



The Voice of the Basques

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SYMPATHY AND LOYALTY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF EUZKADI TOWARDS FRANCE

Paris (OPE).- Sr. Jesús M. Leizaola, as President of the Basque Government, has sent the following message to the French Chief of State:

"General Charles de Gaulle, President of the Republic.

"On the 18th June 1940, the Government of Euzkadi and the Basque people answered your call. In the name of this Government and people I have the honour today to convey to you the same feelings of sympathy and loyalty. I salute you respectfully,

"Leizaola, President of the Basque Government".

THE BASQUE BRIGADE

Paris (OPE).- Ex-servicemen of the Basque Brigade, which fought with the Allied Forces at Pointe de Grave during World War II, offered their services to the French Republican Authorities when the recent crisis developed in Algeria.

The "Gernika" Brigade was formed, at the Euzkadi Government appeal, by volunteers recruited among Basques which fled to France in 1936 because of the Spanish war.

COMMEMORATION OF LA POINTE DE GRAVE

Bordeaux (OPE).- In the presence of General Adeline, President of the Association of Ex-combatants of the South West (of France), a commemoration ceremony for Basques killed on the fronts at Royan, La Rochelle and Pointe de Grave during World War II was held at the national cemetery at Retaud.

A delegation of the Basque Brigade 'Guernika' unit, formed by Major Ordoky and the Captains Martinez and Inchausti and other soldiers attended the several ceremonies.

After funeral rites had been held according to the Arab, Hebrew, Protestant and Catholic forms, General Adeline made a speech. He spoke with affection of the presence of the delegation of the Basque Brigade and he praised the attitude of the Basque people, especially for the exemplary tenacity which they exhibited to other peoples in maintaining their ideals of liberty.

An alfresco lunch was attended by all those who were present. Patriotic hymns were sung, including the 'Euzko Gudariak'.

THE BAD BOOK

Pamplona (OPE).- One of the affronts with which the Carlists reproach the novelist Gironella arises from the fact that in the seven or eight hundred pages of his book he always puts quotes around the words 'National' and 'Red' when he refers to the respective contestants or zones. Thus he is constantly underlining his view that, so far as horrors were concerned, there was nothing to choose between one side and the other.

In fact, Gironella writes in his novel:

"But the fact was that in Castille and Navarra and in the South, the Falangists and the Carlists, to say nothing of the Moors, were committing the same horrors at the very same time and with the same fury as their adversaries in Gerona. And it is not surprising, for the race was the same. Perhaps in Valladolid they fired with greater elegance; so much the worse for them. The book of words which they used may have been more refined; but so much the greater their responsibility. And how surely in Pamplona the firing squads of the Carlists must have fallen in invoking Christ the King".

INDUSTRIAL REVIVAL IN VIZCAYA AND GUIPUZCOA

Bilbao (from our Correspondent).- Pedro Rico, who is well known among journalists and economists in the Basque country, has written this in one of his recent articles:

"Impressions gathered at the moment on the economic situation of the two Basque provinces become more encouraging from day to day. Insofar as Vizcaya is concerned, orders begin to flow in; and as is always the case after a crisis, there are buyers-in-haste who demand excessively short delivery dates, so that in some industries overtime has begun again.

As for the province of Guipuzcoa, here too impressions are favourable. Here exports are being well maintained and in certain directions are expanding in a wholly unforeseen way.

This is particularly notable in machine-tools, the export of which is now being made to several countries, many of them highly developed industrially, such as Germany. In fact, machine-tools are being shipped to Germany, including electrical material and diesel-injection equipment for trucks and motor-cars."

A local newspaper also confirms these optimistic impressions:

"Little by little it is observed that the revival is taking shape and is spreading to every branch of industry. More and more factories are beginning to work several shifts, and in

several production figures have reached totals never before recorded. Those which are not hampered by structural defects have begun to work at full production, as was well proved recently at the machine-tools exhibition."

Optimism derives also from the consumption of electricity in the first quarter of this year. During last year it was the agricultural provinces which showed increases, and consumption in the industrial zones was below that of the previous years: the very opposite is now true. Vizcaya, for instance, has, in the quarter under review, recorded an increase well above 18.8%, as was the case also in Guipuzcoa. The increase in the consumption of electricity in this first quarter of the year (18.8%) is the greatest since 1956; it was 23.8% against 3.7% in 1957; in 1958 it rose again to 14.4%, but in 1959 it fell to 7.1% and in 1960 to no more than 5.3%. The last figures indicate the effects of the recession in the first instance and of the revival afterwards.

So far as Vizcaya is concerned, it is also interesting to note that during March the number of unemployed workers fell: there were only 64 workers in 56 firms wholly out of work, and 101 men only partially employed in 5 firms.

THE CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT IN VIZCAYA

Bilbao (OPE) - On the occasion of a recent co-operative campaign here, the Press has stressed the importance of the co-operative movement in Vizcaya, where there are 50,000 members of co-operatives. This means that almost one third of the population of Vizcaya enjoys the benefits of the co-operative movement.

There are housing, agricultural, consumers', industrial, producers', maritime and other co-operatives. The housing co-operative have already built more than 1,800 homes and have several hundred more in course of construction. There are 60 farmers' co-operatives, but the most important of all are those of consumers, the latter numbering 52 with 110 branches. They have an annual gross cash turnover of some 600,000,000 pesetas, which is three times as much as the rest of the co-operatives.

These establishments are situated in the mining and industrial areas on both sides of the river in the Bilbao area as well as in Durango, Guernica, Marquina, etc. They have 38,000 members and to this number one may add 17,000 workers who profit from these co-operatives through the 'economato' arrangements established with 19 important undertakings in Vizcaya.

The consumers' co-operatives require purchases on such a scale that consideration has been given to the need of setting up a co-operative bank.

Profits from the co-operatives are allocated as to 15% to social works, 10% to reserved funds, and the remainder is returned to the consumer by way of co-operative dividends.

SOME STATISTICS FOR VIZCAYA

Bilbao (OPE).- The tonnage of goods entering the port of Bilbao during 1960 was 2,958,000 against 3,150,000 in 1959. The tonnage of merchandise leaving was 1,347,000 against 1,086,000 in 1959. The total length of roads in Vizcaya is estimated at 1,337 km., of which 660.6 km. country roads.

Average area of the municipality of Guipuzcoa is 22.95 sq. km. and that of Vizcaya, 19.39 sq. km.; these are the lowest figures in all provinces, the greatest average being that in Murcia (269.45 sq. km.). The smallest municipality in Vizcaya is Lanestosa, with 1.11 sq. km.; it adjoins the largest municipality, Carranza, with 136.4 sq. km.

PIGS SHOT

Vitoria (OPE).- Three hundred hogs affected by "African pest" were shot in one day, and more executions will take place in the near future with the segregation of all swine affected by the disease.

SWINE FEVER

Bilbao (OPE).- Movement of swine throughout Vizcaya has been prohibited by decree owing to the incidence of several foci of African swine fever. Sales on foot, showing at fairs and attendance at markets is forbidden.

A FRENCH PHILOSOPHER AND THE DESTRUCTION OF GUERNICA

Paris (OPE).- M. Merleau-Ponty, a leading French philosopher, has died at the age of 53 after a heart attack. His intellectual life was as brilliant as it was precocious.

The name of Merleau-Ponty, that of a young professor who had already established himself in philosophy, featured in 1937 among those of a number of intellectuals who, upon the destruction of Guernica by bombing, published "an appeal to all men of good heart". His fellow signatories were Francois Mauriac, Jacques Maritain, Francisque Gay, Georges Bidault, Emmanuel Mounier, Gabriel Marcel, Jacques Madaule, Stanislas Fumet, Maurice Lacroix, Claude Bourdet, Paul Vigneaux, and others.

"The Spanish Civil War, the appeal stated, "has just assumed a particularly inhuman form in the Basque country. Yesterday there was the bombing of Durango; today, by the same means, the almost complete destruction of Guernica, an undefenced city and a sanctuary of Basque traditions. Hundreds of non-combatants, including women and children, died in Durango, Guernica and other places. Bilbao, which is crowded with large numbers of refugees, is threatened with the same fate.

"Whatever one may feel about the parties to the conflict in Spain, one fact is not to be disputed; that the Basque country contains a Catholic people; and that public worship has never been interrupted in the Basque country. In these circumstances it is Catholics everywhere, without distinction of party, who must be the first to raise their voices to ensure that the world shall not lose a Christian people by pitiless slaughter. Nothing can justify and nothing can excuse the bombing of open cities like Guernica.

"We address an anguished appeal to men of good heart everywhere to bring to an end at once the slaughter of non-combatants."

NEWS IN BRIEF

The death has been announced of Brother Justo of Tolosa, a Capuchin monk who was professor of law at the University of Cracow (Poland).

— Sixteen merchant vessels are to be built for Norwegian owners at the 'Euskalduna' shipyards in Bilbao at a cost of 637 million pesetas.

— 'Progress and Sorrow' was the title of a talk in the 'Conversations in Bayonne' programme on 23 May; taking part was the San Sebastian philosopher, Javier Zutiri Apalategui.

— The air service between Bilbao and Barcelona and Palma has been restored since 1 May to a three-days-a-week basis.

— In connexion with an exhibition in Madrid of paintings by a woman artist from Irun, the critic of the daily newspaper 'Arriba' has commented: "Among our women painters today none, perhaps, is as balanced, refined and prescient as Menchu Gal".

— A great part of the hermitage of San Salvador has collapsed in Abadiano. Under an oak tree in the grounds of the hermitage there used to be held, after Mass, the General Meetings of the Merindad of Durango (A 'merindad' was the district of the jurisdiction of a 'merino', himself, literally, a royal judge and superintendent of sheep-walks).

— Because of lack of consignments, work on the Deusto canal (Bilbao) has been at a standstill for more than a year. Half of the estimated cost of 100 million pesetas has already been expended. The walls of the right bank are 13.40 metres high and 1,500 metres long; but work on the other bank has been much delayed. Water in the canal is about seven metres deep.

— The Basque Centre in Caracas (Venezuela) has paid tribute to Dr. Luis Bilbao on the occasion of a special distinction given to him by the Government of Venezuela. It also organised a wake in memory of Jose Antonio de Aguirre, the late President of Euzkadi, and Jesus de Galindez, the former Basque representative in the United States. Sres. Azurza and Amezaga spoke on this occasion.

— Don Luis Irizar Salazar, a Basque priest from Guipuzcoa, who was priest-in-charge of the Church of St. Martin in Navarra (Colombia), has been appointed Bishop of Tumaco. One of the sponsors of the Bishop at his installation was the President of the Republic of Colombia, Don Alberto Lleras Camargo, head of the Liberal Party.

— The May Day meeting organised by the Union General de Trabajadores (General Workers' Union) and the Solidarity of Basque Workers was held in the hall of the "Force Ouvriere" in Paris. Messrs. Jimeno and Agesta spoke for their respective unions. Don Indalecio Prieto, a Cabinet Minister in the former Republican Government in Spain, presided. In making his resume of the speeches and commenting thereon, Sr. Prieto drew attention to the fundamental identity of views expressed by both speakers. As a Socialist and a member of the UGT, he referred to the worthy, important, and promising position of the STV. He spoke in the warmest terms in praise of its representative, Agesta.

— The 'Papelera Española' (Spanish Paper enterprise) has sought authority to instal a new machine at the Arrigorriaga works with an annual production capacity of 7,000 tons of quality paper.

— The Bilbao Press had recorded the sixteenth anniversary of the assassination of Benito Mussolini by publishing a death notice advertising a Mass at the Church of San Vicente 'strongly entreating the presence of all those who admired him in his life'. (Well, it seems that either the local admirers were few, or they were the kind that doesn't go to Church, like the Duce himself).

— There has been a recrudescence in Navarra of the Africa swine pest, and the competent department in the Town Hall has announced a forthcoming broadcast on 'the present situation and the possible consequences of this frightful disease'.

— The Polish vessel 'Baltic' took on a shipment of motors and chains at Santurce and sailed for Gdynia (Poland).

— The Polish vessel 'Lewant' arrived in Bilbao from Gdansk to load 1,200 barrels of resin.

----- OTHER ITEMS -----

A FORMER REPUBLICAN MINISTER ON SOCIALISM AND THE MONARCHY

Toulouse (OPE).— An interview between its correspondent, Michel Roquebert, and Don Indalecio Prieto, the former Spanish Republican Cabinet Minister, was published recently in 'La Depeche de Toulouse'. Sr. Prieto was in Toulouse in connection with meetings of the leadership of the Socialist Party.

He was asked what was the position of Spanish Socialists in regard to the restoration of the monarchy in Spain, and he replied: 'We are fundamentally republicans and we do not wish to become involved in any restoration of the monarchy in Spain. Let us look back on events which took place some years ago. On 6 March 1946 a tripartite Note issued in Paris, London and Washington expressed the view of the three great Western allies; they hoped for the formation of a provisional Government which would re-establish all freedoms and would organise free elections. In December of the same year this resolution was unanimously recommended in the Security Council. The position of the Socialists is based on these documents. If a plibiscite should give preference to a constitutional monarchy, then we socialists were to have our place in such a regime. Don Juan himself appeared to agree to this.'

"Later Franco put a stop to all this. What he wants is an absolute monarchy; a monarchy by divine right without ruck with the people; and it is an absolute monarchy that he has promised to Don Juan, apparently, for this year. And Don Juan will play with him. He is an absolutist.

"Now, if the monarchy is to be restored some day in Spain it will be necessary for all democrats to do everything possible to ensure that it will be a constitutional monarchy. This is a vital matter for Spain. Absolutism would only keep her in her present state as an under-developed country."

Señor Prieto was asked whether, on his recent visit to Washington, he had formed the impression that United States policy towards Spain might well undergo a change with the succession to office of President Kennedy.

"I have the impression that that will be so", Sr. Prieto said; "but it is a purely personal impression. Of course, there will not be any immediate change, but the general tone of American policy has changed already. This has not yet been translated into action, but this may take place soon".

Sr. Prieto was asked how such changes might find expression, and he said, "I am persuaded that President Kennedy and the men who surround him support the establishment of democracy in Spain, and that this is part of a very much wider plan: to establish democracy in all the Latin-American countries. If in all these circumstances it were possible to establish democracy in Spain, it would exercise a powerful attraction upon Latin America".

What could the United States do to this end? Don Indalecio said, "For the time being the American government cannot take any decision or adopt any position. Unless, of course, events took place which would move them to action; and then they would adopt democratic methods. At all events, it is essential for them that they wait until Spanish public opinion finds expression in a more global, more organic form than at present.

"See what is happening in Portugal, where there is a considerable movement against the regime, with the Army itself demanding the democratisation of the regime. All this is, of course, linked with the question of Angola. Well, I am convinced that the United States will do nothing to counter a revolt, if it should take place. But a similar situation does not exist in Spain at present."

The interviewer said that as Sr. Prieto had raised the Portuguese situation, it would be useful to know how he felt that the Spanish people had expressed themselves over the 'Santa Maria' incident. 'It was a warning call', said Sr. Prieto. "The affair of the 'Santa Maria' shows that in Portugal even the Army wants to see an end to the dictatorship. The Spanish masses have interpreted this as an encouraging thing".

SEVERE CENSURE ON SPANISH SOCIETY

Madrid (OPE).- Don Antonio Anoveros, Auxiliary Bishop of Cadiz, is the author of a severe censure on Spanish society published in the periodical 'Ecclesia'. The title given to his article is, 'Dismal Lies for the Public Good', and his allusions are clear enough. Here are some extracts:

"A lie is never permissible. It is never permitted to say anything with the intention of misleading..."

"Adulation is a sin against the truth, and often against justice also... To engage in adulation of persons in authority on false premises and with all the manifest exaggerations of a publicity campaign could be a grave crime..."

"There is an abundance of speeches, reports, propaganda slogans in which the poor adulators have become caught up in a wild, exhausting race for superlatives..."

"The poison of adulation promotes vanity in people; it works upon them to the point where they become unattainable by any truth which conflicts with their opinion; it makes

them incapable of accepting both advice and loyal and objective advisers.. This is the road which leads to the exercise of an authority proof against the stirrings of healthy public opinion. The adulators, being without conscience or being cowards or seekers after advancement, create the blindfold of an absolute, undisputable ego, a source of equivocations and lying optimism, over the eyes of those who need to be aware of the pure truth of all that is about them".

"the adulatory cult of public men and institutions, quite apart from the prejudices it creates in someone or another, does grave harm to the country: it makes it more and more sceptical, lacking in faith in its leaders and its institutions, and short of a collective conscience."

"Faults of commission or omission in the performance of public duties by those who are under the obligation to be vigilant for the sincerity and liberties of electors and elected at public polls, like the exercise of favouritism, no less plaguing and corroding for any society, are a clear injustice..."

"It is an obligation to protest the very truth of the law in order to combat, let us say, public immorality; to attend to the just demands of those who suffer injustice, even against all the manoeuvres of powerful persons..."

"The free will of men cannot be violated with direct or indirect pressures; nor can you misrepresent the rights of men in public life with devices short in sincerity; and it is not fitting to underwrite data lacking in truth..."

"It is a fault against the laws of proper allocation to grant a public post to one not worthy of it or perhaps not fit for it... It is not moral to allow oneself to be swayed by recommendation alone... It is a sin against justice to show obvious partiality to a person absolutely lacking in qualities... But it can also shatter commutative justice. This can occur where patronage is exercised in posts open to competition, in which advantages would normally derive from special merits. If patronage should succeed in robbing one man of his legitimate rights in favour of another, then it would be a sin against commutative justice."

CATHOLIC WORKERS AND THE FALANGIST SYNDICATES

Madrid (AFP).-In a cyclostyled leaflet clandestinely circulated on 1 May, the National Committee of Worker Brotherhoods of Catholic Action strongly criticised the process of syndical organisation in Spain and the work of Franco's regime. After denouncing the "Law of tacit impenetrability which denies the workers" representatives access to important posts in the syndical organisation", the leaflet affirmed that any criticism of the Spanish syndicates was regarded as an offence against the State, even when the syndical organisation might deny that it was a State institution.

Expressing its "firm determination not to associate itself with the chorus praise which greeted the achievements of the Franco regime", the National Committee stated: "These achievements doubtless relate to improvements, but these do not compensate for the harm suffered by the working class, subjected, as it is, to eternal tutelage and denied self-government".

Finally the National Committee of the movement denounced the "blockade of salaries, insufficient remuneration, the inefficacy of collective agreements, police repression and recourse to military force in work disputes".

AN OATH OF LOYALTY

Paris (OPE).- "Le Monde", reports that the former Spanish Minister for National Education and ex-Ambassador to the Holy See, Don Joaquin Ruiz Gimenez, has sent a letter to the President of the Spanish Cortes protesting against the Law which exacts an oath of loyalty to the (Franco) Movement from all professors. The Law was approved at the last plenary session of the legislature.

MALAISE AND COMMUNISM

Paris (OPE).- "Paris-Presse" publishes the following despatch from Barcelona:

"For the first time since his accession to absolute power, Franco has been the object of public demonstrations of hostility. The incidents occurred in connection with the tour which he had been making in the last week.

"It appears that despite a considerable weight of Police escorts and guards, the crowd at Ciudad Real actually came to the point of booing the Chief of State. Yet the Government had arraged the preventive arrest of hundreds of persons and had reinforced the secret police. Until this moment the person of the Chief of State had never been the subject of discussion by the crowds, which hitherto had always applauded him with warmth. This brusque change would appear to be due to the economic deterioration, the rise in prices, and increased stoppages of work.

"The majority of Andalusian villages are without roads and telephones. But each has a Communist cell. The truth of this little quip, made originally by a dignitary of the regime, has just been confirmed by the Minister of Information, who has let it be known that the Caudillo's itinerary had to be altered following the discovery of a network of Communist cells in the province of Jaen".

TRADE WITH THE EAST

Madrid (OPE).- According to official figures, the USSR imported during November 1,548 tons of textile fibres to the value of 42,9 million pesetas. From January to November 1960, total Spanish exports to the USSR were valued at 7 million dollars; imports reached 3.7 millions.

As regards the other states of Eastern Europe, conversations have begun with Jugoslavia and a substantial application has been made for payments by Spain to these countries. It would appear that these bills are hard to get, but they are discounted 12 to 13 per cent, while Eastern European-Spanish bills are offered for discount at 5 to 5.5 per cent.

The 20,000 pigs imported from Poland have been allocated to the Agropesa organisation, at 422.50 dollars a ton.

The Directorate of Customs has issued an explanatory note on consular visas for Bills of Lading for shipments from Satellite countries. As there is no Spanish consular service in Polish, Yugoslav or Bulgarian ports, visas of the local authorities will be acceptable, or those of the consulates of nations with which Spain has diplomatic relations.

Vessels registered behind the Iron Curtain will have to present Bills of Lading for goods transported in transit in the event that they call at Spanish ports.

FLIGHT OF SALAN

Paris (OPE).- Commenting on an editorial in the Madrid daily 'AEC' about the flight of Salan, the French newspaper 'Le Monde' publishes a report from Madrid sources:

"(It is no secret that the former General enjoyed much sympathy in Spain, not least among persons close to the Caudillo (Franco) and more especially chez the latter's brother-in-law, Serrano Suñer.

"It is also known that the organisers of the putsch in Algeria enjoyed the friendship of certain circles in the Spanish Army. Well informed circles suggest that shortly before the events in Algeria, a meeting took place at a country house in the province of Avila between General Salan and a high-ranking Army personality.

"Furthermore, the fact that the pilot of the plane which took the men to Algeria was none other than the traffic manager of a State-controlled airline, suggests that the supporters from whom the rebels derived these great benefits could not have been others than persons of some importance.

"A soldiers' Government in France and a 'French Algeria' would undoubtedly have counted on the full sympathy of the greater part of Spanish official circles. But it is unlikely that the Spanish Government intervened directly, or indeed actively in the flight of Salan. The policy of friendship with France followed by Franco in the last few years could not be gambled against a card of such low value."

FIGHTING WORDS

Sevilla (OPE).- During manoeuvres in the field connected with a mock military exercise, General Franco made a speech to military leaders and other officers. Here are some excerpts:

"Little do we care that the foreign Press, when referring to us, fails to understand us and engages in calumny. They are not moved by reason, but by evil and malice.

"It so happens that at the present time, in view of events in Algeria, we have become the passive object of their insidious attacks; they want to involve us in matters which are not ours, merely because this is an affair of generals, one of whom escaped the vigilance of our Police. Why, France herself could not prevent almost all those generals leaving her own soil and making for Algeria... Those are the facts of the matter.

"We are the first people to deplore the break which French schisms could cause to one of the vital elements in the defence of the West, and we can congratulate ourselves that normality has returned to our neighbouring nation. We are not of those who would run lances through the dead or run to the help of the victors. If we have great cause for anxiety over the expansion of Communist chaos in Africa, we are much more worried over the thought of its establishment north of the Pyrenees.

"That is why we reject all those malicious barbs which serve only to deceive other countries. Though they seek to wound us, they do not do so, for we feel ourselves to be strong enough in our Army, in the air, on the sea, and, above all, strong in our people. Say what they will, they cannot touch us.

"Acting as they do, they mislead only their own countrymen. We want nothing more than to maintain our tense vigilance and look to the good form of our Army, supported as it is by our people. With that we shall maintain the united, great, free Spain of our time. Long live Spain!"

FINANCIAL DEVICES

Madrid (OPE).- The balance sheet of the Bank of Spain again shows signs of a return to the inevitable financial practices of the Franco regime which neither fruitful tax-gathering nor a favourable balance of trade with abroad can oust.

During March advances against stocks rose from 14,000 to 18,000 million pesetas, an increase of 4,000 millions.

The cause of this leap is probably to be found in the fact that the INI has made issues to value of 2,362 million pesetas, while the State has produced investment certificates valued at 3,250 million pesetas. In addition to the 4,000 million pesetas referred to above, the balance sheet shows an increase in banknote circulation in the sum of 1,100 pesetas.

BANK OF SPAIN PROFITS AND THE CIVIL WAR

Madrid (OPE).- At the General Meeting of shareholders of the Bank of Spain it was reported that liquid profits from the period under review amounted to 1,337.8 million pesetas, of which 887.4 millions will be applied to partial amortization of the Special Debt.

This "Special Debt" is the term given to cover loans without security made by the Bank of Spain to Franco's party during the Civil War. The "Special Debt" has no due date and attracts no interest, General Franco having so ruled when regularising the position between the Ministry of Finance and the Bank. The total was 14,679 million pesetas on 31 December 1948, but within ten years it had been reduced to 10,918 millions and now stands at some 9,100 millions.

The report of the Bank refers to the continuation in 1960 of negotiations begun during earlier years to reclaim the Spanish gold deposited in Russia during the Civil War.

SPANISH SOCIAL CHRISTIAN DEMOCRACY

Paris (OPE).- Don Jose Maria Gil Robles has presented to the New International Groups the fundamental articles of Spanish Social Christian Democracy and has sought admission to this international organisation. The articles carry sub-sections referring to Recognition and Guarantee of Individual Human Rights, Unity of the Nation and Sovereignty of the State, Participation by the People in the Affairs of Government, Structure of Spanish Society, Economy, Teaching and Education, Justice, International Cooperation and Form of Government.

Among details which may be worth mentioning are the following:

Adherence by Spain to the European Declaration on the Rights of Man; illegality of all social and political groups of totalitarian concept, and, specifically, the Communist Party; the 'untouchable unity' of the nation and the independence of the State from all foreign intervention; recognition of the 'natural societies' and historical communities, municipalities and regions; and in this connection, too, guarantees as to the spheres of activity recognised in regard to persons, customs, natural, cultural, economic and linguistic characteristics; the freedom of the Catholic Church within the limits of its sphere and authorisation for private practice of other religious professions; a concordat to be freely granted.

Right of suffrage to be exercised by citizens in their dual quality as individuals and as members of organisations or local societies; the removal of the present class barriers in Spanish society which facilitate favouritism and privilege; social categories to be based on work and on services rendered to the community; freedom of enterprise, commerce and movement of goods, industrial coordination by the State and transformation of the present capitalist enterprise system into a system which will harmonize relations between capital and labour, and the just distribution of the national income.

Recognition of the Right of the Church to teach, with inspection duties vested in the State; free teaching in all grades; the right to teach in Castilian in bilingual areas and also in the local languages; prohibition on the teaching of apologetics of doctrines or programmes of any single party; affirmation by the State of the right or independence of the Judicial Power; international and European cooperation; integration of Spain with full rights in European common enterprises.

Restoration of the monarchy in the person of Don Juan of Borbon, it being understood that any exercise which may have as its purpose the firm establishment of the monarchy upon institutions alien to democratic principles would greatly endanger the permanence and consolidation of the regime and might compromise the foundations on which is based its acceptance and its defence."



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FRANCO'S SECRET POLICE AND THE BASQUES

BILBAO (OPE). - The famous affair of the letter of the Basque priests continues to expose the utter lack of discernment of Franco's minions. Here is a new item arising from the large-scale police investigations mounted to lay hands on anyone at all who could be proved to have been personally involved in the matter.

The document itself was taken to the Nuncio's establishment in Madrid by a priest. As the Nuncio himself was not there when the priest arrived, the paper was left on a desk in the reception room. When the Nuncio himself arrived and realised what it was all about, he rang the Directorate-General of Security (DGS) to have the messenger arrested. The DGS, in its wisdom, dressed two of its agents in ecclesiastical garb and set them to the task. Two whole days they walked around in their soutanes and achieved - nothing.

The DGS -from which this story has leaked- has now learned that 'the habit doesn't make the monk' - or the policeman. So it gave up its fancy-dress tricks to try and identify the bearer of the protest of the 339 Basque priests.

A BLOODY AMBUSH IN BILBAO

Bilbao (OPE). - The following statement has been issued by the Civil Government of the Province of Vizcaya:

"Following urgent reports from Vitoria that a car -of which a description was given- had left that city for Bilbao carrying three armed men suspected of

terrorist activities, Public Order patrols were posted at a suitable point on the route called Bolueta. They were to stop the car and arrest the occupants.

A car which was thought to be the one in question appeared at Bolueta, and several shots were fired for reasons which have not yet been established. As a result one of the occupants was killed and another wounded; the third was unhurt.

It was found later, after the identity of the occupants of the car had been established, that they were in no way concerned with the matter in hand.

The dead man was Don Javier Batarrita Elexpuru, of Bilbao, a merchant; the wounded man, Don José Antonio Martín-Ballesteros y Martínez de Velasco, of Calatajud, a lawyer; Don Fernando Larizgoitia Mimenza, of Bilbao, an administrative chief, was unhurt.

When the lieutenant-colonel commanding the Civil Guard Command and the Chief of Police of Vizcaya learned of the action taken and of its tragic results, they set out at once to the scene of the incident to open an enquiry and informed this Government accordingly. The Civil Government immediately made contact with the Military Governor to urge the instant appointment of a special judge to establish what had taken place and to determine responsibility with a view to proceedings on a basis of strict justice.

In giving publicity to this regrettable matter, the Civil Government conveys its sorrow to the families of the victims and reiterates its confidence that the facts and the apportionment of responsibility will be established as quickly as possible."

They speak of it as a 'mistake': but it is felt generally that if the victims of the mistake had been persons with an anti-Franco record, there would have been no question of responsibility, or of a special judge. And certainly no mention at all of the matter in the Press.

The incident has given rise to much comment. It has been noted, in particular, that the special force involved had tried hard to suppress any explanations. The body of the dead man was found to have no less than 11 bullet wounds; and that of the wounded man, three. One of the Civil Guards appears to have got three bullet-holes in his cape from shots fired from behind him by a policeman.

THE BOLUETA AFFAIR

Bilbao (OPE).- In connection with the incident at Bolueta on Monday, 27th March, it has been observed that the following day's newspapers carried no mention of it, although a death notice appeared in these terms: 'Don Javier Batarrita y Elexpuru (R.I.P.) died yesterday, 27th March, 1961, in Bilbao, aged 33, after receiving the Last Rites and the Apostolic Blessing of His Holiness'.

This notice, which seems to try to give the impression of casual death to a death by shooting by the Civil Guard, stands in contrast with mourning notices which, on twenty-odd-year anniversaries the families of Franco's supporters exploit to describe an execution of sentences of death, during the Civil War, as plain murder.

It was on Wednesday 29th March, that the incident was officially made known on publication of a statement by the Civil Government of Vizcaya and when authority was granted for a necrology for the victim, himself well-known in sporting circles as representative of the 'Lube' motor-cycles and as one of the collaborators in the organisation of the bicycle tour of Spain sponsored by a local newspaper.

But, on orders of the Government, the newspapers felt compelled to intone a chorus on Fatality. "To err is human", wrote the 'Correo Español', "even though the mistakes sometimes

have such painful results as we mourn today". "We know", said the 'Gaceta del Norte', "that incidents like this, with all its tragic consequences, can happen and do happen, unhappily, everywhere through over-haste and by mistakes of which men are not exempt and which, in ill-starred cases, can develop into a sad tragedy such as we must lament on this occasion .

MORE POLICE PERSECUTION IN EUZKADI

San Sebastian (OPE).- The search for imaginary clandestine arms depots is not a task which the forces of repression in the Basque country reserve only for the province of Vizcaya. In Guipuzcoa, too, they have made themselves felt in the last few weeks, though happily without the dramatic results achieved by the Public Order force in Bolueta recently.

Investigation here centred on a cemetery near San Sebastian. The result was negative, so far as the seizure of arms was concerned -like in the car shot-up in the approaches to Bilbao.

EXPORT OF MACHINE TOOLS

Bilbao (OPE).- The Machine Tools Exhibition in Bilbao has now closed. During the ten days that it was open, it was visited by 350,000 persons; export commitments to the value of three million dollars were recorded during this period. A group of British buyers bought items to a value of £500,000, a figure which was surpassed by a German group which made its purchases through the Hispano-German 'Interindustria' organisation. There were orders also from the Communist States and important deals were, of course, made with the United States. There was a buyer of lathes at 100,000 pesetas each; another bought 30 Boring Machines at some 400,000 pesetas for each machine; and there were orders for 48 drills at about 84,000 pesetas apiece.

BUILDING OF SCHOOLS IN NAVARRA

Pamplona (OPE).- In the School Buildings Exhibition here one hall was devoted to achievements in this sphere in the Province of Navarra.

In four years 146 schools and 151 homes for teachers have been built at a total cost of 41,500,000 pesetas. During the two years, 1955-1956, before the present plan was initiated, five million pesetas were spent in this type of work to build 23 schools and 26 homes. The State contributed half of this sum; the Diputacion Foral 1,200,000 pesetas; and the Municipalities the remainder. During 1957-1960, when the school building programme was already entered upon, the State contributed 19,500,000 pesetas; the Diputacion, 9,700,000 and the Municipalities, 17,000,000.

During 1961, 53 schools will be built; 20 under the previous programme, 33 under the new.

In the capital (Pamplona) four school groups with 123 school-rooms have been erected. The cost amounted to 22,000,000 pesetas, to which the State contributed 7,853,000 pesetas; the Diputacion Foral 3,353,000; and the Municipal governments, 10,720,000.

THE BASQUE FISHING FLEET

Bilbao (OPE).- The fourteen fishing vessels which spent three months catching tunny in Dakar waters have returned to Bermeo. One of them, the 'Gran San Pancraccio', arrived under tow, having broken a crankshaft. Another vessel, the 'Pio XII', arrived one man short on her crew-list; an Asturian named Luis Montes, who lived in Mundaca, had died off Dakar.

Fifteen fishing vessels have left Bermeo for Algeciras on the first stage of a fishing expedition to the zone of Rabat-Casablanca to catch tunny until mid-June.

Two tunny ships are being built in Bilbao yards of the type used in Japan, with a capacity for freezing fifteen tons daily of fish and to preserve up to 320 tons of fish at a temperature of 20° below zero.

Half the fishing vessels which went to Dakar have set out on the return trip to Saint Jean de Luz.

MORE THAN 100 ELECTRIC POWER STATIONS IN VIZCAYA

Bilbao (OPE).- There are 117 electric power stations in Vizcaya. Of these 68 are hydro-electric, 28 thermoelectric, and 21 mixed. Total power of the 117 stations is 237,642 kw., of which 93,410 corresponds to the hydro-electric plants and 144,232 to the thermo-electric.

Electric power output is estimated at 514 million per kw. hour; 186 million deriving from turbines operated by waterfalls and 328 million by thermal processes.

THE IMPACT OF STABILIZATION

Bilbao (OPE).- Recently published figures for the establishment of companies in Vizcaya show that during 1959 a total of 117 companies were set up with a total capital of 292,500,000 pesetas, against more than 345,000,000 pesetas for the companies established in each of the previous three years.

Although statistics for 1960 have not yet been published, it is believed that the decrease was even greater than in the year before.

These figures contrast sharply with the high totals for 1901 (482,000,000 pesetas) and 1918 (497,000,000) especially if it is borne in mind that the peseta of those times was worth very much more than that of today.

MOORS AND JEWS IN TUDELA

Pamplona (OPR).- The Society of Friends of the Country, of Tudela, continues to honour the memory of Benjamin de Tudela with a series of lectures. Don Juan de Navascues gave his under the title, 'Tudela under the Dominion of Islam'. He spoke about Maladi Amrus, first recorded Moorish Lord of Tudela, of Benu Gasi and Musa II, of the Banu Huds, of Mundir, 'The Blind Man of Tudela', of Servet, and of Benjamin of Tudela.

LECTURE ON THE JEW BENJAMIN OF TUDELA

San Sebastian (OPE).- A Tudela lawyer, Don José Joaquin Montoro Sagasti, has given a lecture sponsored by the Aranzadi group of the Society of Friends of the Country at the Guipuzcoa Cultural Circle. The subject: Benjamin de Tudela.

He spoke of the old and cordial relations of the Society of Friends of the Country in Tudela with that of Vergara. He related the vicissitudes suffered by Tudela from the foundation of this Basque-Iberian township. He developed fully his main theme, with quotations from the Jewish author concerning the country itself. Tudela was at that time a river port of considerable movement, and the Ebro was navigable as far as Barea, in the Rioja. It is, therefore, not impossible that Sancho the Wise, on granting its statutes to San Sebastian, with the first maritime commercial code in the Iberian Peninsula, was inspired by nautical customs as practised at the time in Tudela, for the monarch resided often at his castle there. When Benjamin travelled to Alexandria, he found ships from Navarra in those waters.

It is, of course, a fact that at that time -and until the year 1200- the Basque coast from Bermeo to the east formed one boundary of the Kingdom of Navarre. In 1200, when the Duranguésado,

Guipuzcoa and Alava passed to the suzerainty of Castille and the 'frontier of malefactors' was set up between Guipuzcoa and Navarra, the maritime trade of Navarra was conducted from the ports of Bayonne and St. Jean de Luz. It was the Navarrese ships anchored in the port of Bayonne which first boasted a fixed rudder, in place of the double oar at the stern.

The lecturer, who knows the Basque language (he used it at the opening of his talk) did not tell us whether Benjamin of Tudela was euskeldun. No doubt he is keeping that for another talk.

THE BASQUES AND THE AMNISTY CONFERENCE

Paris (OPE).- The Basque Delegation in Paris has issued the following statement:-

The Basque Democratic bodies have understood that official approaches to Franco in favour of an amnesty, were tending to encourage his acceptance as a legitimate power and to continue the line which, in the world at large, has led to his admittance to UNESCO, to UNO and to the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

The Basque political organisms -the Government of Euzkadi and the Consultative Council- have adjusted their standpoint to this conviction and, in duty, to the acceptance of nothing which, even by implication, might be taken to signify recognition of Franco'.

----- OTHER ITEMS -----

THE AMNESTY CONFERENCE

Paris (OPE).- The Directing Committee of the C.I.S.A.I. has published the following resolution:-

"On learning that on the 25th and 26th March a meeting is to be held in Paris of the 'Conference of Western Europe for the Amnesty of Spanish Prisoners and Political Exiles', the 'international Committee of Aid to the Iberian Anti-Fascists' can only associate itself with the sense of solidarity which inspires it. The liberation of the Spanish and Portuguese political prisoners is one of the objectives of the C.I.S.A.I.

"The Committee of the C.I.S.A.I., which represents a large sector of the Iberian anti-Franco organizations, wishes, nonetheless, to make certain observations which it considers indispensable in the struggle for the liberation of the prisoners and, more generally, in the struggle against Franco.

"Firstly, on the notice of meeting and the organization of this Conference. The Committee considers that the calling and organization of this Conference do not offer sufficient guarantees for anti-Fascist Spaniards. No convocation at all was issued to the existing aid and solidarity organizations in existence, such as the 'Democrats Defence Fund' in London and the C.I.S.A.I. in Paris.

"Secondly, in fundamental things. The absence of these Spanish organizations poses a grave problem for the Conference. In fact, it is very necessary to avoid reaching conclusions which would lead to results completely opposed to those sought by those taking part in the Conference; a division between the anti-Franco organizations.

a) The character of the campaign; the C.I.S.A.I. is pleased to note that in intellectual circles in Spain -some of which are close to the regime-

there runs a current favourable to the amnesty. The letter of Sr. Menendez Pidal and the intellectuals to Franco's Minister of Justice underlines this feeling: "They are trying to pardon those persons who find it impossible to collaborate with us (that is to say, with the regime) in those tasks which the life of our country exacts. This amnesty is presented as a consequence of the consolidation of the regime: 'We feel that nothing justifies any longer this painful fact'; 'The time has come to remove the last scars'. This letter of Sr. Menendez Pidal -the only text of fundamental concern- is included in the 'dossier' of the Conference. Well, it is hardly necessary to say that the anti-Franco organizations -especially those represented in the C.I.S.A.I.- would not be able to share this vision of the problem. For those opposed to Franco, it is not a question of asking Franco for an amnesty or for pardon, still less to help him liquidate the anti-Franco forces in exile under a regime of national reconciliation. For the Spanish organizations represented in the C.I.S.A.I. it is a matter, on the contrary, of carrying out a campaign to obtain the liberation of the prisoners, but without any political implication.

b) 'National reconciliation': the most serious problem is, as it happens, that of the general political climate in which this campaign is recorded. The Spanish organizations which collaborate with C.I.S.A.I. tend to let it be known that the policy of 'national reconciliation' could not be theirs, since on the contrary, their entire action aims at a struggle to the death with Franco's regime, whose own fault it is that anti-Franco militants are imprisoned and are dying. If the Conference were to pronounce itself in this sense or to approve texts capable of such interpretation, the anti-Franco organizations which belong to the Committee would have to oppose its conclusions publicly".

THE STUDENTS OF BARCELONA AND THE AMNESTY CAMPAIGN

Madrid (OPE).- By order of the Minister of National Education, Professor Garcia Marquina, Vice-Rector of the University of Barcelona, has been empowered to take proceedings against the members of the 'chambers' of students who agreed to give their support to the conclusions of the conference held in Paris on the amnesty of political prisoners.

The adherence of the students was agreed unanimously by the 'chambers' of students of the Faculties of Law, Letters and Economic Science, each of the two of the 'chambers' having held their deliberations under the chairmanship of well-known professors: Sr. Alba Ladejo, Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Law; and Sr. Bassols, Dean of the Faculty of Letters.

THE FALANGE, THE OLD WOMAN, AND THE PRIEST

Madrid (OPE). 'The affected Dominican and the Excited Old Queen' are the terms employed by 'ARRIBA' to describe Father Pire, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, and the Queen Mother of Belgium, the grandmother of King Baudouin.

Both of them -that is, 'the old Queen of high tension emotions and the Dominican equilibrist'- had collaborated in the campaign in favour of the political prisoners in Spain. Franco's Press cannot forgive it.

AN INDIVISIBLE WHOLE

Madrid (OPE).- The Franco Press lends great importance to the fact that General Franco has decided to call the 'colonies' of Spain 'provinces'. As if France would have

benefited from Sarraut and the Fourth Republic terming 'French Union' what Daladier and the Third Republic called the 'Empire'.

This is what the official newspaper 'ARRIBA' says on the subject:

"It looks as if many countries obstinately refuse to understand the enormous difference between a colony and a province. For some, anything not within the frontiers of the nation is considered a colony. Every African country which has been granted independence already feels that it has every right to demand that any other 'colony' on African soil -what could more properly be termed a province of a more distant nation -should be granted forthwith liberty which it has not sought and which it does not want, for the simple reason that it has long enjoyed a freedom which some nations don't want to hear about.

"For Spain, which is again being made the object of lies and deceptions, the provinces Ifni, Sahara, Fernando Po and Rio Muni are as Spanish as those of Tarragona, Salamanca or Malaga, even though the former are not situated in the Iberian Peninsula itself. But let no-one doubt that they form an integral part of national territory. They will be defended against all attacks from outside".

INCURSION AND KIDNAPPING IN THE SAHARA

Paris (OPE).- A group of Moroccan irregulars recently made an attack against Block Two of an oilfield in the so-called Spanish Saharan territory. The enterprise is a joint exploitation by the Union Company and the Compañia Iberica de Petróleos (Iberian Petroleum Company), and the installation involved in the incident is in the El Aium region, some twelve miles outside Moroccan territory, from which the attackers came.

The latter, who claimed to belong to the Southern Moroccan Liberation Army set fire to a truck, looted tents and made their return to Moroccan territory with the eleven technicians they had found in the camp. Three were American, two Canadian, five Spanish and one a Frenchman called Paul Garcia.

An Associated Press despatch stated that, according to the Office of the Captain-General of the Canary Islands, ten prospectors of the American Union Oil Company had been arrested by a patrol of the Moroccan Army after having crossed the Moroccan border by mistake while engaged in prospecting in Spanish Sahara.

This communique did not give the names of the ten technicians and merely stated that five of them were Spanish. It added that moves to effect their repatriation had already been concluded.

According to a report in 'Paris-Presse', nothing was officially known about the incident in the Moroccan capital.

KIDNAPPED PROSPECTORS

Paris (OPE).- 'Le Monde' has reported a Press conference in Rabat at which a Mr. Barker, of the Union Oil Company, gave the following information:

"The drilling camp is twelve miles south of the Spanish-Moroccan frontier, in the Seguiet-el-Hamra, a territory administered by Spain; that Camp Two, in which seismological work is being carried on on behalf of 'United Geophysical', is five miles from the Frontier; and that the drilling team was one-and-a-quarter miles from the frontier.

"Mr. Barker also said that on Monday, 13th March, a reconnaissance group under Spanish military escort which had gone to collect property and pick up the technicians, had found no trace of them; nor was there any sign of a fight or any resistance.

"The two trucks used by the missing team had been riddled with bullets, but there was no sign of bloodstains anywhere.

" Mr. Barker ended his statement saying that his company, Union Oil, had begun prospecting work in the region a year ago and that no incident had ever taken place before. He explained his presence in Rabat, saying that he had come to seek the help of the Moroccan authorities.

CONTINUED TENSION IN THE SPANISH SAHARA

Madrid (OPE).- Attacks by Moroccan irregulars against patrols of the Spanish Foreign Legion in the Spanish Sahara have continued, according to reports in Madrid.

After the clash provoked by uniformed 'irregulars' in the region of Snara and Quin in which one Spaniard was wounded and one Moroccan killed and another wounded, several minor attacks have been made by groups trying to surprise outposts of the Spanish Foreign Legion. Seven wounded Legionaries are in hospital in Las Palmas.

Madrid (OPE).- Several Madrid newspapers have sent special correspondents to the so-called Spanish Sahara. One of the papers, the 'ABC' refers to the Moors who are threatening the Spanish forces as 'foreigners'. It says of the situation: 'On the one hand we have complete calm among the population of the territory; on the other an exclusive -repeat exclusive- band of foreigners retreating to the North.'

The correspondents write of three thousand soldiers having been sent to the area by General Franco. They are not without their foreigners, either, especially in the Foreign Legion 'tercios'.

Last week, there was a clash near Snara between Legion elements and Moroccan 'irregulars'. One man was killed and several wounded.

These latter facts are not reported in the Madrid Press. The papers do give space, however, to the laying in Eilat (Israel) of the foundation stone of a distillery to convert seawater into drinking water, with a capacity of 1,125,000 litres daily at a cost of one peseta for seventy litres.

The natives of the Sahara would probably prefer Franco's Empire to build plant of this type rather than army barracks.

OILMEN FREED

Paris (OPE).- It is reported from Rabat that the eleven American, Canadian, Spanish and French oilmen kidnapped ten days earlier by irregular nomad elements from the Sahara region of Tarfaya (under Moroccan administration) and Seguiet-el-Hamra (Spanish-administered) have been set free in Rabat. They were delivered by the Moroccan authorities to the respective diplomatic missions, the foreign officials having been taken to the Royal Moroccan Army HQ in which the prospectors had been held for five days.

The diplomats were subsequently received in audience by King Hassan II, it is reported, in the presence of several Moroccan Ministers. The diplomats were told: 'We are at once pleased and sorry that we are handing over to their respective diplomatic representatives, these men whom we have had, almost in spite of ourselves, to pick up. They were working in a part of our national territory which is still under foreign control and therefore outside our effective jurisdiction. They had been captured by patriots working to achieve the final liberation of our kingdom.'

"The fact that the prospectors were brought without loss of time before the regional authorities at Agadir is proof that we are considered the only legitimate authority extending throughout the land".

The King ended by calling once again on 'international attention to these grave territorial problems', inviting everyone, especially the Powers, to take more notice of the legitimate aspirations of our peoples'.

In connection with this affair, Radio Rabat states that the Spanish Government has posted to Seguiet-el-Hamra eight battalions (more than 8,000 men), over and above reinforcements sent to Ceuta and Melilla.

A SPEECH BY KING HASSAN II

Madrid (OPE).- All Franco's newspapers have dutifully published a Note issued by the Office of Diplomatic Information, with headlines like these: 'Spain not disposed to tolerate acts of violence: will reply in appropriate form to any aggressions against her'; 'Friendship, yes; Intimidation, no!'; 'Inopportune speech by King of Morocco in Rabat!'; 'Hassan II tries to glorify aggression and pillage perpetrated in Spanish Province of the Sahara; he claims restoration of these territories to his nation, when it is well-known that Morocco never exercised sovereignty over the Spanish Sahara'.

There is little more in the Note than is told in these headlines, but it begins with references to the speech by Hassan II on the release of the kidnapped oil workers.

"On this occasion", It says, "he caused surprise among his listeners with a speech which not only failed to castigate or disown the act of banditry against men and property by armed forces from Morocco, but sought to glorify the acts of aggression and pillage by presenting them as the deeds of 'patriots' fighting for their liberation".

"Surprisingly, instead of making excuses for what was, in effect, an international act of aggression by Moroccan armed forces or, worse, unrestrained armed bands based on Morocco; he laid claim, as being a part of his kingdom, on the Spanish territories of the Sahara. It is well known that Morocco never exercised sovereignty in these regions; not even in Tarfaya which Spain, in loyal fulfilment of her international undertakings, transferred to the Government of Rabat in April 1953 merely because this territory featured in treaties as a Spanish Protectorate. Both the political title of Spain to these lands and her incontrovertible juridical position in this respect can be established merely by reading the terms of international agreements; moreover, they were recognised by Morocco in the instrument of Declaration of Independence on 7th April, 1956.

"Spain has always followed a policy of loyal and close friendship with Morocco, having aided and recognised her incorporation in the international community as an independent nation; and having, also, fulfilled all the obligations which she had undertaken. Morocco has repaid this traditional Spanish attitude with the act of aggression in Ifni; with the flouting of undertakings accepted in the instrument of independence or signed thereafter; with protection for acts of pillage such as that at Cabo Bojador; and now with the kidnapping, on Spanish territory, of a peaceable group of men and the sacking and burning of their working tools.

"The Spanish Government advised the Moroccan Government, on 17th January, 11th February and 8th March last, of the detection of military preparations on their frontier with our Saharan province, foreseeing that these things would provoke acts of aggression and other serious incidents; a forecast which found fulfilment in the sequestration of the technicians who were, happily, released yesterday. Preparations of that kind continue, and as the Minister for Foreign Affairs stated on the 13th of this month, the attention of the Moroccan Government has again been drawn to them with serious warnings as to consequence. This action was brought to the notice of the Governments of the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Portugal, the Arab nations, and also the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

"As in the previous acts of aggression in Cabo Bojador and Ifni, these warlike preparations in which the people of our provinces of the Sahara have never taken part,

despite all efforts to suborn them, contradict the very claims to peaceful purpose of which boasting is now made.

"Spain is ready to continue her positive policy of friendship with Morocco, but will not tolerate any act of violence; and, as has already been made plain, she will reply in suitable form to any acts of aggression which may be made against her."

FRANCO'S BLUSTER, MOROCCAN BLUSTER

Madrid (OPE).- Hardly a day passes when the Press in Franco's Spain does not carry an editorial on Morocco and the conduct of her King. Such a one, for example, as that in 'YA', which urged the Rabat Government to come to proper decisions:

"By now, four days after the kidnapping, the victims should have been returned, especially since the Government of Rabat has seen fit to announce that they were in the hands of the Royal Army. The Royal Army being, in its turn, in the hands of Mizizian, a Moroccan who was in the Spanish Army until his country won independence, fighting for Franco in the Civil War, reaching the rank of Lieutenant-general and achieving, ultimately, the surrender of the Spanish province of Galicia.

For the sake of the honour of the Moroccan people and the good name of its Government, headed by the King himself, prompt justice must be duly done to Spain. No sovereign State can make claim to dignity which is unable to answer for a wrongful act by its subjects against another State. If such acts are permitted and corrective action is not taken against such crimes, no country can properly take its place among civilised nations."

A subsequent editorial by the same paper dwelt on the consideration that 'Morocco does not function as a lawful State' in that it did not return the kidnapped men and did not punish the kidnappers, adding that 'it is clear that on that frontier we have a hostile neighbour and we must be on our guard'. Thus the editorial was headlined 'Measures taken', and ended:

"The Spanish people are at one with their Government in its resolve to defend itself against inspired banditry or against any undisguised military action by the Rabat Government. For all practical purposes, it doesn't matter whether it is an affair of bandits or of regular soldiers. All of us Spaniards feel responsible for ensuring that our frontiers are respected."

'With astonishment and with repulsion' was the title of another editorial in 'YA' which attacked King Hassan for having had the 'effrontery to endorse with his own authority the latest armed aggression against our Sahara'. And forgetting both the treatment which Spain gave during her warlike campaigns to the 'good people of Rif' as well as the imperial ambitions which led Franco to occupy Tangier and make claim to Oran when the Spaniards as a whole wanted nothing more pretentious than bread and work, the editorial ended with references to services previously rendered:

"We sincerely believe that the good people of Rif, who must compare their present penury with the comfortable situation which they enjoyed under our protectorate, will, in their heart of hearts, also reject the ill-advised policy of their Government.

"Here we have a Government which, while it can give its subjects neither bread nor work, sends its armed bandits to pillage foreign territory while it proclaims its imperialist aspirations against our lands, those of Mauretania, Senegal and Mali.

"If, instead of buying planes and arms from Russia to menace and attack its neighbours, the Moroccan Government devoted itself to the establishment of internal law and the acquisition of bread for its people and the unfolding of economic opportunities for the country, it would have our support and our sincere friendship. A friendship demonstrated when, a year ago, Spain solicitously hastened at the time of the Agadir earthquake disaster with gifts and services of every kind. A friendship which the Rabat Government insists on ridiculing with acts of disloyalty, threats and aggressive actions. We are sure, however, that all good Moroccans will treasure this same friendship in their hearts. They have not forgotten that Spain made a decisive contribution to the achievement of their independence, the personal freedom of King Mohammed V, and the restoration of the throne."

And even later editorial maintains the line:

"Blusterings like these were tried by other Moroccan Government, and Spain duly showed how insensate were their illusions. Let the Rabat Government dedicate itself to ruling with justice and let it abstain from assaults on other people's property, because the owner is watching and will give the assailant his deserts."

"NOW IT'S SERIOUS"

Madrid (OPE).- A long editorial in the important Spanish official newspaper 'ARRIBA' remarks that the King of Morocco, instead of giving explanations and making excuses for the recent kidnapping of the oil men, 'disguised in patriotic blusterings' the reprehensible actions of elements who, in carrying out the kidnapping, 'gave themselves unrestrainedly to an orgy of aggression, pillage and banditry'.

'It was imperative', it added, 'that after the acts of aggression perpetrated in Ifni, the shameful incident at Bojador, and the recent attack on the province of the Sahara, that the Spanish Government should have brought things to firm ground: aggression is to be met by force. It is at the risk of this that, if the Moroccan Government wants it, they can go on with the military preparations on the frontier which betray their stubborn, warlike intentions. Morocco now knows that we are taking things seriously, and that every act of aggression or violence will be answered in kind without loss of time'.

It is unlikely that this threat will have frightened the King of Morocco to any notable degree; he knows the history of his country and that of Spain. If Spain is now 'taking things seriously', was that old 'police action'²² just a joke against the Moorish hill-billyes whose irregulars cost the lives of so many Spanish soldiers and so many millions of pesetas?.

Note: The Rif war of the twenties.

SPANISH NEWSPAPERS SEIZED IN MOROCCO

Tangier (AFP).- For some time now the Moroccan authorities in Tangier and the northern provinces have been seizing copies of Spanish newspapers arriving in Morocco by sea and air.

Official statements make it clear that these measures have been taken in view of the attacks which the Spanish Press has made on the Moroccan Government and King Hassan II, following the capture of a number of oil engineers in the region of Sakiet-el-Hamra on 10th March. (The men were, of course, released on 22nd March).

The seizure affects mainly the Franco newspapers 'ABC', 'YA', and 'ARRIBA', the attacks of which on Morocco have been held by the authorities to have been particularly violent.

COOPERATION IN THE SAHARA

Madrid (OPE).- Under the title of 'Cooperation', the Franco newspaper 'YA' carried an editorial on the exploitation of the resources of the Sahara, opting for the device of setting up a type of cooperative organisation of Mediterranean powers to exploit, with the financial and technical aid of other countries, the petroleum, natural gas, and other resources of the Saharan subsoil.

The writer adds that Spain and France have incontestable first rights as being the two Powers which 'civilised the Sahara'. He says that the time has now come to bring into being the Euroafrican Community which the paper has so often advocated.

ALARM IN MADRID AND LISBON

Lisbon (OPE).- Senhor Oliveira Salazar, President of the Portuguese Counsel, and senior Castiella, Spanish Foreign Minister, held a two-hour conference recently in Lisbon. It is believed that they discussed the Security Council vote at UNO in which the United States voted with Russia in favour of the Afro-Asian motion on the Angola question.

Both Spain and Portugal seem to fear that they will be swept out of the African Continent, and the thought must have inspired the after-dinner speech by Sr. Castiella from which the following excerpts are taken:

"We are here to make an act of affirmation. We have come to a meeting in which we want to continue to prove to the entire world the decision of two peoples, each with its own historical destiny, running in parallel with the other, to maintain and exalt the personality of each, but joining forces in a higher alliance to defend them from any attack upon their independence and their common spiritual heritage".

"The present convulsive state of things impels us to proclaim this identity -one which, in fact, has always been present in our spirit. The world is passing through a period of subversion and confusionism. We are astonished to witness a lengthy series of villainies and surrenders into which even those who should possess a more valiant conviction and a more wideawake spirit."

"In the midst of this universal disorder, perhaps because we stand firm and are not given to flabby efforts to excuse our own legitimate existence, a major attack has been mounted against Spain and Portugal."

Sr. Castiella seemed to think that the affair of the liner 'Santa Maria' served to underline once again the solidarity of Spain and Portugal, and he ended thus:

"This solidarity must continue also to show itself in relation to those African problems which hold the attention of all of us. Without prejudice to other aspects of the question, I think the world should reflect on the absurdity afforded by this new, sterile 'Monroism' which -heralded by lightly bandied slogans- wants to share out continents on a basis of exclusivism, blindly following geographical contours rather than the infinitely more important historical reasons- which is to say, the human ones. Can we forget that Portugal, for example, is not a piece of Iberian soil stretching from the Minho to the Algarve, but a great land spilling from Lisbon to Timor, across the continents and the oceans, for five centuries.

"And Spain, they forget, is a Euro-African country, and Turkey is established across two continents; Russia, with frontiers running from the Pacific to the Baltic; the United States stretching from Hawaii to Florida, leapfrogging over Canada is legitimately and in sovereign state established in Alaska.

"This sort of arbitrary monopoly of continents is no more than a contradiction of history and of the 'jus communicationis' (right of communication) of peoples, itself upheld

by our theologians, to which many great nations of today owe their birth. There is nothing more to say, but to repeat the positive feeling of this meeting. The solidarity which binds us is older and deeper than any pact. That is why twenty-five years ago, at a grave pass in the history of Spain, it found a spontaneous expression which we Spaniards will never forget.* This solidarity will again find its maximum expression whenever circumstances require it. It stems from our firm resolve to preserve our most essential values and to be the masters of our own destiny."

Note: The reference is to official Portuguese support for Franco at the outbreak of the Civil War in Spain in 1936.

BAD BUSINESS

Madrid (From our correspondent).- The treaty between Generalissimo Franco and Colonel Peron, when the latter was President of Argentina, and the absurdity of Franco's agricultural policy in the period 1939-1952 was the subject of some caustic contemporary comment by the free Basque Press and Radio, but not all the awful consequences were foreseen then.

Shortly before the Civil War Spain used to look to the South American States of the River Plate area for foodstuffs: Argentina and Uruguay were to be the sources of maize, wheat and meat whenever Spanish production fell short of national needs.

In 1939-1952 the depression which followed the neglect by Franco and his 'expert', Suanzes, of agriculture in Spain, led the Spanish demand for imports from the River Plate to reach exaggerated proportions and to become indispensable. Thus Spain -Franco's Spain- was lanced with a big indebtedness to Argentina, for Peron had agreed to let Franco have large-scale credit facilities.

Today Spain has great need of grain and meat. But she does not turn her eyes to Argentina. The Argentines, in fact, will have learned the truth of the old Spanish proverb: 'Lend money to a friend and you loose both money and friend'.

The fact is that Franco's debt to Argentina is the largest single obstacle to all commerce between the two countries. Argentina must be paid, and Spain must eat. If Argentina is paid, there is no money to buy the wherewithal to eat.

So Madrid has to look elsewhere, to people who have to pay Spain for what she exports to them. Thus one reads occasionally items of news like these:

"The Spanish Administration has made dispositions for two purchases of maize totalling 78,000 tons. Payment will be made in Czech, Hungarian, Roumanian or Cuban currencies. That is to say, in the currencies which these countries owe us for goods which we Spaniards have sold to them."

"The Minister of Commerce invites tenders for the purchase of 20,000 pigs from Poland."

The position may be summarised thus: Argentina must suffer a reduction of trade with Spain; as long as the Spanish land is neglected, Spain, economically, will end up badly with every other nation on earth; and Spain's interests, so far as trade is concerned -are now linked with the Communist countries.

URGENCY AND THE IRON CURTAIN

Madrid (OPE).- It seems that Spain is in a hurry to do business. According to 'Actualidad Española', official purchases are to be made of cotton 'without regard to countries of origin'. It was in this way that tenders were invited for the delivery of 100,000 tons of wheat

which were found, on completion of the deal, to be of Iron Curtain origin. A reference to no specific country of origin is now taken to mean that offers are invited from Communist countries.

Official statistics on exports and imports in the period January-October 1960 give the following figures in millions of pesetas:

	<u>Imports</u>	<u>Exports</u>
Bulgaria	58	48
Czechoslovakia	186	255
Hungary	36	91
Poland	101	97
Roumania	25	39
USSR	222	381
Jugoslavia	42	111
	<u>670</u>	<u>1.022</u>

The balance of trade, allowing for fractional figures and a small trading exchange with Albania, yielded 352 million pesetas in favour of Spain.

During October vehicles were imported from Jugoslavia, the USSR, Hungary and Czechoslovakia, 'pasta' from Poland and the USSR. The principal Spanish exports were fruit, cork, lead, zinc and some steel products shipped to Bulgaria.

'NATIONAL-SYNDICALISM' HAS BECOME 'NATIONAL SYNDICALISM'

Madrid (OPE).- Christened by Father Brugarola, National-Syndicalism, which at birth recalled in its initials and colours the syndicalism of the (Anarchist) CNT, has now been named National Syndicalism (Sindicalismo Nacional). In its report on the Syndical Congress, 'ARRIBA' said:-

"These two words, National Syndicalism, led to considerable discussion. Miss Monica Plaza proposed that it should be termed 'Our Syndicalism', and she was seconded in this by Sr. Saez Gonzalez. Father P. Brugarola, S.J., replied that the word 'National', when used in the exercise of office, had roots in history, and he opposed two systems which failed to recognise the concept of what was national: liberal rationalism and international socialism. Thus the term 'National' to qualify our Syndicalism is justified.

"Not everyone was convinced by the reasoning of Father Brugarola, and Señores Feijoo, Sastre, Vazquez and Martinez Romero opted for the title of 'National-Syndicalism (Nacional-Sindicalismo)'. Sr. de la Peña then rose and told the meeting that the Committee clearly sought to go beyond its trust, seeking, as it were, not to modify or improve the structure of our Syndicalism, but that of the State itself, since, in his understanding of the matter, the term 'National-Syndicalism' is political and not strictly Syndical. The chairman of the reporting committee, Sr. Romero, said that the political theoreticians of the Falange, and formerly those of the JONS, created a political order, and within it a different way of conceiving Syndicalism; but at the present time the State was not 'National-Syndicalist' and National Syndicalism was a form of grouping, a sort of instrument of our workers' world."

When the proposal was put to the vote, the term 'National Syndicalism' was approved.



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DISORIENTATION IN POLITICAL ECONOMY

Bilbao (OPE).— A long speech was made at the Bilbao Machine Tools Exhibition on the 6th March by the Spanish Minister of Commerce. As Basque-manufactured machine tools have in recent months found important foreign markets, the Minister allowed himself to be carried away into making a number of highly optimistic statements beginning with an exposition of figures relating to progress and Spanish trade in general and references to reserves of strong currencies available to deal with the vagaries of the balance of payments.

Nevertheless the Minister drew attention to the fact that his Department has not got complete responsibility for the march of the national economy. In his statement he said that he does not forecast in any absolute way at the present time what will be the direction taken by Spain in relation to the Common Market or with the Free Exchange areas. But he affirmed that preparation must be made to join in the chosen area, to which end Spanish productive capacity must be modernized.

The previous week's Bulletin of the Ministry of Commerce had declared that in Spain the Ministry of Commerce was not responsible for the development of the functional and structural policies of the export trade. It stated "that it might almost be said that it cannot even promote the greater part of the necessary measures". Alluding, without saying so, to the fact that the Ministries of Industry and Agriculture and also that of Finance have a special role, the writer ended thus: "Only when there exists a unitarian and decided policy of economic development can one speak of an export policy. In the meantime it will be as well to turn to our

classical literature, the rightful home of so many evasions, and say with Cervantes, 'let us be patient and shuffle the cards again'".

This frank ending, with its freedom from illusions, is an indication of the lack of orientation to be seen in the political economy of the Spanish Government at the present time.

ROAD TO THE ABYSS

Bilbao (OPE).- There are statistics which don't lie. At times there are statistics which are laid to rest in silence, because they would reveal alarming facts. Now one of them has come to light.

The programme of Franco's Government has for the last three years been based on what we might term economic recovery. Disinflation, stabilisation, reactivation: these were to be its three stages.

But the programme has come to grief in the field of unemployment. The free syndical organisations -among them notably the UGT and STV- had been warning that this was an abyss which must not be overlooked; that between 150,000 and 200,000 new jobs had to be found every year to maintain a tolerable level of employment, for the current annual rate of population growth, based on the excess of births over deaths, lies between 300,000 and 350,000 inhabitants.

The statistical data which suggests that Spain is marching into the abyss was published by the Instituto Nacional de Prevision. In the last five years, its figures show that the total of social-insured workers- somewhere in the region of 4,000,000 - has undergone the following fluctuations:-

<u>Year</u>	<u>Increase over previous year</u>	<u>Decrease over previous year</u>
1956	218,331	
1957	104,461	
1958	155,700	
1959	43,800	
1960		52,823

This means that in the past two years, instead of jobs increasing by 150,000 (which must be regarded as the indispensable annual minimum increase), the position developed so that the workers in 1960 found themselves short of 200,000 jobs.

Figures were given in the report up to and including September 1960; but no improvement was recorded in that month, nor in October.

As all workers are compulsorily registered in the social insurance scheme, there is no question at all of any mistake in the figures.

IMMIGRATION AND HOUSING IN VIZCAYA *

The population of Euzkadi has grown considerably in the last ten years as a result of large scale immigration by Spaniards. There are vast towns in which this influx has demanded construction of housing on such a scale that newly-built units in many cases outnumber those which formerly made up the townships.

Examples of trends in Vizcaya can be found in the details registered in the following places:

	<u>Housing units in 1950</u>	<u>Housing units completely built since 1950</u>
Baracaldo	8.270	9.072
Basauri	2.200	4.909
Portugalete	2.380	5.523
Bilbao	43.250	34.773

More than 50 per cent of the units built since 1950 are owned by the occupants.

* one of the Provinces of Euzkadi.

CREATION OF A CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY IN NAVARRE

By decree dated 6th August, 1960, which was published in the 'Acta Apostolicae Sedis' during November last, the Holy See has created the Catholic University of Navarre, to be administered by the Opus Dei Order. It will have four faculties (Law, Medicine, Philosophy & Letters, and Science) and several institutes and Higher Schools, among them one -Engineering- which will function in San Sebastian.

But the Spanish State does not recognise the degrees granted by this University, so that the Basque country will, as hitherto, be denied its cultural head -for there is no University at present in Euzkadi.

The Estudio General de Navarra in Pamplona, the capital of the Province, which is now raised to the status of a Catholic University, has one thousand students from seventeen countries.

ACTIVITIES OF FRANCO'S SECRET POLICE IN THE FRONTIER ZONE OF THE BASQUE COUNTRY

Irun (OPE).- Security police activities in the frontier zone near Irun have been greatly increased in recent months.

No less than three independent organs of the Military Police attached to the Army function between here and San Sebastian, a distance of only 8 3/4 miles.

A new force in 'civvies' has also been added to the organisations controlled by the Ministry of Government, a civilian Ministry, which already include units in uniform and in mufti. The existing forces were, and still are, grouped under the Directorate-General of Security, (DGS), the group in mufti being generally known as the 'Secret Police'.

Now the Directorate-General of the Civil Guard has thought fit to run its own secret police, and it is already at work in the frontier zones. To distinguish it from the DGS force, it may be called the 'Secret Police Reserve'.

It exercises its power to detain and interrogate suspects or presumed felons, but does not itself prepare statements for submission to the judicial authorities. When cases do arise calling for such action, the Civil Guard units formally pass their cases over to the Commissioners of 'the other Secret Police'.

It is believed that the intensified security moves are connected with activities attributed to DRIL (Directorio Revolucionario Iberico de Liberacion; Iberian Revolutionary Liberation Directorate), and it has been observed that the several security organisations have been sending agents, under tourist cover, to France and several other countries having Spanish emigre communities.

Persons returning from abroad have reported that agents of Franco's police services have penetrated the ranks of DRIL in order both to be informed of its activities and specifically, to provoke its less sophisticated members into terrorist acts.

CATTLE FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE IRON CURTAIN

348 heads of cattle have been landed in Bilbao, at the Zorroza docks, from cattle farms in Poland. They had been bought by C A T, the Franco Government's State supplies organisation.

The cattle were driven, with great effort and much noise, through a level-crossing and several streets to the municipal slaughter-house.

NEWS ITEMS

-- It is expected that the new Convair planes for the Fuenterrabia - Madrid route will come into service on July 15th.

-- The Mayor of Bilbao is to send a wrought-iron key in the style of the XVIIth century, as a symbol of the city to the Mayor of Pittsburg, who made a similar presentation not long ago.

-- The Bermeo fishing fleets have carried out winter fishing operations off the West Coast of Africa (Freetown and Dakar) in association with North American and Italian business interests.

-- Twenty-five double-decker buses, formerly owned and operated by London Transport, have been unloaded in the port of Pasajes. They are to run on the San Sebastian line to Venta Berri and Igueldo.

-- The General Electric Company (affiliated with the American company of the same name) has built and delivered two transformers, each of 75,000 kilowatts, to the Aluminio de Galicia factory at La Coruña. Each transformer weighed 117 tons. The company is building 400 transformers to be used in the electrification of important areas of the South American republic of Colombia, but 100 workers have been dismissed by the firm and it is thought that 300 more will be affected.

-- Mass migration by Spanish workers and their families from different provinces has caused the illiteracy rate in Vizcaya to rise from two per cent a few years ago to 4.5 per cent.

-- A machine tools exhibition was held in Bilbao between 3 - 12 March. Products were exhibited by 176 firms of the 220 engaged in the industry.

-- The Municipality of Sopuerta, in the mining area of Vizcaya, has agreed to give up a hectare of mountain land to any resident asking for it, for a period of 45 years, for reafforestation purposes. The Municipality will exact 15 per cent of the value of the trees when cut and sold.

O T H E R S

THE REPLY OF THE MINISTER OF SYNDICATES TO THE CARDINAL OF TOLEDO

In its issue of 5th March, the Paris review, "La Documentation Catholique", has published a long report on a letter dated 21st December, 1960, in which Franco's Minister of Syndicates replied to a letter from Cardinal Pla y Deniel on the subject of the syndical elections of the worker organizations of Catholic Action. The Minister insisted that, as provided by ordinance, these bodies were not competent to partake in the elections.

The essential part of the reply says, "... the petition was not made by individuals or groups in their status as electors -the only ones entitled to a hearing by virtue of the ordinance- but by non-syndical bodies. Thus, to have admitted the petition, would have been contrary to the ordinance. The syndical organization has within it only syndicates; and in its election it cannot occupy itself with anything other than the electors and candidates".

This reply is, to say the least, a curious one in a country which claims to reject inorganic democracy and states that its own is an organic democracy. For the rest, the Minister addresses

himself with all respect to the Primate 'in his position as a Catholic, a Spaniard, a Syndical Director and a Minister'.

FOR THE POLITICAL PRISONERS

Paris (OPE).- The Minister of Justice of the Spanish Republican Government in Exile has addressed the following letter to the Dean of the College of Lawyers of Madrid:

"Dear Dean,

I am writing to you to bring to your notice a question which is assuming an International character, that of the political prisoners who are suffering sentences in Spanish prisons.

The only elected office in Spain is that which you hold. The repressive apparatus of Franco's dictatorship does not permit Spaniards to elect their representative men. But this does not apply in your case, a case unique in Spain. You have been elected freely and democratically. That is why I am addressing myself to you.

I personally voted for you in Madrid a year ago for the office of Dean. I was supervisor at those elections at a time when I was concerned over the defence of the political prisoners at the Tribunals in Spain. Today I do not defend them before the tribunals of my country; today I defend them before the conscience of the world. If men of law who are despised by the dictatorship represent nothing in Spain, let us acknowledge the fact, Mr. Dean, and let us quit the farce.

You are honoured by your gesture in entering the prison of Carabanchel, as Dean of the College of Lawyers, to visit a political prisoner. Just as you are honoured by the protest which you presented to the Director-General of Prisons; just as you are honoured by your protest before the problem of judicial standards. It is time now to return to standards of dignity and morality in judicial affairs. This world of the Spanish dictatorship is filled with moral lameness, silent complicities, and exclusive preoccupations with lucrative ends. It must not be forgotten and we men of law in Spain must not forget, that men like Ossorio y Gallardo -who was one of your predecessors as Dean- Felipe Sanchez Román, Ruiz Funes, Albornoz, Jimenez de Asta, Manuel Pedroso, or Bernaldo de Quiros, took the road to exile.

Now we have learned that 434 lawyers, magistrates, judges and notaries have died in exile. And they have died in exile because they were able to escape the hands of the wretched prosecutors of the Spanish repression, a repression which began in 1939 and continues still. The first day of peace was the first day of repression. The monstrous sentences of those days, which began with the life imprisonment of Don Julian Besteiro, who died in Carmona prison at the age of 70, are the same that we see today in the sentences on Don Julio Cerón Ayuso, Don Gregorio Ortiz Riscol, Don Jorge Pujol or Don Antonio Amat Malz.

Spain, a country with a long juridical tradition, is suffering a dictatorship which is not only the negation of the Rights of Man and the negation of Law, but also the shame of Europe. The scandal of the Spanish political prisoners echoes around the world; the farce of the Spanish tribunals when they judge political defendants is becoming known in detail; the repressive legislation of the dictatorship is no longer a secret to anyone.

Mr. Dean, the days which are coming, days of trial for the professional defending class in Law, are grave. It is not only the political prisoners who cry out for justice but a whole country Spain, which is awakening from a nightmare.

I am, Mr. Dean,

Yours faithfully,
ANTONIO ALONSO BANCOS

Minister of Justice of the Spanish
Republican Government in Exile"

FRANCO AND THE ECONOMIC SITUATION

Madrid (OPE).- In the closing speech at the Syndical Congress here recently, General Franco did not conceal his fears about the economic outlook.

"We are not living in bonanza times", he said. "I must tell you once again that we are passing through difficult times, times of cold war in every sphere. Life is and always has been a struggle, and to meet the situation we must have the complete unity of the men and the territories of Spain; we must fortify the national sinews; we must create a nation strong in every way.

"We live in difficult times, and we must hasten the development of our technical economics in all aspects. We have left the stage of stabilisation, we are about to enter upon the plain of development; but we shall have to do all this in a difficult international economic situation which contains us and which compels us to compete in the markets of the world. These circumstances impose on us the necessity to improve our industries and our produce so that we can enter these markets on a competitive basis. It is all very delicate for as there have been economic imperialisms, colonialisms, powerful nations and proletarian or poor nations, so today we have the so-called vast economic areas and the areas of great economic agreements which, concerned as they are with self-interest, forget the needs of the small peoples... If we are to come through in this new stage, we must prepare to fight, to defend our production and prepared to hold our own until a sense of justice and consideration for less well-developed countries is given expression.

"You must bear in mind that world political trends are not those which the great powers would wish for. If we examine modern political evolution, you will see that it has shown the same characteristics everywhere: everywhere there is anti-capitalism, anti-imperialism, national anxieties, aspirations to a better life, hopes for social justice; the pursuit of effective political formulæ; defeats for the old political systems which do not allow them to develop. This is a general movement, and it cannot tolerate undercover imperialisms or those classical economic areas when these stand in the way of its development.

"All these hopes will find an outlet, and if they are denied constructive outlets, they will find them Communism or what have you. In this order of things, we represent one solution -not the solution- and it is in that light that we must regard ourselves".

General Franco ended with a reference to the 'forces of evil':

"Most of the attacks that are made against us come from the old politicians, from capitalism, from masonry, from all the forces of evil joined together to defend a wormout front which has already been overrun by Communism. They know well that we have a solution for the achievement in many other countries of their national social-economic aspirations."

Franco's speech has not been the subject of official comment, but for some time it has been thought that Franco is planning to change his economic policy. Financial circles are so sure that Franco has taken such a decision that the Stock Exchange has registered in the course of the last few weeks a surprising improvement in the quotations of shares of private enterprises. Despite symptoms of a fall in prices already appearing at the time, the Press recorded quotations notably higher than those obtaining at the end of last year. This is illustrated by prices of typical stocks in each of the various groups:-

Banco Hispano Americano was 643% as compared with 540% on 30.12.1960; Iberduero, 291% (277.75%); Altos Hornos de Vizcaya, 215 (177); Babcock Wilcox, 330 (312.50); Minas del Rif, 348 (315); Azucarera del Ebro, 428 (417); Banco de Vizcaya, 800 (724).

These rises in quotations are generally attributed to General Franco's decision to change his policy by abandoning his monetary stabilisation plans.



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A DOCUMENT BY 339 BASQUE PRIESTS

Towards the end of May 1960 a document bearing the signatures of 339 priests belonging to the dioceses of Pamplona, Vitoria, San Sebastian and Bilbao, that is to say, the whole of the Basque Country under Spain, was handed to each of their respective Bishops. We give a translation of the entire letter below.

On the 7th of July, the four Bishops published a declaration in which they stated that they had received the document in a "not very correct manner" and that they refused to accept it because it contained "obvious falsehoods" and because they considered it had a political character.

Since then, on various occasions, the Bishops and even the Apostolic Nuncio in Madrid, have referred to the said document without as yet publishing it or exposing the grievous accusations which the document contains.

The 339 signing priests have maintained an absolute silence since last May on this matter, inspite of the quantity of articles and controversies which this document has aroused.

The events denounced by these Basque priests still exist in the Basque Country and outside it, in all the territory dominated by the Government of General Franco.

"LETTER WRITTEN TO THE REV. BISHOPS OF VITORIA, SAN SEBASTIAN, BILBAO, AND PAMPLONA AND SIGNED BY 339 PRIESTS OF THEIR DIOCESES ON THE 30TH MAY 1960.

"To submit to injustice without protesting or fighting against it is not worthy of a man nor of a Christian."

(Card. SALIEGE)

"It is quite some time since any document bearing the signatures of a group of Basque priests has appeared. This silence could well be wrongly interpreted or perhaps even attributed to a lack of responsibility of conscience in the face of facts and events which demand a frank and unbiased attitude from those of us who consider it our duty to proclaim the postulate of truth, liberty and the dignity of man. We would not wish our silence to be the cause of our being accused of complicity.

"Our conscience commands us to refer in this writing to the abyss which is daily growing between us and the souls whose custody and guidance have been entrusted to us.

"The accusations made against us have become, because of their force and magnitude, a real clamour. And in those that we have actually heard there is such a varied spectre of deception and different reactions that it is an ill-omen in the spiritual horizon of our people, though a faithful image of the hostile atmosphere which surrounds us.

"We expect that this testimony of ours, the priests who are in daily contact with the people, will not be rejected. It would be a very grave error to underestimate the grievousness of a situation which can endanger the future of the Church in our dioceses for generations to come.

"To minimize the importance of the present situation, to consider it as a passing phase which the Church will be able to take in its stride, would be to expose the spiritual future of our people to grave risks and consequences.

"Our attitude is that of a proper examination of conscience; a serene, unimpassioned and objective search of the evils which assail us; that of giving them public recognition, because they affect the Christian life of our people and of directing our efforts to the necessary rectification of them.

"After mature and serene reflection we, the priests who sign this document have chosen this way of expressing ourselves, accepting full responsibility for this writing which compromises us but personally.

Reaffirmation of principles

"We base our analysis on the well known doctrine of the Church on the natural rights of men and of peoples. It is not necessary to enumerate here the innumerable texts and documents of the Hierarchy of the Church in which this doctrine is founded and developed. Being one of the latest published and because it refers to a social situation somewhat analogous to that of our people, we will quote but the following lines of the Collective Letter of the Bishops of the Dominican Republic. They have recently declared:

"The roots and origins of all right are founded in the inviolable dignity of the human person. Each human being, even before its birth, has a number of rights which are superior and have priority over those of any State. They are intangible rights whose free exercise and whose field of activities cannot be impeded, restricted or diminished even by the sum total of all human powers."

"All natural rights of individuals and of peoples are derived from this inviolable dignity of the human being. Such are the right to life, the right to form a home the right to work, to emigrate. Such is the right to freedom of conscience, to freedom of the press, to freedom of association, etc.

"Freedom is one of the most sacred and inviolable rights which the State is bound to recognise and respect.

"In the complete Christian concept of freedom the inviolability of the conscience is perforce included. We affirm that it is not legitimate to manage human consciences, be it penetrating their secrets by means of violence; be it burdening them with strange ideas by methods which are divorced from all rational procedures; it is not legitimate to torture, nor drug, nor brain-wash, nor to submit public opinion to the pressure of a super-propaganda founded on psychological techniques oblivious of the respect due to the transcendent dignity of man.

"To be able to exercise this freedom it is indispensable for man to know with anteriority all the elements necessary for judging. It is moral law. Hence the right of man to truth. The one-sided limitation or falsifying of truth is an authentic and sacrilegious mutilation. Pope Pius XII affirms with regard to public-opinion:

"Public opinion is, in effect, the patrimony of any society composed of men who, conscious of their personal and social conduct, are intimately wedded to the community to which they belong. Public opinion is the echo of the events and actual situations in the spirits and judgements of the people"... "To drown (the voice) of the citizens, reducing it to an enforced silence, is, in the eyes of every Christian, a transgression of

the natural rights of man, a violation of the order of the world as established by God". "We believe that this Catholic conception of Public opinion, of its function and of the services which the Press lends to it is completely just and necessary to open for men, according to our ideal, the way to truth, justice and peace." (to journalists, 18.2.1950).

In defending liberty as the sacred right of every man we also defend the right of every people, every ethnic group and of every physical or moral personality to liberty and self-determination within the limits established by natural and positive-divine law. Respect for all moral values is Catholic doctrine and it is some time since society condemned genocide publicly and officially.

Analysis of reality

Having briefly noted the basis of our attitude above we now proceed to the analysis of the actual situation.

We sincerely believe that neither the individual, nor the classes, nor the peoples that integrate the Spanish State enjoy sufficient liberty. It is enough for one to open one's eyes to see the sad reality. Continually we see that persons have been arrested for activities contrary to the unique political thought imposed by the State. They are arrested for voicing publicly or even privately, opinions which do not coincide with those of the Government but which in themselves are quite opinable. And since normal means of expressing the truth are lacking, that which is but the exercising of a right becomes a transgression of the law: thus it has happened that persons have been arrested for handing out leaflets in which nothing false or unjust was said. Quite the contrary, they said things which the Government itself has the duty of saying and of permitting to be said but which for years now it has been silencing. The law which these people are breaking is, therefore, an unjust law and herein lies the problem.

During the whole 24 years that this regime is lasting people are gaoled "sine die" for months and even years. After a lapse of time which is arbitrarily decided upon by the Governor, the Director of Security or a Minister they are brought up before a Special Military Tribunal and charged with the very grave accusation of "rebellion against the State", for the only reason of having had the courage to consider that those who rule are neither impeccable nor infalible. While gaoled their families are in continuous anguish because they ignore their whereabouts or even when they will be tried. Such extremes have been reached that many relations dare not visit those gaoled for fear of drawing suspicions upon themselves. And many people in high positions and with moral authority consider that it is too much to ask of them to use their influence on behalf of those gaoled.

The likelihood of an impartial trial is so slight that it becomes necessary to adopt every possible precaution lest the caprice or servility of a Judge commit some grave injustice. The "Fuero de los Españoles" (Freedom of Spaniards) is a dead thing and its ostentation before the world a reflection of the insincerity of the atmosphere in Spain. The truth of the matter is that all, the elements of power, all the positions of responsibility and influence from Ministerial portfolios to the Mayor of a town, from the Rector of a University to the Government employee in charge of a Department are named by the unique and unappealable authority. In such an atmosphere it is humanly impossible to avoid servility.

Even a criminal does not lose all his rights for the fact of being one. In a guaranteed trial he may lose even his right to life, but never without a judicial order in accordance with the demands of natural law. This order demands the fulfilling of certain guarantees without which it would not serve to achieve the end which it pretends, that is, "judicial security" or in the words of Pius XII, "a concrete sphere of law, protected against any arbitrary attack". This means, among other things, "clear judicial norms, which may not be misrepresented" (Pius XII).

Not; withstanding, we affirm that the Executive Power in Spain interferes with the Judiciary, guiding, directing and dictating to it according to the political views of the Political Chief.

In the Policía Stations of our country torture is used as a method for obtaining information from or regarding the transgressor of a law, which is often unimportant and not seldom even unjust. The slightest ill-willed suspicion is enough for a police officer of the "guardia civil" on duty to irresponsibly flog, torture and even wound any citizen who often is innocent of the guilt attributed to him. We are not talking about isolated cases. It is a system since the authorities know the facts and tolerate them. A system obviously at variance with the principles of Law. And the generalizations of such methods in Europe or Algeria is no excuse. The unanimity of all history in the utilization of these methods would not make them legitimate since they are totally immoral. Man can never lose the right to the inviolability of his conscience. It is the patrimony of the soul which belongs to God.

Nobody can doubt that, these events to which we draw attention, although we cannot cover them all, happen in Spain to-day and we have documents and concrete proofs of them. It is these facts which disturb the Country, and not only this country but the whole Western World, as shown by the fact that various foreign representations of the Diplomatic Corps and Political parties have visited Spain in order to witness political trials, visit gaols and inform themselves generally. Also to restrain the excesses of the Spanish State against the individual by their presence and attitude.

It is a moral norm, that man, so that he may be responsible of his acts, requires not only freedom of action but also a prior knowledge of all the elements necessary to form an opinion.

Any intimidation, be it physical or moral, goes against personal freedom and denaturalises the human action. Brain-washings, super-propaganda and the one-sided representation of events are contrary to that prior knowledge which is a fundamental condition so that man may accept full responsibility for his acts.

In Spain the State is "totalitarian at the service of the integrity of Country". The Country is the "supreme reality", it is the incarnation of the State and of the National will. Coryin dogmatism from religion it establishes the infalibility of the Chief, with all the consequences which this carries with it.

We can say that this plan of action, drawn up by the regime since its very beginnings is being carried out to its full extent. Neither the pompous speeches in which to-day the contrary is affirmed nor the writings vertically directed at public opinion can deny the obvious facts of Spanish institutional life. This super-propaganda has taken over the Press, the Radio and every other means of diffusing ideas and the nearly idolatrous worship of the Chief is also a reality. Thus can it be explained how a representative of the Department of Press and Propaganda, as if all Spain were but a Primary School, can correct the teachers in matters concerning economics, sociology, pedagogy, etc. Also that a Minister of a Catholic State dares to dispute publicly with a member of the Catholic Hierarchy in matters of morals and that the Church is not allowed to teach freely with any other texts except those strictly agreed upon.

"Public opinion is necessary to open the way of truth, justice and peace to men"...
"It is a fact that the Press finds itself among the principal factors which
"contribute to the formation of public opinion".

(Pius XII)

The fact is that those responsible in Spain have extirpated the very roots of any kind of public opinion by taking over of interfering with every means of public expression of thought and by the repression by means of Military Tribunals, of any kind of political manifestations which are not exactly in line with the political thoughts they have exclusively imposed. Without any Press Law to guarantee its work and submitted to a censorship and control completely dependent on the interests of the State, it is humanly imposible for it to fulfil its mission properly.

The Spanish Press, inverting the order established by God, is an instrument for the deformation of public opinion. It does not capacitate the citizen for public life; it forbids the judging of the activities of the political, economical or social forces in the country and the siding against unilateral propagandas or even the forming of other ideologies compatible with Natural and Divine law. It arbitrarily reduces the right to express opinions. It does not allow the citizen to control the management of public life. And instead of forming and spreading it they "drawn in cold blood any spontaneity of public opinion and reduce it to a blind and docile conformism of ideas and opinions."

And what we say of the Press we can vouch that it is true also of the Radio.

It all seems absurd but it is absolutely true.

We reject as antinatural and anti-Christian this procedure and this absorbing system. Even if its intentions were to bathe the whole world in the waters of the Gospel we would reject it calling to mind St. Paul's "rationabile obsequium".

And what can be said of the freedom of association in its two aspects: political and social?

When a country enjoys liberty in its citizens there function organisms which protect liberty. Parliament, Political Parties or Syndicates disallow any possible abuse or injustice and control the activities of public powers. It must be admitted that man's actions are defective but the free use of his rights by the citizen is a factor of public honesty. In Spain this efficient instrument is missing. In Spain there do not exist either an authentic Parliament, political freedom or syndical freedom. The one-party system plus a directed Parliament,

both in complete submission to the Chief, are the basic structure of the Spanish State. The Spanish syndicate, as Mons. Pildain well described it "is neither a syndicate nor is it christian". It has been created by the State and it defends the interests of the State which it very efficiently represents. What guarantee can these syndicates offer for the defence of the interests of the workers in their just and natural vindication.

Authentic syndicates, that is to say free syndicates, emanating from the working classes and enjoying their confidence is not only a right pertaining to the masses but also the most effective and adequate means known in our times so that they can exercise their responsibility in the economical and social life which includes rights as well as duties. The actual economic crisis and the serious events which may consequently follow it demonstrate sharply the need for such syndicates. We fail to see how our workers are expected to understand the necessity of whatever measures of austerity it may be essential to adopt, and even less that they should comply with them when this right and this means is still denied them. Neither can we see how their reactions can be controlled if they feel they have been unjustly trampled on.

The same can be said concerning political freedom. Without political freedom there can be no partaking in public administration nor is there an access to public positions in general. What guarantee of defence of the common good or of respect of the human being can be offered by an administration which defies the Chief of State and considers the human being as merely an instrument of that State.

Defence of the Rights of the Basque country

We cannot help but speak more particularly of our Country, this Basque country to which we belong and in which we exercise our apostleship. We Basque priests love our Country with the same right and the same obligation of natural and Christian piety as the castillian priest loves Castille and the Bishops of Uganda love that human family of which God has wanted them to form a part. We Basque priests believe that it is within our attributes to be able to judge and to have sentiments as to the temporal conveniences of our people. These attributed are the same as all the priests the world over allow themselves towards their respective countries. Moreover, we believe that it is a biological necessity and a duty. We know that our consecration to God and to the Church imposes upon us among other things, that we renounce interference in temporal affairs. But we, as part of the Church and the teaching Church, reserve for ourselves the right and the duty of denouncing the attempts which through error or ill-will, may be made against the natural rights of our people.

Therefore we denounce, before all spaniards and the whole world, the policy which rules to-day in Spain, of considering the ethnical, linguistic and social characteristics which God gave the Basques, as something belonging to the past, of either ignoring the completely or else viscerously persecuting them. And nobody benefits from this but it does evidently harm our highest interests: the spiritual ones.

If the stones of a national monument are cared for because of their architectural beauty and because they recall the spirit of the age that masonned them then, surely, Euzkera (the Basque language), which is a necessary instrument for the evangelization and the culture of the Basque Country, has a right before the Church and Civilization; a right to live and to be used, the ignoring of which would denounce in the Church, and absurdity, and a barefaced contradiction and in Society, an antihuman and reactionary policy, even to the extent of genocide.

This is our case in Spain to-day. There is no political, historical or social reason which can justify such a crime.

Your Grace: We have exposed here what we think is one of the fundamental causes for the abyss which is daily growing between us and the souls that have been confided to our care. It is none other than the contradiction which exists between Catholic teaching on the rights of the human being and the unfulfilment of it by a regime which officially calls itself Catholic and to which the Catholic Hierarchy decidedly gives support. This is the accusation made against us.

We have endeavoured to make a serene, objective and unimpassioned study of the real situation in Spain.

We expect that you will understand the sorrow and the deep worry which have forced us to take this determination.

It is very painful for us priests to have to give testimony of these facts. But our sacerdotal mission does not permit us to remain silent.

There is no doctrine nor greater desire repeated oftener in the Christian faith than the idea and the wish for peace. In the great prophetic vaticinations the kingdom of God is

spoken of as a "kingdom of peace, a work of justice". In a highly lyrical, passage the world is represented pacified to such an extent under the rule of the Mesias that even the wild beasts are at peace with man: "the child will put hand underneath the stones and the serpent will not bite it" (Is. 11)

Christianity is impregnated with this sentiment and desire for peace. Jesus Christ is the "Prince of Peace".

The pacification of spirits through truth and charity is our greatest wish and aspiration. Our Country needs and desires it.

Your Grace: We beseech you that as Father, Pastor and Rector of our people to look coincident points, choose whatever means are necessary to find an efficient and smooth formula for bringing back to our people their lost peace. Even if nothing more were achieved we would have that which is most desired by peoples because it is the source of all good.

We reverently kiss your Pastoral ring.

A LETTER BY CARDINAL PLA Y DENIEL, PRIMATE OF TOLEDO

The 330 Basque priests have not been the only ones who have had to resort to writing a letter in order to complain of the actions of the regime imposed by Franco restricting liberties. The highest authority of the Catholic Church in Spain, His Grace the Cardinal Primate of Toledo, has thought it his duty to address a letter to a Minister of the Spanish Government, Mr. Solis Ruiz, to point out to him certain facts about phalangist syndicates. The letter reads as follows:

"Dear Mr. Minister,

"I received your letters dated 10th and 15th October enclosing a report on the letter addressed to young's National Delegate of Syndicates, by the Brotherhood of Catholic Workers, Brotherhood of Women Workers of Catholic Action, Young Catholic Workers, and Young Catholic Female Workers with their corresponding annexes.

"It may have surprised you that my reply has not been prompter. The delay has been caused by the astonishment that the way in which you have reacted to the letter from the Brotherhoods of Catholic Action Workers, as revealed in your report, has caused me. I understand that this report has been sent to all the Bishops in Spain, and if my information is correct also to all the Civil Governors, all the Provincial Delegates of Syndicates and to other personalities.

"I have had the honour of speaking with you in various occasions, as you mention in your letter of the 10th October, and we have mutually agreed on the necessity of an authentic representation of employers and workers in social organisms. Also that the National Movement should not be belittled by giving it a "one group" character but that it should rather give recognition to various shades of thought, always safeguarding the fundamental principles of course. I also mentioned that I was acquainted with your collection of writing and speeches entitled "Nueva Convivencia Española" (New Spanish Living). I cannot but express with sincerity, the only way I know how, my surprise at your report and at your refusal to answer the Brotherhoods of Workers of Catholic Action because you do not recognise in them any personality I thought we had agreed on the general plans for the development of the Movement which was brought about by the National Crusade and which, if not with arms, I defended from its very beginnings inside and outside Spain at no small risk to myself, with the ken. I must confess that I can find no conciliation between my ideas on the general plans to be followed by the Movement and the attitude which the Syndical Organization has adopted in its report opposing the Brotherhoods of Workers of Catholic Action. I have of course, always left the authority and responsibility of particular laws and technical details to the Government.

"I will, therefore, briefly and with all clearness and loyalty give you my point of view of the situation which has arisen, in my position of Archbishop, of Toledo and as such, President of the Central Direction of Catholic Action.

"I will not even attempt to opine on the details of the law actually in force for syndical elections, their frequency, etc. I understand that the Hierarchy of the Church should not interfere in these legal and technical details. They are of course of great interest to the members of the syndicates and since in Spain there is but one syndicate and it is obligatory they interest every employer and every worker. They therefore also interest the Brotherhoods of Workers of Catholic Action.

"In the same manner that I, consider foreign to my position in the Church the detailed regulations governing syndical elections I, on the other hand consider it of the utmost importance to clarify the question of whether the Brotherhoods of Workers of Catholic Action have any personality and if the State in Spain recognises it or not. I think it is absolutely necessary that we should avoid confusion and explain exactly the position of the Church towards the Syndicates in Spain and also the position of the Spanish State regarding the Brotherhoods of Workers of Catholic Action.

"You are well aware that the Spanish Syndicate still has a lot of enemies outside Spain because it is not considered to be in keeping with the social teachings of the Church. In 1954 a Spanish Prelate published a Pastoral Letter implying that the Spanish syndicates did not conform with the social teaching of the Church. The Government complained to the Holy See and the Apostolic Nuncio informed this Prelate that in order to achieve that union of efforts in our apostleship so much recommended by the Holy Father and avoid all possible misunderstandings between the Clergy and the Faithful they should consult with the Cardinal Primate before publishing Pastoral Letters which deal directly with the religious or social situation of the nation as a whole, as was the case in that Pastoral Letter dealing with the syndical system in force in Spain. Now then, what has been my criterion and my attitude, and in fact that of the whole Spanish Church, with regard to the syndicates in Spain? I, for my part, have always held that it is not contrary to the social doctrine of the Church that Spanish syndicates should be mixed, including the employers as well as the workers, or that they should be obligatory as the ancient Guilds also had both these qualities, as long as the representatives of both workers and employers were authentic and genuine. The three Prelates that form the Permanent Commission of the Metropolitan Conference, that is to say the Rev. Archbishops of Valladolid, Zaragoza and the undersigned, exposed this view to His Excellency the Chief of State in the long interview he granted us in San Sebastian in 1956. We also made known to him then, at the same time that we explained that the mixed and obligatory characteristics of the syndicates did not make them contrary to the Church's teaching, that according to many reports the workers had not got sufficiently authentic representation in the syndicates. This reports did not come from Catholic Action Workers only but from all the workers in our dioceses. It is not surprising that we should know this as you yourself mentioned it in your speech at Villafranca de Arosa in 1957: "remember how at the beginning before the first syndical elections of 1944 our syndical buildings were cold edifices full of public officials who had to substitute, with good will, in the absence of the representatives of employers and workers. That was like a large building empty of contents". And since that speech you have continued to insist, up to the recent syndical election, on aiming at a more authentic representation. This implies that up to these present elections the authenticity of representations has not been sufficient. The Hierarchy of the Church has nothing against the syndicates, on the contrary, it has helped them by naming the Diocesan Ecclesiastical Counsellors for them, and not at the initiative of the Church but rather at the request of the State. I, as President of the Conference of Metropolitan Bishops named the Rev. Bishop of Leon as National Counsellor, a post he has filled with the zeal and capacity which distinguish him and to the complete satisfaction of the Government. The Spanish Church has supported the Spanish Syndicates up to the present. But, because of their obligatory character including all the workers and every employer, and in spite of having ecclesiastical counsellors they cannot be considered as associations of lay apostleship. Evidently, they are official associations or corporations in which there are men of every ideology, even socialists and communist, obviously.

"Just as the State has organized official syndicates so the Church has had to organize apostolic associations, Brotherhoods of Workers, as well as of employers, of Catholic Action. His holiness Pope Pius XI said that the great scandal of contemporary society was the apostasy of the industrial classes which I, as a native of Barcelona, can vouch for. In 1910, the year after the so called Tragic Week, Cardinal Mercier told me in Malinas that he had not been as surprised as others by the outburst of that Tragic Week because he had, before being elevated to the bishopric, visited the main cities in Spain and had noticed the lack of workers in the Churches he had visited for that purpose. In religious sociology one has to be realistic and recognise the much of good there is in the Catholicism of Spain but also its deficiencies. Protestants and unbaptised Spaniards do not add up to one per cent of the total population (while in France there are a few million unbaptised), but unfortunately, the non-practicing and even antagonistic among industrial workers are very numerous.

"The Popes themselves recognised that the best apostles among workers are the workers themselves, which is why they have promulgated the founding of the Brotherhoods of Workers. In Spain they form parte of Catholic Action and are recognised by the State in par. 84 of the present Concordat: "The Associations of Spanish Catholic Action will be free to develop their apostleship under the immediate supervision of the Hierarchy of the Church, remaining as far as other activities are concerned, under the jurisdiction of the State". It would be a very erroneous interpretation of this paragraph of the Concordat to understand that the apostleship of Catholic Action should be limited to prayer and piety in the temple. This is the mission of the Confraternities which are formed in the churches. The mission of Catholic Action, in all its branches and specialties, is much wider than this and it is carried on principally outside the temples. As far as the apostleship of the Brotherhoods of Workers is concerned they must necessarily include in their propaganda the social doctrine of the Church and they must occupy themselves with social problems. Catholic workers' associations throughout the world do thus. I therefore, have proclaimed that the Brotherhoods of Workers of Catholic Action are not a syndicate nor do they desire to be one, but neither are they a Confraternity. If they were but a Confraternity they would not have been spoken of in modern Concordats, including the one with Spain. If this is not well understood then it is impossible to realise what Catholic Action is.

"In view of the mentioned paragraph of the Concordat with Spain is it possible not to recognise the personality of the Brotherhoods of Workers of Catholic Action in Spain? This would establish a real problem between Church and State.

"It could perhaps be pointed out that in the last part of the above mentioned paragraph of the Concordat it states: "remaining as far as other activities (that is, outside apostleship proper) are concerned, under the jurisdiction of the State". But surely this does not mean the non-recognition of their personality but rather that, having recognised it, in matters which are not apostleship proper they must conform to the general legislation of the State. How can it be said that they have not confined themselves to the ruling of the State legislation in a letter written to the National Delegate of Syndicates? Have they not merely limited themselves to a petition addressed to the competent authority, that is to the National Delegate of Syndicates? I believe that their petition is well within par; of the syndical law because the Brotherhoods of Workers have not addressed themselves to the State going above the syndical organisation which are the only means recognised by the State for supplying to it the aspirations and the necessities which economically are felt by the producing element. The Brotherhoods of Workers have addressed their letter to the National Delegate of Syndicates, or is it perhaps that the Syndical Organization does not recognise the right to petition? That would make the syndicates a totalitarian system the same as Hitler's or the Soviet's. It might be just as well to remember that at the time the law for syndical organization was published and even later, it was officially announced in the Cortes (Parliament) of Spain that the Spanish regime was totalitarian as it was the only convenient one in the circumstances.

"Nobody in Spain to-day, and in fact nowhere outside the Soviet block, would dare call it totalitarian, but it is not only the name that has to be rejected but also that which it implies. You yourself said in that speech in Villafranca de Arosa: "In our time nobody can think of ruling silent peoples; there are no longer silent peoples in the modern political organizations, and those that do so it through the pressure and compulsion by terrorist oligarchies in the soviet stile".

"The Brotherhoods of Workers of Catholic Action are only a minority in Spain among producers but in your already mentioned speech you said you had a great respect for minorities. It would be a fallacy to pretend that because the immense majority of Spanish workers are baptised they are in social agreement with the Church, whose social doctrine they ignore mostly. The Brotherhoods of Workers of Catholic Action are a minority but I who know them well and have contact with them can assure you that they are not a passive minority but a very active one and with a profound Christian spirit. When they celebrated their assembly in Toledo very many of them were daily communicants which proves that they are really associations of lay apostleship. I will say even more, the Brotherhoods of Workers of Catholic Action the Women Workers of Catholic Action weigh a lot in Spain and outside it. In Spain, apart from their members they have very many sympathisers among the working classes. The juvenile branch celebrated an assembly this year at which there were six thousand present. Outside Spain their presidents form parte of the Directing Committees of the International Associations of Catholic Workers such as FIMOC for adults and JOC for youths. The latter has sent an ex-president of the Spanish JOC to Latin-America in a long propaganda trip; the first president of the Brotherhood of Workers of Catholic Action and the present one have been invited by the USA to visit workers organizations in that country all expenses paid. What a painful contrast. In Spain which is one of the few Catholic Countries in the world with a model Concordat the Brotherhood of Workers of Catholic Action is begrudged recognition and ignored. The Ministry of the Movement as well as that of Home Affairs has tinted them with

suspicion in various circulars. The leaders are subjected to police interrogations and they are fined for whatever, they have or have not said in acts which have been presided over by the Bishop, as in Bilbao and in spite of the Bishop backing everything said there. Acts have been prohibited as has happened recently in a town in the province of Almeria even though it was to have taken place in a building owned by a religious community. This act was banned without accusation or transgression of any kind.

"Perhaps it can be said that resentment to these suspicions has been expressed too radically in some of the publications of the Brotherhood of Workers. The Church is at least as eager as the State that these publications should not defend demagogical solutions and if ever there has been any too radical an expression in them they have been warned and a remedy has been sought. In a Catholic and Concordant State agreement between Church and State is an easy thing. However, to find out what is and what not demagogical one has to follow the social doctrine of the Church. I have directly and publicly warned the Brotherhood of Workers of Catholic Action in their last assembly that they must avoid because they are demagogical any infiltrations of socialist doctrine, of class hatred, of violent procedures. I cannot on the other hand consider as demagogical the legitimate defence of the workers' interests, information about their real necessities, or their aspiration that they should be taken into account in the solving of working problems. Sometimes, things published by the Brotherhoods of Workers of Catholic Action, which had previously been said by State authorities or even by syndical authorities, have been censored as demagogical. Even this year we had a very curious case in Toledo. A simple leaflet published by the Brotherhood of Workers of Toledo presented to the Censorship Board an article taken from the official organ of the syndicates but without mentioning its origin. The Censorship Board forbade it and it was only on proving to them that it was taken from the official organ of the syndicates that they authorized it.

"I finish this reply, Mr. Minister, which I fear has resulted somewhat long but whose only object it is to find some means of agreement which I consider absolutely necessary for the good of both Church and State. The actual relationship between the State and the Brotherhoods of Workers of Catholic Action is very dangerous. Recent examples of conflicts in some Nations between Church and State, followed by grievous repercussions even political in nature, were started by conflicts between the Government and the associations of Catholic Action. The Brotherhoods of Catholic Action will have no syndical activities. The Hierarchy has instructed them clearly that problems of a syndical nature have to be solved by the members of the Brotherhoods inside the syndicate. But the Brotherhoods can prepare their members so that they may act inside the syndicates according to the social doctrine of the Church. This would result in great good for the syndical organization. It would be damaging themselves if the syndicates had illwill for the Brotherhoods of Workers of Catholic Action.

"We must not lose sight of the fact that since the syndicates are obligatory there must per force be among them workers of every ideology. It is a fact in some cities there are workers who pay their obligatory membership fee to the official syndicates and a voluntary one to clandestine socialist or communist organizations. The Brotherhood of Workers of Catholic Action is composed solely of voluntary members of Catholic Action, taking good care that there be not any communist infiltrations. Would it not be a great service to the State and to the syndicates themselves if these practicing Catholics formed in the social doctrine of the Church were to work inside them ?

"I think that you are a realist, Mr. Minister, and will therefore see clearly that one cannot proceed the same in the Spain of 1960 as in 1940. In 1940 we had just emerged from a war in which the forces of totalitarian regimes had helped the Nationals in their Crusade. Even in 1943, when many Spaniards thought that these same totalitarian regimes were going to win the world War, it was officially defended in the Spanish Cortes that the totalitarian regime was the best. To-day nobody dares say so in Spain of the Western World. The "Fuero de los Españoles" (Freedom of Spaniards), which is anything but totalitarian was published. In the Commission that prepared it for presentation to Parliament the undersigned had to participate very actively, especially in par. 6 which deals with fundamental religious questions. Par. 16 deals with the right of association and says textually: "Spaniards will be able to associate freely for lawful purposes and in accordance with what is established by law. The State will have the power to create and maintain the associations which it considers necessary for the achievement of its aims. These fundamental rules, which will become law, will coordinate the exercise of this right with that recognised in the preceding par." Later, by the Law of Succession of the Chief of State, which was ratified by National Plebiscite, the "Fuero de los Españoles" was declared one of the fundamental laws. In 1953, the Concordat, which is also based in a spirit of cooperation and which recognises the freedom of the associations of Catholic Action, among which is the Brotherhood of Workers, was signed by the Holy See and the Spanish Government.

"May God grant, and you can contribute a lot to it, that this spirit of collaboration which reigns in many other spheres may also rule between the syndical organization which you preside and the Brotherhoods of Workers of Catholic Action.

" Your in Christ, etc...

THE LETTER FROM HIS GRACE THE PRIMATE UNANSWERED

We have copied for you the letter from Cardinal Pla y Deniel. It has not yet been answered. The terms in which the conversation between the Cardinal and the Minister for Phalange, Mr. Solis, Head of the National Vertical Syndicates, were held are unknown.

According to the phalangist newspaper "ARRIBA" "It is not easy to understand how, at this stage of the life of labour, there are still criterions which advocate the plurality of syndicates". It adds, "In institutional questions Spain, at various moments of its history, has counted with official dispositions which have been notably in advance of those of foreign teachings". Continuing it says, "the convulsion of our war, the memory of which keeps the Spanish people warned, added to the originality and efficiency of the doctrines of the Movement, have resulted in the actual institution of the syndicates, maintained and in constant progress thanks to the multiplication of effort and the efficiency of the unity of syndicates."

"There are some who think that without syndical variety there cannot be syndical freedom without remembering that we had such variety in Spain but that it imposed on the worker the greatest of dictatorships". "It is difficult -it continues- to understand those who in the name of social progress want to return to syndical variety when, it so happens, our syndicates, precisely because of their principle of unity, march at the head of a general process of unification of syndical forces which is afoot throughout the world".

"Spain -it concludes- has chosen this system of professional grouping and it knows that in its unity it can achieve, as well as the maximum efficiency, the greatest freedom, in the same manner as in the single municipal governing body of each town there can be freedom if its members have been chosen conveniently and they can express their will and their thoughts freely; the very same way as any professional college".

"This article is an indirect and public answer by the Phalangist Vertical Syndicates to the letter by the Primate asking for syndical freedom.

AMERICAN TRIP BY PRESIDENT OF BASQUE GOVERNMENT

The President of the Basque Government in exile, Mr. J.M. de Leizaola, has just returned from a two month trip to visit the Basque communities in Uruguay, Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela.

Mr. Leizaola, who succeeded Mr. José Antonio de Aguirre in the Presidency on his death in March 1960, has thus fulfilled the latter's promise to undertake such a trip.

The Basque Government which Mr. Leizaola presides maintains the same characteristics which it had since its constitution in Gernika on the 7th of October 1936. It is composed of representatives of all Basque democratic forces, that is to say, the Basque Nationalist Party, Basque Nationalist Action, Basque Socialist Party and the republica parties. Previously there was also included in this Government a communist member but he was excluded at the end of the war at the request of the democratic parties. The seat of the Basque Government in exile is in Paris and it has delegates in fifteen European and American countries.

The two month visit by President Leizaola to America has provoked great demonstrations favouring the Basque cause and the Basque communities in the above mentioned countries have renewed their spiritual adhesion and their support to the Basque Government. Basque influence in America is great. Four heads of State or Government, as many ex-Presidents, three Cardinals of the Catholic Church and numerous other personalities in the political or literary life of these countries have received President Leizaola and have shown great affection for the country he represents, a country that is a symbol in its constant fight for freedom.