

RBT/EW

8th June, 1962.

Mr. Francis Noel-Baker, M.P.,
House of Commons,
London, W.C.1.

Dear Mr. Noel-Baker,

I am extremely sorry that you will not be able to come to the Anglo-Catalan Conference in Oxford. May I, however, as a private individual, take advantage of this occasion to solicit your help, as well as of any other M.Ps who may be interested.

I am continually receiving letters from students and scholars in Barcelona asking me to do something about the recent wave of arrests amongst the students in the University there. I have just written a letter to the Guardian in response to a recent series of articles by James Morris on Spain, of which I enclose a copy.

More recent information shows that about 50 students are now in jail for having demonstrated in support of the Asturian workers. The one I mention, Isidre Molas, is a younger brother of Joaquin Molas, assistant lecturer in Liverpool University, 1959-60, 1960-61. There are also some half-a-dozen girls. As far as I know, no charges have yet been preferred.

I should be very glad if some pressure could be exerted in certain quarters, and if maximum publicity could be given to the repressive actions of a government which is even being criticised openly by the Church. I doubt if even Mr. Butler could extend his condonation to these deeds.

Yours sincerely,

RBT