

Unrest In Mexico

108 1/28/41
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Sowing The Seeds Of Fascism

THE FANGS of Falange Espanola are sunk deep into the body politic of Mexico. Through them flow the venom of racial hatred, religious intolerance and political corruption which rule Spain and totalitarian Europe today.

Injection of this poisonous fluid into the Mexican nation is for the purpose of undermining the Avila Camacho government, which has declared its support of Pan-American solidarity and friendship with the United States, and for sabotaging continental defense. This sowing of confusion and distrust is a characteristic Fifth Column maneuver, a familiar pattern transplanted from a Europe in chains to a New World dedicated to freedom.

The Falange organization in Mexico is complex and has as its powerful allies the Axis partners, Germany, Italy and Japan. Because of the Spanish Falangistas racial ties with the Mexicans, they now serve as the spearhead for the totalitarian drive on Mexico, but behind their capes the Germans, Italians and Japanese hide, giving full support through money, espionage and sabotage.

Actual membership in Falange Espanola is recruited from the rich and populous Spanish colony, and is estimated at between 5,000 and 10,000 men and women throughout the republic. It has a full-fledged Women's Division and Youth Group, and the total cooperation of the Spanish members of the Mexican clergy.

Head of the Falange in Mexico is Augusto Ibanez y Serrano, former waiter, who takes his orders direct from Spain. Said Senor Ibanez y Serrano in the current issue of Hispanidad, the publication of the Falange, "I am only a soldier in the rear guard of the war which has not yet closed. I am only a soldier, awaiting the orders of the Caudillo."

ASPIRANT to become Spanish Ambassador in Mexico is Dr. Angel Urraza, president of the Spanish Charitable Society. Dr. Urraza works day and night for the resumption of Mexico's relations with Spain. This is the Axis' greatest urgency here, for should Mexico's relations with Germany and Italy be broken, the Falangistas would be needed to carry on their subversive work behind the cloak of diplomacy.

The hates of Falange are closely defined in the current issue of Hispanidad. In an article titled "Our Enemies" the finger is put on: The Jew, the Marxist, the Mason, the liberal. There, in a nutshell, are found the seeds of racial and religious intolerance and of deadly opposition to all liberal, democratic ideas.

The greatest triumph which Falange has yet scored was the attendance of President Avila Camacho and members of his cabinet at their banquet given two weeks ago. He was the third Mexican President in this century to enter the Spaniards' Casino Espanol, the center of their activities. The other two who accepted the Spaniards' hospitality were Gen. Porfirio Diaz and Gen. Alvaro Obregon.

The Falangistas promptly and joyously interpreted this as semi-official recognition of the Franco government and as a prelude to resumption of diplomatic relations. They said, among themselves, when the banquet was over, "He is one of ours!" and they jeered, "What does the United States think of this triumph, when they are opposing Falange throughout the continent?"

Such glee was fully unsubstantiated, in view of the true facts of the case. President Avila Camacho accepted the invitation only on the provision that leading Spanish refugees should also be invited. The begrudging Franquistas invited them but they refused to attend. And at the banquet President Avila Camacho said firmly and clearly:

"I know that no one will attribute my presence in this traditional bosom of the Spanish family to anything but the desire to show my sympathy for all the Spanish people, regardless of factions . . . I don't know what time will be necessary for the open wounds of the Spanish civil war to heal, but I hope that true patriotism will cure them rapidly. And I am certain that the reconciliation of all the divisions of the Spanish family will encounter an understanding and affectionate ally among the Mexican people."

FOREIGN MINISTER Ezequi Padilla, when questioned later on the subject also made the true purpose of the President's visit clear. Said he, "When the President accepted the invitation he wished to demonstrate the sympathy he feels for the Spanish people in general. But this act was completely divorced of all diplomatic character or of any official significance between government and government. Mexico does not consider that the opportune time has arrived to renew our interrupted relations with the present Spanish government."

Nevertheless, the Franquistas are jubilant and continue their campaign of burrowing deeper into Mexico's civic life. Typical of their gestures to buy favor was the recent bountiful donation of 500,000 pesos to the current anti-tuberculosis drive. Their propaganda is persistent and pernicious

and is dedicated implacably to attacking the United States, democracy and continental solidarity and to extolling totalitarianism and its conquests.

The most alarming of all the Falange's maneuvers is the sinking of its fangs into two native Mexican organizations which are being exploited to propagate its doctrines and subversive activities throughout the republic. These two stooge groups are the upper middle class Accion Nacional and the peasant group, Union Nacional Sinarquista.

Accion Nacional has an estimated membership of 250,000 which comprises men and women of considerable means and apparent political fanaticism. Its head is Alfonso Gomez Morin, a leading banker with a profound and impassioned hatred for the United States and all things Anglo-Saxon. He worships Hispanidad, as the Falangistas call their cult, and is one of its chief propagandists.

THE EXTENT of the Accion Nacional propaganda was proudly revealed by Senor Gomez Morin at the second national convention of the party, held here in February, when he declared:

"The chief labor of the party was spreading the ideas of Accion Nacional. Apart from the trips, the multiple local reunions, the personal job of propaganda confided to each member of the party, we distributed throughout all the republic millions of pamphlets, handbills and posters, and in spite of the government's order to prohibit the circulation of our publications, we did not suspend the distribution of the Bulletin. It has an average issue of 30,000 copies and we are still publishing it weekly, converting it each time into an organ more powerful for political action."

The Falangistas' game is also given away in the current issue of Hispanidad in an article called, "The Farmers, Raw Material for the World Revolution." Nothing could be franker than this, nor is there a more brutally clear example of its workings in Mexico than in the Sinarquista organization. This group, made up of backward Indian peasants in the central and northern states, now numbers a quarter million men, who are under the direct orders of the Spanish Falange and the Gestapo.

Upsurge of the Sinarquista movement, late in May, when 23,000 marching men invaded Morelia, during President Avila Camacho's attendance of the city's fourth centenary celebration, impelled the government newspaper, El Nacional to editorialize that:

"1. The Sinarquista movement is not a political party, but a movement of agitation, promoted and directed by interests radically opposed to those of the Mexican people, and with undoubted foreign origin. 2. Its immediate object is to create a condition of misery, confusion and discontent, suitable to the corrupt objectives of its hidden directors, seeking to implant a totalitarian dictatorship and overthrow the democratic regime. 3. The Sinarquistas, by exploiting religious belief, play upon the faith of the illiterate, for political ends. It is evident that the use of religious agitation for political ends constitutes an abuse of the ignorance and good faith of the believers, a prostitution of the true religious spirit, and a deliberate outlawry, used to incite those who do not know that they are breaking the law."

THE SINARQUISTA fanaticism is being fanned day and night by paid agitators to start revolution in the heart of Mexico. It is only "awaiting the orders of the Caudillo," which will be passed on by Augusto Ibanez y Serrano. And it has behind it the brains of the Gestapo, the agents of Falange, and the money of the combined Axis Powers.

Falange Espanola, conservatively estimated, has 5,000 aggressive members taking their orders from Hitler-controlled Spain. Accion Nacional numbers a quarter million discontented middle-class men and women who, though they are Mexicans despise and oppose their own liberal revolution. Union Nacional Sinarquista comprises a quarter million Indian peasants, "the Raw Material for the World Revolution."

In a nation with only 20,000,000 population, this organized minority of more than a half million, which cuts through the entire social structure, is the channel through which the fangs of Falange inject their venom into the Mexican body politic. When and how the trouble will start remains a mystery, but Mexico has been as well softened up for the conquest as Norway, Belgium, Holland and France were before her. And its threatened revolt will be the showdown for democracy in Latin America.