

## **New Documentary : *Niños in Wales***

A new TV programme about the experiences of Basque refugee children in Wales was screened by BBC1 Wales on 3rd December at 10.35pm. The Basque Children of '37 Association was closely involved with finding suitable archival material for the documentary.

Presented by Eddie Butler, the programme focused on the colonies at Caerleon, Swansea, Brechfa and Old Colwyn. There were interviews with Josefina Savery, who was 14 when she arrived at Caerleon, her brother Gerard, who was seven, and Jose Armolea, who was 11 when he stayed at Brechfa. All three lost a parent in the Civil War.

The programme traced the sympathy of the Welsh people for the Basques, and the similarities between the two countries. Like the Republicans, Welsh miners considered they were fighting Fascism in the form of high unemployment, low wages and benefit cuts in the Welsh valleys. Wales supplied more volunteers for the International Brigades than any other part of Britain and 33 gave their lives.

There were also interviews with Hywel Davies, author of *Fleeing Franco*, a book about the Welsh contingent of refugees, Aberavon MP and historian Hywel Francis, author of *Miners Against Fascism*, Alun Emlyn Jones, whose father John was instrumental in setting up Cambria House at Caerleon and the family of George Phillips, a coach driver who used to take a dozen Cambria House children home for tea with his Mum and Dad on Sundays. There was also a contribution from the late Rosa Steel, nee Noriega, who was interviewed several years ago about her experiences with the children at Sketty Park House.

Producer and Director: Richard Edwards  
Associate Producer : Valerie Brown