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**Spanish Refugee Aid, Inc.**  
Room 421 • 80 East 11th Street • New York City 3, N. Y.

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December 9, 1954

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Dear Friends:

Can you help make this Christmas a happier one for our Spanish Civil War refugees in France? Since you have contributed to our work before, I do not need to tell you their story. Every dollar we send helps them materially, but also makes them feel that they have not been abandoned.

We would like to send a CARE food package to every one of our neediest refugees this month. As you will see from Nancy Macdonald's report, we have been offered some free packages for Xmas. But these will go, of necessity, only to refugees living in and around Paris, Montauban, Toulouse and Perpignan. The many poor and old Spanish refugees living in the country or in other towns and cities will get nothing.

We also want to fill the long list of special requests still pending: tools for a shoemaker and cabinet maker, a special wheel chair for a man who is paralyzed, a trumpet, some blankets, hearing aids, sewing machines, etc.

Let me thank you for the wonderful help you have given in the past. Will you help again and send your contribution soon?

Very sincerely,

*James T Farrell*

P.S. If you want CARE packages sent in your name, please note this on the enclosed return envelope. Otherwise your money will be used wherever most needed.



## Nancy Macdonald's Report

Since I wrote you last, we have sent off about 2,500 lbs. of clothes and distributed \$8,600 in cash.

Last summer I was in Europe for three months. I took over and delivered two second hand typewriters, one ultra-violet ray lamp and two hearing aids. (I wish you could have been with me when our little old Spanish Admiral turned his hearing aid on and said "Say something!" and seen his big smile when I mumbled a few hurried words in French.) Since September we have sent off a sewing machine, three hearing aids and 120 suits of new winter underclothes paid for by one generous contributor. CARE is giving us 720 of their fifteen-pound F.O.A. (Foreign Overseas Administration) Christmas packages for distribution in Perpignan, and the International Rescue Committee is contributing more of these packages to be distributed to the Spaniards in Paris, Montauban and Toulouse.

During my trip abroad I made a start toward forming a branch of SRA in England. In Paris I visited many committees, Spanish, French and International (such as the Liga Espanola de Mutilados, Service Sociale d'Aide aux Emigrants, French office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees) to discuss the needs of our refugees. I visited the Spanish Red Cross Dispensary in Montauban and in Toulouse, the Solidarite Internationale Antifasciste, Solidaridad Democratica Espanola and Spanish Red Cross.

In Prades I spent several hours with Pablo Casals, talking about our plans, seeing how he had used his small fund. In gratitude for our help to his countrymen, he played for me and said again and again how deeply he appreciated our efforts.

In Perpignan our Field Representative, Suzanne Chatelet, took me around to visit the people we have helped during the last year and a half. Let me tell you about two:

Pedro R. lives in a tiny outhouse. When we arrived, he was in bed with a fever, and we waited outside the chicken-wired door while he dressed. His room has no lighting—the landlord won't put it in. Pedro cooks outside his door on an open air hearth. The new mattress we bought him is covered with the old ragged one "to preserve it." Pedro was so happy to see us. His face was scarred by tuberculosis, but he smiled with pleasure at our visit. Sadness overcame him when he told about the unfriendliness of the neighbors, who never come near him. He kept saying to us with tears in his eyes, "Why is there so much hatred in the world" as he made a despairing gesture with his hands.

Luis G. is a little old man in his 60s. He is too sick with kidney trouble to work, but he does a little gardening and "gets by" on the 2,500 frcs. a month he gets from the Municipality. He came to pay me a call, to thank me, and to ask for our help this winter so that he might buy coal and a little extra food. He also offered me a rabbit which he had raised. At the end of his visit I took him back to his cabin situated on the outskirts of Perpignan in the middle of a field with a magnificent view of the Pyrenees. The cabin is held together with strings and wire and he pointed out the spot, up to his chest, where the water rose last winter in an unprecedented snow storm. He had to be rowed out. Inside he showed me proudly the few clothes he had received from the U.S. and as he pulled each article out of dilapidated old bags which were stowed away under the newspaper-covered ceiling, he kept repeating over and over "And this came from America." He offered me his last tomato. When I turned it down—also the rabbit—he insisted I take along some squashes. Gallantly, he escorted me back to the main highway, fearful lest I should get lost.

SRA has been helping these two Spaniards by giving them \$6 a month. We need your contributions for the many others who are in the same situation, sick and old. There are so many projects waiting on your generosity. We hope we can start them soon.