

*La Situación Española*  
*Laucha*  
The Spanish Situation

Registrado  
Entrada N° *312* fecha .....  
Salida N° ..... fecha .....  
Archivo .....

The Franco regime is repudiated by the whole world. On the other hand, is the Republican Government, reconstituted in exile and recognised by several countries. In Great Britain there are certain reserves regarding the Republican Government; and in British circles various suggestions are current regarding other solutions opposing the Republican Government: The restoration of the monarchy; the "Government of patriots and liberals" better known as the "bridge" Government; and some solution of the "Peron" type.

The idea of the monarchist restoration began on the basis of an approach by the monarchy to some republican groups. British agents made propaganda in Madrid. Sres. Lopez Olivan and Madariaga were the Spanish sponsors of this plan. The attempt having failed, since the Republicans repudiated the monarchist solution, this is now put forward on the basis of Sr. Gil Robles and a Carlist group led by the Count of Rodezno. The groups of Catholic Spaniards opposed to General Franco, whose most outstanding personality is the professor and ex-Minister, Sr. Jimenez Fernandez, reject the monarchist solution, and have specifically shown themselves opposed to the person of Sr. Gil Robles, for his doubtful conduct during these years, which in their opinion has made him useless as the leader of any democratic movement.

The "Government of patriots and liberals", a suggestion which Great Britain made to the note of 3rd March and which the United States and France signed unwillingly, has had a cold reception. It could not be otherwise. A "bridge" is a crossing between two banks, and can only be built on pillars already set up on each side. On the democratic side, the pillar is the Republican Government. The plan of the "bridge" Government can only be conceived, accepting previously the existence of the Republican Government, to fill the gap between the latter and the Franco Government. But it cannot be projected, as Great Britain suggested, as a plan to replace the Republican Government, since in that case, the bridge could not be built for lack of one of the supporting pillars.

The "peron" designs have scarcely found expression. When the subject was raised in the inner circles of the British Labour Government, no one cared to describe it as honest nor probable, and most rejected the suggestion as an absurd fantasy. We know two commentaries upon this idea. One of them, attributed to Mr. McNeill Parliamentary Under Secretary to the Foreign Office, was that Franco might go to the United Nations offering to consult the electorate, under the supervision of the Security Council. It is also considered possible that the Minister of Labour, Sr. Giron might carry

out in Spain a similar manoeuvre to that effected by Peron in Argentina, preaching demagoguery to the workers, taking advantage of the disorganisation of the Republican political parties in the interior, due to Franco persecution, to prepare elections, which it is supposed would be the last hope of Franco or Giron. These two solutions are impracticable after a struggle which left a million dead on the field of battle, and after ten years of constant fierce persecution, with the suppression of all the liberties of the individual, even that of thought, of association, and of all the other individual guarantees. When these ideas are mentioned in British circles, where it is supposed they have been received with some attention, no one wishes to be held responsible for having given them a moment's consideration. These "Peron" solutions are, moreover, categorically opposed by the United States.

For these reasons, British diffidence is giving way, and the Foreign Office has made known to Sr. Barcenas, General Franco's Ambassador in London, that Sir Alexander Cadogan's speech to the Security Council is the last effort by Great Britain to shield the Franco regime from Republican attacks. General Franco, who asserts he has received Soviet approaches regarding commercial relations, as was done with Argentina, supposes that by playing the card of his refusal to accept the Russian suggestion, the British Government will maintain the position of reserve adopted toward the Republican Government. At best, this will only mean delaying the problem, the solution of which is urgent, if it is desired to avoid civil war.

London, 18th July, 1946.

## The Spanish Situation

4

The Franco regime is repudiated by the whole world. On the other hand, is the Republican Government, reconstituted in exile and recognised by several countries. In Great Britain there are certain reserves regarding the Republican Government; and in British circles various suggestions are current regarding other solutions opposing the Republican Government: The restoration of the monarchy; the "Government of patriots and liberals" better known as the "bridge" Government; and some solution of the "Peron" type.

The idea of the monarchist restoration began on the basis of an approach by the monarchy to some republican groups. British agents made propaganda in Madrid. Sres. Lopez Olivan and Madariaga were the Spanish sponsors of this plan. The attempt having failed, since the Republicans repudiated the monarchist solution, this is now put forward on the basis of Sr. Gil Robles and a Carlist group led by the Count of Rodezno. The groups of Catholic Spaniards opposed to General Franco, whose most outstanding personality is the professor and ex-Minister, Sr. Jimenez Fernandez, reject the monarchist solution, and have specifically shown themselves opposed to the person of Sr. Gil Robles, for his doubtful conduct during these years, which in their opinion has made him useless as the leader of any democratic movement.

The "Government of patriots and liberals", a suggestion which Great Britain made to the note of 3rd March and which the United States and France signed unwillingly, has had a cold reception. It could not be otherwise. A "bridge" is a crossing between two banks, and can only be built on pillars already set up on each side. On the democratic side, the pillar is the Republican Government. The plan of the "bridge" Government can only be conceived, accepting previously the existence of the Republican Government, to fill the gap between the latter and the Franco Government. But it cannot be projected, as Great Britain suggested, as a plan to replace the Republican Government, since in that case, the bridge could not be built for lack of one of the supporting pillars.

The "peron" designs have scarcely found expression. When the subject was raised in the inner circles of the British Labour Government, no one cared to describe it as honest nor probable, and most rejected the suggestion as an absurd fantasy. We know two commentaries upon this idea. One of them, attributed to Mr. McNeill Parliamentary Under Secretary to the Foreign Office, was that Franco might go to the United Nations offering to consult the electorate, under the supervision of the Security Council. It is also considered possible that the Minister of Labour, Sr. Giron might carry

out in Spain a similar manoeuvre to that effected by Peron in Argentina, preaching demagoguery to the workers, taking advantage of the disorganisation of the Republican political parties in the interior, due to Franco persecution, to prepare elections, which it is supposed would be the last hope of Franco or Giron. These two solutions are impracticable after a struggle which left a million dead on the field of battle, and after ten years of constant fierce persecution, with the suppression of all the liberties of the individual, even that of thought of association, and of all the other individual guarantees. When these ideas are mentioned in British circles, where it is supposed they have been received with some attention, no one wishes to be held responsible for having given them a moment's consideration. These "Peron" solutions are, moreover, categorically opposed by the United States.

For these reasons, British diffidence is giving way, and the Foreign Office has made known to Sr. Barcenas, General Franco's Ambassador in London, that Sir Alexander Cadogan's speech to the Security Council is the last effort by Great Britain to shield the Franco regime from Republican attacks. General Franco, who asserts he has received Soviet approaches regarding commercial relations, as was done with Argentina, supposes that by playing the card of his refusal to accept the Russian suggestion, the British Government will maintain the position of reserve adopted toward the Republican Government. At best, this will only mean delaying the problem, the solution of which is urgent, if it is desired to avoid civil war.

London, 18th July, 1946.