

Franco Apologist Goes On Mission in S. America

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Arnold Lunn, Who Argued Latins Are Incapable of Democracy, Implies He's An Agent of British Government

A talkative man "on a secret mission for the British government," observed the third anniversary of the Second World War with an interview at the Clipper base in New York.

"There is a fear on the Iberian peninsula (Portugal and Spain) that a victory for the United Nations will mean a victory for Communism," was the word he brought from Spain. This presumably is the word he is taking to South America on his "secret mission."

He is Arnold Lunn, eminently well-born Briton, author of many books, authority on skiing and a familiar figure on American lecture platforms.

He didn't say what his mission was, but his implication was that it was "for the British government." At any rate he was able to get a Clipper plane priority.

Mystery in Mission

The British Information Service in New York said nothing was known there of Lunn's mission.

He is listed with the Information Service as a member of the Royal Institute of International Affairs, which describes itself as:

"An unofficial and non-political body, founded in 1920 to encourage and facilitate the scientific study of international questions."

Lunn's mission presumably will take him to Brazil, largest nation in South America and our fighting ally in the battle for democracy. It probably will take him to Argentina, too.

In a book on the Spanish Civil War, *Spanish Rehearsal*, Lunn said that no German soldiers were on the Fascist side and that, while there were some Italian officers there, Mussolini had not sent any regular soldiers. The book's thesis is that the war

was a rehearsal for a Communist revolution.

With this kind of a background Lunn should be taken seriously in connection with his "secret" mission to our South American friends.

Lunn's Record

Lunn has a record in written and spoken words which can only cause damage to the Allied cause wherever he goes in South America.

Lunn has denied he is anti-Semitic, but he had this to say on a lecture platform in Pittsburgh on Dec. 5, 1938:

"There is a case against the Jews in Germany. I think I agree with Father Coughlin that there is a case against some Jews."

Going into a part of the world where the revolutionary tradition is strong, where veneration of their deliverers is deep in the hearts of the people, Lunn bears with him the stigma of his characterization of Toussaint l'Overture, liberator of Haiti as:

"That scoundrel!"

His Arguments

On "secret mission" in a hemisphere in which the chief remaining Axis espionage organization is the Franco Spanish Falange, Lunn is the man who argues that the Falange is not Fascist in *Spanish Rehearsal*.

Lunn didn't say for what department of the British government he was working. But since his whole life has been spent in publicity and propaganda, it may be assumed he is engaged to do the same thing there.

But how can such a man aid our cause in South America? The answer is that if his book *Spanish Rehearsal* has been read there, he can't. That one book alone is enough to defeat the ends of any mission, no matter how well meant.

His Background

Lunn is the son of the late Sir Henry Lunn. He is a graduate of Harrow and Balliol College, Oxford. He has great faith in English Character and very little in that of the darker-skinned peoples.

He actually argued in *Spanish Rehearsal* that democracy is a success in England because the English play cricket and apply the ethics of the field of sport to politics. The Spanish mind, he concluded, could not encompass democracy because "the Spaniard doesn't understand compromise."

And he argued further:

"In Latin countries, democracy is too often government of the people by the politicians and for the politicians."

He wrote in that book that "Germany has something to teach us," and he also wrote that:

"The lot of the common man in modern Russia is worse than it was in Czarist Russia."

Franco Admirer

Lunn is consistent in his complete surrender to Franco. He toured Spain during the Civil War and then wrote *Spanish Rehearsal*, ironically named since the Civil War was a rehearsal, but not for the Communist world revolution he professed to fear.

He is a walking repository of all the atrocity tales attributed to the Loyalists in the Spanish Civil War. He said in the Pittsburgh speech that they have done "more than anything else to convert the South American governments to Franco."