

Mexico Seeks Nazi Propaganda Nest

Ring Flooding U. S. With Leaflets Aimed At Undermining Good Neighbor Policy

By Dillard Stokes
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The Mexican Government last night was hunting a nest of Nazis who have been pouring scurrilous propaganda into the United States through the international mail.

The Nazis used a dead man's signature and—to dignify their list of alleged sponsors—stole the name of Dr. L. S. Rowe, the director general of the Pan American Union.

There were indications that the propaganda leaflets were printed in Germany and shipped to Mexico to be relayed to people in this country.

Dr. Rowe indignantly repudiated the propaganda, called the use of his name an outrage and reported the scheme to Dr. Francisco Castillo Najera, the Ambassador of Mexico.

Similar to Others

The leaflets were mailed in quantity in the last fortnight. They were much like the hundreds of thousands which flooded the United States in the last year or so—sent out by the pro-Nazis and native Fascists who are being investigated by the special grand jury on Axis agents here.

To the themes used before—slander of President Roosevelt and sneers at the war effort—was added a line of libels against the people and government of Mexico. Some of these are not fit to quote.

The propagandists used the name, "The Association for the Protection of United States Citizens in Mexico." To Senators and Representatives, to trade organizations and civic groups, and to many individuals were sent leaflets, with a letter which asked that they be given publicity "for the honor and glory of Mexico."

"Criminal Race"

"Welcome to Mexico," one leaflet began; "you are now in a strange country among a people who possess strange manners and morals and no principles. The Mexican people are a very treacherous and criminal race . . ."

This leaflet said also: "To ask for help or protection from our American consul is useless. And to expect any help or protection from the Communistic administration in Washington worse than useless . . ."

This theme was developed in a second leaflet, which said:

"The Roosevelt Administration is engaged in a great war to 'Make the World Safe for Communism.' . . . The only way for us to correct this shameful state of affairs is to restore our government to the American people and wrest it out of the destructive hands of the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Communist Party. The only way to bring this about is for all of us to vote a straight Republican Party ticket on election day. The Republican Party stands for Americanism . . ."

Some Passages Clean

A third leaflet purported to present the "impressions" of a tourist in Mexico. Said the "tourist," in his cleaner passages:

"The Mexicans have very large families and are a very prolific race. So are their dogs."

"The Mexican national habit is to throw their dirt, water and garbage into the streets or other public places. Occasionally they enjoy throwing their filth on some unfortunate stranger who may be passing by."

"The Mexican motto seems to be 'Come to Romantic Mexico and be robbed by unromantic thieves.'"

The letter head of the "Association for the Protection of United States Citizens in Mexico" said these were the active officers:

The Rev. Clyde C. Smith, president.

Mrs. Florence Cummings, secretary.

Enrique Carrol, counsel.

Honorary officers were named as Harvey K. Barsken, Dr. E. J. C. Smith and Dr. Rowe. The latter said use of his name was "a cruel and vicious outrage." There was no trace of the other officers in standard reference libraries and it appeared that they were either obscure or nonexistent.

The letter from the "association" was signed by General Ibanez. Dr. Castillo Najera said Sr. Ibanez had been dead for several years and that his rubber stamped signature was a forgery.

Besides these strategems, the Nazi

tried to cover up their tracks by obliterating Dr. Rowe's name from the material sent to the Pan American Union, the Embassy of Mexico and the United States Chamber of Commerce.

"This is a scurrilous and completely contemptible attack on my government and people," said the Mexican Ambassador. "The whole matter has been turned over to our secret service and a force of agents has been assigned to hunt down the perpetrators. This is clearly a hostile effort to disturb the good relations between my country and the United States by appealing to prejudices with falsehoods and slanders. Such a scheme could only have originated among the agents of an enemy power. The attempt is ridiculous, could not possibly have any effect, but the persons who are responsible for this outrage shall be tracked down and punished. For the bringing of this about we are fortunate in having the collaboration of the American intelligence agencies."

The matter was placed before officials at the State Department and of the Office of Censorship. The censors ordered a lookout for any further mailings like those that slipped through in recent weeks.

"Yes, it certainly looks familiar," was the comment of Special Prosecutor William Power Maloney, who has been conducting the special grand jury investigation of the propaganda circulated in this country. "Some of this wording is identical with material that has been placed before us."

His colleague, Special Prosecutor John T. M. Reddan, produced a stack of propaganda leaflets known to have come from the presses of U. Bodung-Verlag, at Erfurt, Germany. Some of the type in the leaflets from Mexico appeared to be identical with type used in the German leaflets.