

In Fact

FALANGISTAS IN PUERTO RICO 3/30/42

MEMO to the Dies Committee: You are asking for \$100,000 to \$300,000 more, especially to investigate Falangists in Latin America. Take a look at Puerto Rico which is a part of the United States. A correspondent of IN FACT from San Juan, Puerto Rico, March 15:

"A few days ago a group of about twenty Spaniards, the majority of whom were very active members of the Spanish Phalanx (Falange Espanola) until recently dissolved, applied for US citizenship.

"Two hearings were held before US District Judge Robert A. Cooper. The applicants appeared with an imposing staff of wellknown attorneys. Two or three days later, Judge Cooper gave his opinion and order, stating among other things that he, the Judge, was sure that he could not find cause why the applicants should not be granted the privilege of American citizenship, adding that he had no doubt they would become and remain loyal American citizens, and that they could appear in court to take the oath at their convenience.

"It is a matter of public knowledge—and I do not exclude Judge Cooper—that when the murderous bombing of the Loyalist city of Almeria by the Nazi fleet took place these applicants and all Falangistas approved and applauded that act of barbarism committed against a city of their own land; that when the Nazi warship Meteor arrived at the port of San Juan they tendered its officers and crew a Wine of Honor in the Spanish Club. Pictures of that act appeared in the magazines of San Juan in which a number of the applicants can be seen under a picture of Hitler, drinking to Nazi Germany and its Fuehrer.

"Is it not reasonable to assume that those who applauded, wine and dined those Nazis that had recently bombed a city of their own country would rejoice at the dastardly attack on Pearl Harbor, which after all is not their country? Yet a Federal Judge believes, is sure, that they will become loyal American citizens and will remain so. I may add that the liberal, democratic opinion of Puerto Rico has been shocked by Judge Cooper's ruling."