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THE UNIVERSE - 22nd January 1937.

Letter from Sr. Gil Robles:

To the Editor of the UNIVERSE.

Dear Sir,

I am not surprised to hear that there are in England persons who wish to mislead public opinion with regard to the meaning and purpose of the civil war in Spain and with regard to the attitude towards that war which has been adopted by the immense majority of Catholics.....

Nevertheless, from the first instant of the present military revolt, it is true to say that the Accion Popular has united itself in its entirety with the Revolution, has given thousands upon thousands of soldiers to the army, and is ready to support the Nationalist cause with all its moral strength, with all its financial resources and with the life of every one of its members. The Accion Popular is with the Nationalists in the fulness of its character as a Catholic Party.

The name of rebels as applied to the Spanish Nationalists is unjust. A rebel is one who unjustly fights against a lawful power. But the Government of Madrid, at present in Valencia, is not a lawful Government.....

As for the Basque Catholics, they are a living example of how separatist politics can smother all Christian spirit. The Basque separatists frequently sustained the thesis that they are "born" Basque, and only later, by baptism, do they become Christians, and hence the furtherance of Basque separatism must prevail over the interests of Christianity.....

So it is that the Basque separatists, with Aguirre at their head, have made common cause with the Communists, church incendiaries, murderers of Bishops, priests and religious, profaners of those things that are sacred to religion.

For such as these, Basque separatism comes first; Catholicity takes the second place.

...

(Sg) JOSE MARIA GIL ROBLES.