine relations are also a part of that pattern.

It was a little over a year ago that the United States made one of its first overt moves against Big Three unity and on behalf of American-British world hegemony. At San Francisco the American government bludgeoned the Latin American nations and others into admitting Peron's fascist government into the United Nations. The Soviet Union led the unsuccessful opposition.

In taking this position the Soviet Union was fighting for world security in the context of the concrete world situation which existed at that time.

In recognizing the same Peron government today the Soviet Union is not reversing itself; on the contrary, it is reflecting an international scene which—largely because of North American imperialist aggression—has itself radically changed. The struggle for world security, which in April 1945 required the isolation of the Peronistas, in June 1946 requires the weakening of the Anglo-American imperialist bloc. Soviet policy has been consistent. The policy of the United States, on the other hand, in repudiating the Roosevelt principles and adopting crass anti-Soviet, anti-democratic positions, has been reversed.

Argentine fascism in April 1945, moreover, was a far more dangerous potential than it is today—and this point is pertinent regardless of the re-emergence of aggressive United States imperialism. Fourteen months ago Peron was a Western Hemisphere image of Hitlerism in Europe. The strength and danger of Argentine fascism was enhanced by Nazism in Europe. Today, Hitlerism has been vanquished and Peron is an image of an institution reduced to ashes. Peron's European base is now narrowed down to Franco Spain, and if the latter can be destroyed, as the Soviet Union advo-

cates, Peron will be reduced to a dim image indeed.

In no sector of the world is the reversal of the United States' wartime policies more evident than in Latin America. In this hemisphere the reaction stemming from Wall Street to which the Truman administration has made itself altogether subservient is riding roughshod over all that is basic to international security and democracy. While sneering at the mere opening of diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and Argentina the Truman government is trying to create a military alliance with all the Latin American nations, including Argentina! The Soviet answer to this new situation is to endeavor to make its democratic influence felt in Latin America as elsewhere in the world. The recognition of the Peron government is one way of dealing with the threat of North American imperialism throughout the world.

There is no more inconsistency between the Soviet attitude toward Peron a year ago and now than there is between the USSR's demand for isolating Franco Spain and at the same time opening relations with Peron. Both Peron and Franco are fascists. Whereas the latter can and must be dealt with in the context of a democratic upsurge in Europe which holds the possibility of joint action to crush his regime, Peron must be dealt with in the context of a hemisphere in which the overriding threat comes from Washington. A dialectical approach calls for isolating Spanish fascism and for cooperating with the Argentine people (despite their form of government) against United States imperialism.

Few events of recent months give a clearer insight into the world situation, a sharper warning of the danger of the Truman administration's foreign policies, than the arrangement between the USSR and Argentina. Instead of being stupidly denounced, as the imperialist press is doing, that arrangement must be examined and understood as a concrete move to meet a very specific and highly dangerous situation, the onus for which rests upon America's rulers.



Edith Miller.