

25

20th June, 1956

Controller European Services,
The B.B.C.,
Bush House,
Strand,
London, W.C.2.

Dear Sir,

The Committee of the Anglo-Catalan Society view with increasing disquiet a situation which has been for some months apparent to them, and to which their attention has been drawn both by members of the Society and by many friends in Spain. We refer to an apparent cessation in the B.B.C.'s fortnightly transmissions in the Catalan language.

These programmes have been broadcast, we believe without a break of any significant length, for the past nine years. They have never been other than purely cultural, and cannot by any stretch of the imagination have been construed as supporting any separatist tendency. They have been greatly appreciated by an intelligent listening-public, a public unlikely to find anything to interest them in the material broadcast by local transmitters in Catalan-speaking areas of the Peninsula. There would appear to be no valid reason why the monopoly in regional-language broadcasts to Spain should be held by the transmitters of Prague, Moscow and Belgrade - particularly in view of the highly controversial nature and presentation of the programme material emanating from these capitals. The sudden and unexplained discontinuance some three months ago of the Corporation's regional-language transmissions to Spain cannot but be regarded by our friends in Catalonia with great regret; and a complete cessation of these programmes might well harm the Corporation's reputation for objective treatment of controversial matters.

This Committee would welcome an assurance from the B.B.C. that an explanation of the reasons for this apparent discontinuance of transmissions in Catalan will be broadcast to

listeners in Catalonia, exactly as listeners to the Home services are kept reasonably well-informed of the reasons for any divergence from precedent.

Yours faithfully,



Prof. Frank Pierce (~~University of Sheffield~~)
President

P. Russell-Gebbett (~~University of Nottingham~~)
Honorary Secretary

G.W. Ribbans (~~University of Sheffield~~)
Honorary Treasurer

Helen F. Grant (~~Girton College, Cambridge~~)
Member of Committee