

5 Lyndewode Rd.  
Cambridge  
30-VI-59

My dear Take

I should like to thank you warmly for your excellent letter to the "Times", particularly on the pressing question put to the Ambassador. I wonder, however, whether he will reply.

The "New York Times" has also mentioned the Institut incident as well as Congressman Porter in the Congress. A whole report on the incident is printed in the "Congressional Record" of June 18<sup>th</sup>.

I have lately heard that a member of a friendly Delegation to the UNESCO general Conference asked privately the head of the Spanish Delegation whether the Spanish Government had any intention to adapt their policy towards the Catalans to the principles of the United Nations. The answer was that they do not contemplate any change in the present status quo. The impression our friend gathered was that they are not worried by the principles of UNESCO because they know that it has no power of coercion to enforce them.

So all we can do is to expose their policy & appeal to the moral sense & respect for principles of decent people.

This is why your letter is so valuable.

A German paper (Rheinischer Merkur, Cologne, 3. IV. 59) has published an article "Quadrilingual Spain" sent from Madrid & representing the official view on the Catalan question. The idea they now wish to convey is that after the Spanish Civil War there was some persecution of the Catalans & Basques because they had sided with the Popular Front. But now all this is a thing of the past: the Catalans are free to use their language & publish Catalan books & even the Spanish press has no objections to express when discussing aspects of Catalan culture. So, as you see, we are all very happy!

With all best wishes

Yours sincerely

Balístai Roca

The Jocs Florals were a great success. The prize of our Anglo-Catalan Society went to Triadú for his book on the sonnets of Shakespeare with their Catalan translation.