

Mexican Gov't Calls Sinarquists Traitors

Entrance of French Sinarquist Into Laval Regime Cited by Official Paper

By Alfred Miller
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MEXICO CITY, April 23.—The official organ of the Mexican government, El Nacional, denounced the Sinarquists as "Fifth Columnists and . . . collaborators or traitors," indicating that outlawing of this subversive organization is near.

The occasion for this forthright denunciation of the Sinarquists was the announcement from Vichy France that the head of the French Sinarquists, Jacques Leroy-Ladurie, had been appointed to the Cabinet of Pierre Laval, Hitler's new galleiter for France.

The announcement, which appeared in El Nacional on April 18, confirmed the charges which Mexican labor has repeatedly hurled against the Sinarquists, Mexico's "native" fascists. Vicente Lombardo Toledano, labor leader and head of the Latin-American Confederation of Labor, has more than once presented proofs of the tie-up between Sinarquism and the Axis.

PEOPLE BACK SUPPRESSION

People here were unaware of the existence of another Sinarquist group in France, and the news of its open collaboration with Hitler representatives naturally caused a sensation throughout the country. Sentiment for illegalization of the Sinarquists, which has found favor hitherto only in the labor movement, is now spreading rapidly.

Commenting on the cable announcement from Vichy, El Nacional said:

"For the first time Sinarquism is mentioned in cable dispatches from abroad. Nobody can longer ignore the fact that Sinarquism has its ramifications in many countries of the world and that it is managed by German and Italian and perhaps even Japanese agents in those countries where it cannot openly declare itself to be Nazi or fascist.

"In France, this group of traitors to their fatherland existed even before the war with Ger-

many. There, the Sinarquists were Fifth Columnists and are now collaborators, or—which amounts to the same thing—traitors."

At this point the paper asks the pertinent question: "Has so-called Mexican Sinarquism any link to French Sinarquism, and therefore to fascism and Nazism?"

"We have the answer in France," the paper continued. "Now that with Laval the French government has been completely Nazified, a Sinarquist enters the French Cabinet! . . . Sinarquist Fifth Columnism in France has thrown off its mask and stands forth impudent and insolent."

The danger that Sinarquism has represented in Mexico City is only now being realized in connection with the Sinarquist project to establish their own corporate state on the strategically situated lower peninsula of Baja (Lower) California, a widely advertised scheme.

Mexican labor daily, El Popular has assailed this idea of a separate Sinarquist regime on Mexican territory, pointing out that it is a plan "made by the Nazi regime . . . to favor the Japanese Empire under whose immediate control the new State would be put, ruled by a puppet government like that of Manchukuo."

Fortunately, as the paper pointed out, the scheme has been failed by the presence of General Lazaro Cardenas, whom President Avila Camacho appointed Commander of the Pacific Zone. Cardenas "frustrated the realization of this Machiavellian plan, which hardly has its equal in Mexican history," the paper said.

CALL FOR PROBE

The legislators, including among others Luis Ordorica Carda, Reinaldo Lecano Soto, Luis Agullera, Cesar Garizurieta, Antonio Perez Betancourt, Al-

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fonso Pena Palafox, Ramon Berzunza Finto and Carlos Zapata Vela, insisted with the Ministry of the Interior that the government immediately investigate the activities of these elements and punish them on the basis of the Law Against Espionage and Social Disintegration.

Six hundred Japanese, residents of Lower California, have begun to move "under police supervision" toward the interior of the country, the Ministry announced this week. They had been ordered to abandon the strategically situated peninsula by Jan. 15. Officials of the Ministry further declared that Japanese are also being evacuated from all of Mexico's southern and northern frontier settlements and from the cities and villages near the Pacific and the Gulf.

The commander of the military garrison of Ciudad Juarez, General Jaime Quinones, reported a few days ago, that one Alois Schill Hepp, a Bavarian, 40 years old,

had been arrested by military authorities at Casa Grandes, Chihuahua, for "carrying on subversive activities and for distributing fascist propaganda along the Mexican-United States frontier." Hepp is believed to be an agent of the Gestapo.

The German sailor Karl-Heinz Grem was arrested at El Oro, Mex., upon orders by the Ministry of the Interior last week. Grem had escaped from Guadalajara, where the crews from the formerly German and Italian ships are interned. He is now charged with being "a fifth columnist."

The first Mexican to be arrested at the same time under the law against espionage and social disintegration was Jose Isabel Estrada Alvarado. He went to jail for having sold copies of a song which ridiculed and attacked Mexico's declaration of aid to the democracies. Estrada insisted that he had none but commercial reasons for selling the pamphlet. The excuse did not help him, however, for he was

formally charged and put away.

Meanwhile, both Chambers of the Mexican Congress formed an Inter-Chamber Committee to Fight Fifth Columnism. It is composed of Senators Alfonso Flores, Florencio Palomo Valencia, Abel Ocegüera Alavarez, Noe Lecona and Jose Perez Tejada and of the Federal Deputies Reinaldo Lecona, Luis Marquez Ricano, Ismael Lozano, Jesus Ramirez and Adolfo Manero.

Strangely enough, with all this activity no action has been taken by any government authority on the note of the Chilean Embassy, which, on Dec. 30, officially protested the Nazi assault upon its Consul General, Don Pablo Neruda.

The attack occurred in Cuernavaca where Nazis used beer bottles to beat up the party of Chilean diplomats and their friends. Making its own investigation, the Embassy secured the names of the Nazi criminals. The list was presented to the Foreign Ministry, but nothing has happened.