

FASCISTS

Democracy Prepares To

million members are only about half that, this represents a formidable force for a country of 17,000,000. Brains—and money, big money—are back of the movement, and the mass marches recently held in important cities like Morelia and Queretaro reveal dangerous growth during the past year.

For the first time in many moons Mexican reactionaries have a potent weapon within reach, for Sinarquism, unlike their other white hopes, is not a paper organization: it is a "mass" movement.

The Sinarquists render complete obedience to young lawyer Salvador Abascal, supreme *jefe* of the movement, who, according to their doctrine, receives his rank from God. Dozens of zone and section *jefes* report to Abascal, just as deputy-fuehrers report to Hitler.

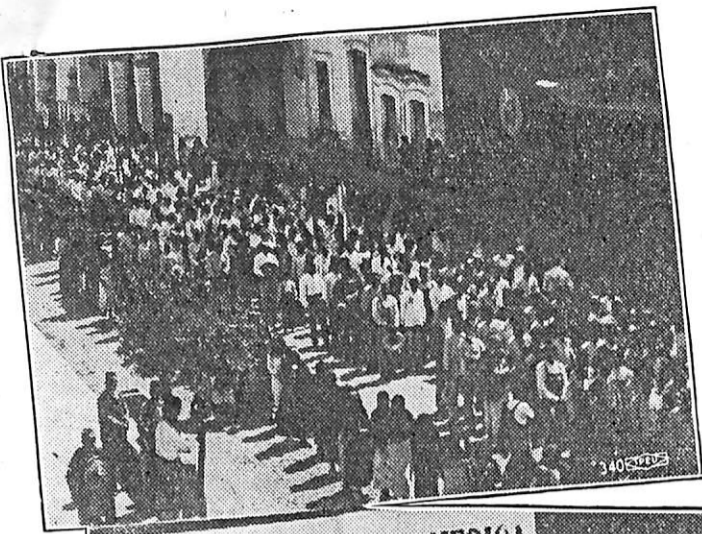
A Sinarquist leader arrives unannounced in a Mexican city. Twenty minutes later 5,000 members march down the main street and mass in the plaza. This triumph of coordination is achieved through organization and discipline. "There is no discussion among us," say the Sinarquists. "We obey without question the orders of our leaders."

Mexico's incomplete revolution—now in its 31st year—is the Sinarquists' ace in the hole. The peasant who has received promises rather than land falls an easy victim to fascist propaganda. Other members come from the 195,873 operators of small businesses which have an average capital of five pesos, others from the portions of the middle class unfriendly to the revolution.

Had the program of Mexico's greatest revolutionary hero, the agrarian apostle Emiliano Zapata, murdered April 10, 1919, by the Carranza government, been followed, there would be no Sinarquist menace in Mexico today. But his *Plan de Ayala* was not put in practice, the land-distribution program was for many years more of a palliative than anything else, and now the Sinarquists find some ready listeners in the country-side when they say that the revolution has been a failure.

Lazaro Cardenas, who became president in 1934, had something of Zapata's vision, and tried to repair the long neglect by accelerating the distribution of the land. But years of waiting had made sick the heart of peasant Mexico, and it was during the Cardenas regime that Sinarquism came into being. Now the great peasant union, the CNC, headed by bespectacled, bewhiskered Graciano Sanchez is faced by a rival organization—that of the Sinarquists, who teach that the farmers of Mexico knew their only prosperity during colonial times. This is how they express it: "The secret of our ancient prosperity is very simple—then there was no revolution, there were no revolutionaries. . . ."

This is the key to the Sinarquist program, which, in one word, is anti-revolutionary. It calls for suppression of the labor movement, the jailing of progressive leaders, the setting up of corporative states on the Nazi model, the rooting out of democratic practices.



Sinarquists (top photo) stage mass march in Hidalgo, Mexico. Below are headlines in reactionary Mexican press attacking FDR, U.S. foreign policy. El Sinarquista is the anti-government organ of Sinarquists.

By DAVID LORD

Expert on Latin American Affairs Whose Articles Have Appeared in Many Periodicals and Who Has Recently Returned from Mexico.

MUCH has been written about Nazi influence in Latin America. Recent reports of Nazi-inspired wars and plots of rebellion in Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, Argentina, Uruguay and Cuba have underlined all that has been said in this connection. These reports show the reality of the danger, show that the Nazi underground machine is strong and well financed, that Axis legations throughout Latin America are used as propaganda centers, that Hitler can turn on the heat at will when his plans call for the creation of incidents in this part of the world.

But the activity of German, Italian and Japanese nationals would constitute no more than a police problem if it were not for the native Quislings and Lindberghs who act under their guidance as organizers of the storm troops which they hope will become the great totalitarian armies of the south.

Mexico's Sinarquist movement is a pattern of the real fascist menace in Latin America. Though its claimed half

IN MEXICO

Meet A Growing Menace

In Mexico, the chief defenders of democracy are men like Vincente Lombardo Toledano, Lazaro Cardenas, Graciano Sanchez, Avila Camacho. The Sinarquists, who favor the corporative state, look upon these men as their chief enemies. This is how they explain their views: "The members of a same trade or profession should unite in corporative groups Above these corporative groups should be placed a higher authority whose purpose is to direct their mutual relations for the common good. . . ."

This is simon-pure fascism, and abundant proof that Sinarquism didn't develop among Mexican peasants, but among men who got their knowledge of fascism at the original founts. Chief spreaders of the fascist virus are the pro-Franco Spanish Falangists who cooperated with German and Italian agents in giving Sinarquism its start in 1937.

HITLER'S PLANS CALL FOR A GERMAN COLONIAL EMPIRE IN LATIN AMERICA. The formidable force of Mexican Sinarquism, the armed warfare between Peru and Ecuador, and the forestalled plots—forestalled, but not crushed—in Bolivia, Colombia, Chile and other points, are merely straws in the wind showing how the colonial empire—under Spanish auspices, for later delivery to Germany—is to come into being.

Men like Carlos Urraza, millionaire Spaniard who some day may be called the Juan March of Mexico; the English owners of the "Hercules" textile factory in Queretaro; the owners of the Guanajuato Power Co.—such are the men who give Sinarquism its real power. And the Sinarquists' call for support seems aimed at captains of industry rather than peasants and workers: "Men of affairs, heads of industry, business men, owners, merchants, creative energies of the Fatherland, rally with us to defend your interests and to fight for the triumph of Mexico."

SINARQUISM IS BEGINNING TO SPREAD THROUGHOUT LATIN AMERICA. The success it has achieved in Mexico has aroused interest among the many fascist groups in American countries, and a process of merging has set in. The Sinarquists give expression to this in their organ, "El Sinarquista": "Since the cause of the Spanish peoples of South America is identical, it is natural for Sinarquism to join with the men who in other lands raise the Christian flag, the only flag which offers salvation to the western hemisphere."

As Sinarquism and its allied forms of fascism begin to spread throughout Latin America, a new force, now very strong in Mexico, begins to spread also. This is the movement of organized labor, represented in Mexico by the CTM (Confederation of Mexican Workers) and in Latin America by the CTAL (Latin-American Workers' Confederation). Both organizations were founded by Vicente Lombardo Toledano, one of the greatest public figures Latin America has produced, and certainly the greatest labor organizer of the western hemisphere.

Mexican workers organized in the militia of the CTM have been receiving military training for several years now, and thousands of men from their ranks have been accepted as reserves by the Mexican army. When Latin American fascism makes its last desperate stand, it will find itself faced by a trained, resolute labor movement—not only in Mexico, where labor's power is vast, but in the other countries of Latin America where the CTAL is growing and acquiring strength. These labor groups, together with the still powerful and progressive peasant organization, the CNC, form the nucleus around which all anti-fascist Latin America is uniting.

Whenever fascism has gained power, it has been in countries where the labor movement was weak or divided, and where the native wealthy families paved the way for its victory. The leaders of Latin-American labor are aware of this, and to the boasts of the Sinarquists grown fat on German insolence they oppose the resolute will of millions of organized workers determined to defend their liberty with the last drop of their blood.

These defenders of democracy will be strengthened by President Roosevelt's warning last week: "It is time for all Americans of all the Americas to stop being deluded by the romantic notion that the Americas can go on living happily and peacefully in a Nazi-dominated world."

BULWARK AGAINST FASCISM

Mexican workers are organized in trade union battalions by the CTM. Around these workers rally the anti-fascist forces of Latin America. At right unionists are shown during one of their demonstrations.

