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Mrs. Roosevelt Comes to Aid Of Alvarez and Zapirain

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt warned Monday that only an aroused public opinion can force Franco to permit an international panel of lawyers to defend Santiago Alvarez and Sebastian Zapirain at an open trial.

Alvarez and Zapirain were jailed in Spain four months ago for their part in the fight against Franco's fascism and their trial is scheduled for early January. Mrs. Roosevelt expressed interest in the case when she was visited at her New York apartment Monday by Mrs. Soledad de Alvarez, who came to this country from Cuba to intensify the fight for her husband's freedom.

Any trial of Alvarez and the other political prisoners should be an open one, Mrs. Roosevelt declared, and an international panel of lawyers should be allowed to enter Spain to defend them.

The American Committee for Spanish Freedom, which arranged the meeting between Mrs. Roosevelt and Mrs. Alvarez, has organized an international panel including to date, Bartley C. Crum from America, and probably D. N. Pritt from England. The panel is designed to defend Alvarez and Zapirain if Franco goes through with his plan to try them.

Mrs. Roosevelt said justice demanded that political prisoners should have open trials "everywhere in the world." The American people should take the lead in demanding that this principle should be applied in every corner of the globe, she declared.

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INDEXED 87 JAN 17 1946

49

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Date 12-19-45

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59 JAN 22 1946 95