

Sinarquists Covet Texas and California,

They Seek to Keep Alive Irredentist Spirit Among Mexicans

This is the concluding article in a series on the activities of the Sinarquist movement in the U. S. A.

By HEINZ H. F. EULAU



The spread of Sinarquism, Mexico's native brand of fascism, among thousands of Mexicans and Americans of Mexican descent in Texas and California, is not accidental.

The Sinarquists have never recognized that these two states rightfully belong to the U. S. A. This country is still considered "the common enemy," according to *Mexico en 1960*, one of the most vicious pieces of fascist-propaganda distributed in wartime U. S. A.

In this booklet, the U. S. A. is accused of having "planned to break up all the strength upon which our [Mexico] grandeur was founded . . . In 1847 she [the U. S. A.] boldly invaded our land and took possession of half of it."—i.e., Texas and California.

It is this attitude of the Sinarquists which gives meaning to Point 13 of the Sinarquists' "16 Principles" that Mexico's sons must be "worthy of their fatherland and reclaim as well as honor and respect it."

Another Sinarquist statement speaks of Sinarquism's task "to bring about Mexico's fulfillment of her appropriate destiny in America and in the world."

A Mexican Irredenta

While the ultimate purpose of Sinarquism in the U. S. A. seems to be to win Texas and California back for Mexico, its immediate task is to create an active irredentist movement among Mexicans and Americans of Mexican descent which can serve as a "fifth column" in due time.

The first meeting of all Sinarquist chiefs in the U. S. A. took place in El Paso, Texas, on Sept. 27, 1942. But already long before this date crack Sinarquist organizers, sent out from Mexico City, toured the U. S. A. to contact sympathizers and set up local committees to carry on the Sinarquist propaganda work.

As early as July 17, 1941, *El Sinarquista* ran an article entitled *The Diary of a Sinarquist Leader on a Trip from Mexico City to Tucson*.

The diary reveals that the tour was undertaken on orders from Sinarquist headquarters in Mexico City. It reads in part:

Abascal [then Sinarquist su-

preme chief] has assigned me to a mission—to give impetus to the Sinarquist movement in the states of Sonora (Mexico) and the two Californias."

Since then Sinarquist organizers from Mexico City have frequently come to the U. S. A.

Tactics Described

El Sinarquista of 1942 describes how a local committee was set up by regional organizers in the Belvedere district of Los Angeles. At a meeting, the organizers spoke and showed films, and a few months later the newspaper reported a first official committee meeting, the appointment as chief of Benito Covarrubias, formerly of Watts, and the attendance of 30 persons to see a film of Sinarquist activities in Mexico.

A factor of great importance in the establishment of local Sinarquist committees is the cooperation which the Sinarquists some-

No Less

times receive from local Mexican priests.

The contrast between Los Angeles and San Antonio, both cities with large Mexican communities, is in point. In San Antonio, where Father Carmelo Tranchese of the Guadalupe Church is more interested in improving living conditions than in politics, the Sinarquists did not succeed in setting up a local committee. But in Los Angeles where a large Sinarquist group exists, Father Manuel A. Canseco of the Guadalupe Church has defended them.

A Favorable Press

"I know," said Father Canseco in a statement carried by the *National Catholic Welfare Conference News Service* and reprinted in the Polish *Dziennik Chicagoski* of Sept. 10, 1942, "that the American Sinarquist sympathizers . . . are made up of young men and women of the highest integrity."

Another factor that has helped the Sinarquists in their propaganda and organizational drive is the favorable reception their ideas have



Here are samples of Sinarquist propaganda distributed among Mexicans and Spanish-speaking Americans in this country.

**SYNARCHISM •
its PROGRAM**

Authorized by the
Department of Information
of the
National Synarchist Union
A Civic Movement which endeavors
to reestablish Christian Social Order
in

MEXICO

PUBLISHED BY THE
LOS ANGELES REGIONAL COMMITTEE
of the
NATIONAL SYNARCHIST UNION
of Mexico

Los Angeles Sinarquist headquarters distributes this pamphlet.

received by a number of Spanish-language papers in the Southwest.

The two most important Mexican dailies in the U. S. A., *La Opinion* of Los Angeles and *La Prensa* of San Antonio, both published by Ignacio E. Lozano, have given favorable treatment to Sinarquism, but never exposed its true nature and its threat to democracy.

When a group of Mexican deputies demanded the dissolution of the Sinarquists, *La Prensa* said editorially on Dec. 28, 1942:

"The Mexican deputies show their lack of democratic principles and their unavowed intentions of dividing the Mexican family at this critical hour by appointing a committee to ask President Camacho to dissolve the Sinarquist and National Action parties."

Sinarquism has also been praised by the three most important clerical weeklies of the Southwest. *La Esperanza*, published by the Cla-

retian Fathers in Los Angeles; *Revista Catolica*, a Jesuit weekly of El Paso, and *La Voz*, official organ of the Archdiocese of San Antonio, all constant apologists of Franco dictatorship in Spain, have expressed their predilection for Sinarquism.

As early as Dec. 1, 1940, *La Esperanza* published an article on Sinarquism released by the *National Catholic Welfare Conference News Service*. It prefaced the article thus:

" . . . we hasten to translate this article because of the increasing importance which this movement . . . is assuming. The movement, because of its decidedly Catholic and nationalistic position, is being hailed by many as the surest hope for the regeneration of Mexico."

All this makes the influential and widely-read Mexican press of the Southwest a valuable carrier of propaganda.

Failure to Act

If Mexican papers in the Southwest publicize the Sinarquist movement, it may be due at least in part to the fact that they do not know its true character. Responsible for their ignorance are the U. S. government agencies charged with disseminating information among our Spanish-speaking minority.

A drive to inform the Spanish-speaking population of the Southwest about U. S. war aims and win them to more active participation in the war effort was announced in 1942. But next to nothing has been done.

The Office of the Co-ordinator of Interamerican affairs, although charged with developing Inter-

American work within the U. S. A. has done nothing to show that it understands the Mexican minority problem in the Southwest, and its "do-nothing" policy has alienated many otherwise helpful elements among Mexicans.

One of the fruits of the failure of both federal and local government agencies, to solve the Mexican problem in the Southwest were the so-called "Zoot-suit" riots in Los Angeles which made the headlines about a year ago.

The basic causes of the riots—discrimination, poverty, insecurity and the low social status of the Mexicans—play into the hands of the Sinarquists.

Sinarquism's Utopian program of prosperity and social peace, and its extremely nationalistic aspirations for the future of Mexico, readily appeal to our underprivileged Mexican minority.

The failure of local, state and federal authorities to redress their grievances has seriously undermined the Mexican's confidence in the U. S. government and democracy. As long as their social and economic grievances are not heeded, they will be easy prey for a movement which exploits these complaints. Like all fascist movements, Sinarquism offers much psychological compensation to those whose self-respect has been hurt.

Needed Remedies

Two factors work in favor of Sinarquism in the U. S. A. One is the continued discrimination against Mexicans. Its elimination depends on vigorous action by responsible government agencies as much as civic organizations.

The second factor is the continued propaganda in its behalf by some American clergymen and clerical publications. The remedy lies in prompt and decisive counteraction by responsible leaders of the Catholic church in disavowing support of a foreign political movement which clearly plays the fascist game.