

DIARIO DE LA MARINA

SUB-DIRECTOR

Havana, August 22, 1941.

Mr. M. Robert Rogers, Editor  
CLICK Magazine  
400 North Broad Street  
PHILADELPHIA, Penn.

Gentleman:

In an article entitled "How Axis Fifth Column in Cuba Strikes at United States", published in the September issue of the magazine "Click", it is said, referring to myself, first: "That I am a leader of Falange Española"; second, that I am the "brain trust of the Cuban fifth column"; third, that I am a guide of the "Legion Cubana Revolucionaria Sindicalista", a military branch of the Falange in Cuba; fourth, that I am the most likely to cause conflicts among the democracies in Latin America.

None of these imputations is justified by my journalistic career, nor of that of writer, nor of lecturer. This labor, meritorius or not, is within the reach of anyone, but no one could derive from it the conclusions which the "investigator" from "Click" has reached. The alternative, then, is that I write in cipher, and that the only one that has been able to decipher my writings has been the famous "investigator".

It may be that the above mentioned conclusions were arrived at, not from my public labours, but from my secret performances, like those of a "fifthcolumnist". I shall not waste time in denying from now on, and in the most emphatic manner the existence of this secret in my life, since from such negation I could not pretend the value of proof. But I can demand the furnishing of sufficient proof from those who maintain those charges against me, proclaiming in the meantime, that such proofs are totally lacking in the article that is causing me to address you now.

It is to be presumed that the "investigator" from "Click" knows more about me than the State Department in Washington, which invited me recently for an official visit to your country; more than the United States Embassy in Cuba, with which I maintain the most cordial relations; and also much more than the American Colony at Havana, many of whose members honor me with their personal and professional friendship. But it is the case that while these persons and entities could explain the reasons why they feel so towards me, the "investigator" from "Click" does not offer a single proof to sustain his conclusions. It could be said that the "investigator" from "Click" believes himself smarter than all those of his countrymen I have mentioned, but it would be still better if he could convince us with his reasons.

The only evidence that is offered by the "investigator" from "Click" is a photograph of myself behind which appears a small banner of the Falange Española Party. That photo dates back more than a year ago, when I took charge of my present job in this newspaper ("Diario de la Marina"). At that time I worked, acting for a short period as Editor, in his office; the mentioned banner hung on the wall of that office since the days of the Spanish Civil War, when, with the banners of the other groups

DIARIO DE LA MARINA  
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Mr. M. Robert Rogers,  
August 22, 1941.....2.....

that formed the so called "Nationalist Movement", was donated to the Editor as a memento of his campaigns against Communism, that, ill disguised with the robes of the Republic, pretended to make out of Spain a branch of the Moscow Government. Later, and during my absence in the United States, it was my Secretary, from whom several photos of mine were solicited, who decided to use this one, retouching it. The "Click" investigator himself admits that at that time I was absent from the City.

And that is all concerning that banner, Mr. Editor. If this should be considered sufficient reason to call me "falangist chief", it is something that not even the wildest fancy would dare authorize.

I ask you, Mr. Editor, that you kindly have this letter published in your magazine. I do not seek anything other than what "Diario de la Marina" would do if one of its correspondents might have his good faith imposed upon. I could run on into considerations of the problems of "fifthcolumnism" in Cuba, but I fear I would need too much space in your publication. If you, and your readers, be interested in such collaboration I remain from this time obligated to render same, absolutely gratis, as a contribution to a more solid interamerican relationship. In the meanwhile, I take pleasure in forwarding a copy of my lecture delivered during the "Press Week" recently held at the University of Missouri, entitled "Journalism and the New Problems of Hemispheric Cooperation". You may, if you so please, read it with the complete assurance that it has not been previously submitted for Mr. Goebels' O. K.

Thanking you in advance for your courtesy, I beg to remain,

Most sincerely yours,



Raul Maestri  
Managing Editor