

Mexico's Sinarquists --- Vanguard of Hitler Invasion

(This is the first of two articles on the "Sinarquists," Hitler's Fifth Column in Mexico.) 11/23/41

By Alfred Miller

(Special to the Sunday Worker)

MEXICO CITY, Nov. 22.—The aggressive growth of the "Sinarquists" in this country and the tightening of their ties with Fifth Columnists in the United States are causing increasing concern here.

The sly brazenness of their pro-Axis and anti-democratic propaganda is apparent also to alert observers in the United States,

especially those who keep a sharp eye on Father Charles Coughlin and his "Social Justice" magazine.

Hundreds of copies of "Social Justice" arrived here a few days ago at the office of Salvador Abascal, Fuehrer of the fascist Sinarquist movement. They were copies of the magazine's Sept. 29 issue, the entire back page of which was devoted to an editorial eulogy of Mexico's native fascists.

It is hardly surprising to find that close cooperation exists between the important fascist organizations of the two neighboring countries, Mexico and the United States. It is startling, however, to find the evidence presented so brazenly.

Under the headline, "Mexico for the Mexicans," the Coughlin editorial introduces the Sinarquists to its readers as a "nationalist movement," not a political party. It makes great efforts to explain that "Leftists, rightists, revolutionaries and reactionaries are all repudiated and the Nazi swastika and the Communist star equally rejected in the '16 points' of Sinarquism."

"The best indication of the growth of Sinarquism in Mexico . . . is the effort to smear it with the name 'Fascist,'" the Coughlin sheet tells its readers.

For well known reasons it is not very nice these days to be called a fascist in Mexico or the United States. And the Sinarquistas, day in and day out, are proclaiming that they are not fascists and that they are opposed to the Nazis. Father Coughlin's

job, it seems, is to help put this explanation across in the United States. His editorial in "Social Justice" of Sept. 29 makes a special point of emphasizing this definition. But in the end he bungles the job. The editorial's last paragraph reads:

"Advocates of Christian social justice in America, Christian Americans who once dreamed of a national union to effect a 16-point reform, and who have watched the progress of the Christian States headed by Salazar, De Valera, Gen. Franco and Mussolini, will want to hear further from Mexico's Sinarquists with their '16 principles' of social justice."

FACE IS RED

Mr. Abascal, the Sinarquist Fuehrer was red in the face over the reference to Mussolini. He told the reporter of a big local magazine that the mention of Mussolini's name was a mistake. After all, he said, Mussolini is the originator of fascism. Even the word "fascisti" is Italian, he had to admit.

He was also annoyed to find directly underneath the editorial

a large box of orange color which contained the slogan in big black letters: "Last Chance to Save Business—Keep up Your Letters to Congressmen."

That might, he feared, give cause to misunderstandings and unpleasant misinterpretations.

ORGANIZED BY BERLIN

The truth is, it is no "smearing" to apply the word "Fascist" to the Sinarquists and their "Jefe," Sr. Salvador Abascal. They have a typical fascist program and observe all the outward forms of a fascist party with Fuehrers and storm troopers, and their activities of terrorizing and killing people are so typically fascist that, if they talked in German, one would wear they were Nazis.

And no wonder! It was German Nazi agents who organized the movement, which today claims 500,000 members, way back in 1936:

During that year a "Centro Anti-Comunista" was officially incorporated under the laws of the State of Guanajuato in the city of Guanajuato. The act of incorporation was signed by Oscar Hellmuth Schreiter, by Adolfo

Maldonado, then General Secretary of the State Government, and by one Isaac Guzman Valdivia. The latter two were lawyers. Schreiter is a Nazi agent, who was then employed at the State College teaching languages.

Evidently, there was no one else around at the time who could have acted as the Nazi agent's puppet for organizer. Schreiter took the job himself, officially. Other German Nazis, like Otto Gilbert, owner of a restaurant and delicatessen store in Guanajuato; Herr Herbert, proprietor of a factory for purifying water, and Friedrich Heim, superintendent of the Production Mining Company (American), helped him to get the organization on its feet.

Schreiter remained the official of the organization when the Centro Anti-Comunista changed its name to National Sinarquist Union on May 23, 1937.

IMITATED STORM TROOPS

From its very beginning the outfit was semi-militarized. Shock troops were formed similar to Hitler's S. A. Their military instructor is a Spaniard, member of the Falange, who calls him-

self Bilbao. He is employed as paymaster by the Guadalupe Mining Co.

The Sinarquists are armed with modern weapons and they have been using them ostensibly against the Communists. However, their real objective was to terrorize the "ejidatarios" (peasants working communal land) in an effort to smash the "Ejido" system and to have the ejido lands returned to the former hacendados.

No less than 500 ejido peasants were murdered in the State of Queretaro alone during the years from July 1937 to August 1939.

A particularly heavy bloodbath, caused by Sinarquists in July, 1939, made it necessary for the federal government to intervene. The then War Minister, General Augustin Castro, ordered the "despolitizacion," or disarming, of the entire population of the states of Guanajuato and Queretaro. The Nazi Schreiter was fired from his job at the Guanajuato State College and proceedings for his deportation were started. Unfortunately, they were never finished.

Already during that time, more

than two years ago, the Daily Worker in New York published several articles showing the Sinarquist danger and explaining the connection of Nazi agents with these native Mexican fascists. Due to the changed international situation, a number of the commercial papers here have found it necessary, lately, to pay some attention to the Nazi danger in Latin - America and to draw greater public attention to the fascist Sinarquist movement.

However, not enough of that has been done. Commercial papers have not reported nor even indicated the terrible danger this Nazi-led Sinarquist movement, which is spreading from Mexico far into South America and up into the United States, has in relation to continental defense against a Nazi invasion.

It is very difficult to distinguish between a Nazi uniform and a Sinarquist uniform. The Nazi carries around his sleeve a red armband which has a black swastika in a white circle. The armband of the Sinarquist, also

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worn on the left sleeve, is red and has the same white circle. Only, instead of the swastika in black, there is the map of Mexico in green. The Sinarquists call themselves "nationalists" and not Nazis. Their red banner with the white circle and the green Mexico map is practically indistinguishable from the Nazi flag.

The Nazi salutes by raising his stiffly outstretched right arm high at an angle. Sinarquistas salute by crossing that same arm diagonally over their chest.

The "Jefe" of the "Union Nacional Sinarquista," Sr. Salvador Abascal, feels himself much like Hitler. He has reasons. He is the Fuehrer. He was not elected.

"The Sinarquists carry firmly engraved this truth because it is the cornerstone of our unity and of our discipline: The Jefe is imposed by God," the organ of the movement. "El Sinarquista," declared in its issue of Nov. 7, 1940.

The Nazi idea of trade unions and of the corporate State the Sinarquists express thus: "The members of the same trade or profession must unite, constituting corporative groups. Above these professional groups or corporations there must exist a superior power charged with order-

ing their mutual relations and to direct them to the good of the collectivity. Similar professional corporations must unite among themselves and must submit to a supreme authority which is incorporated in the political structure of the Nation." (El Sinarquista, Sept. 28, 1939).

Coughlin describes this concept in the above quoted editorial as follows: "In condemning the class struggle, Sinarquism urges the union of capital and labor; rejects the exploitation of one class by another, but 'works for the betterment of the collectivity'."

BOTH SUPREME

Hitler is supreme and so is Abascal.

"Among ourselves we do not discuss about what to do with our strength. Take away our discipline, take away our loyalty to the Jefe, and Sinarquism is nothing." (El Sinarquista, June 18, 1940.)

And last but not least, the Nazi hand is clearly seen in the organizational principles adopted by Sinarquism. There exists no party or any other big organization in Mexico which regularly collects dues from all its members except the Sinarquists. Even the poorest of Sinarquist peasants pay dues every month. There are special 2-centavos monthly dues

stamps for those members who hardly ever see any cash. Of course, the dues stamp alone and the process of putting it into a member's book costs the organization more than half a cent. But it is worth it.

Naturally, the Sinarquist Union does not depend on dues payments of less than half a cent per month to pay salaries, buy arms and carry on a tremendous amount of propaganda, educational and organizational work. In the beginning it was Herr Schreiter and Herr Gilbert who toured the country to collect large sums of money for "anti-Communist purposes." Until the war, part of these collections went to the Fichte Bund in Hamburg in exchange for Nazi propaganda material.

NAMES CONTACT MEN

Now, the entire efficient set-up of the National Socialistische Deutsche Arbeiter Partei in Mexico, with its agents and business connections, the Spanish Falange and Spanish business people and important Mexican groups, like rich landowners, generals, etc. are supporting Sinarquism with money and in many other ways.

Vicente Lombardo Toledano, President of the Confederation of Latin-American Workers (CTAL), publicly named three Nazi agents,

Paul Klement, Alexander Holste and Count Chislain Clauzel, as the contact-men between Nazi Germany and the Sinarquist movement.

Klement, he said, is ostensibly the traveling salesman for Union Quimica, S.A., a blacklisted German firm, and as such he established secret contacts between Sinarquist leaders and local Nazi groups throughout the country on a recent trip. A few weeks ago, Klement met a group of Mexican counter-revolutionary politicians at Taxco, Toledano charged.

Holste, he says, is the Honorary Consul for Bolivia who, during the Almazan campaign, was the contact man with "prominent politicians, sympathetic to the Axis." He has frequent meetings with Abascal. "the visible head of Sinarquism," the labor leader informed.

Clauzel, a member of an old French diplomatic family, is the tie-up between the Nazis and the Vichy Legation in Mexico, according to Lombardo Toledano.

The president of the CTAL further named a large number of members of the Falange, including Jose Antonio Urquiza, Queretaro millionaire, and Rafael Gamba, rich landowner of San Luis de la Paz, as people who help direct and finance the Sinarquist movement.

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German youths are compelled | Tsarist Black Hundred and | And Wotan won't say him