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FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The New Mexican Ambassador Presents his Letters of Credence to President Azaña

On March 5th., 1938, Colonel Adalberto Tejeda, the new Mexican Ambassador to the Spanish Republic, presented his letters of credence to President Azaña. The following speech was delivered by H. E. the Mexican Ambassador:

«Mr. President,

«In fulfilment of a high mission which exceeds my merits, I have the honour of placing in Your Excellency's hands the Letters which accredit me as Ambassador of the United States of Mexico to the Government of the Spanish Republic and, at the same time, those announcing the recall of my distinguished predecessor.

«On assuming the functions of the high mission with which I have been entrusted I wish, above all, to express to Your Excellency my profound satisfaction at the honour my Government has conferred upon me in appointing me to represent it in strong, heroic Spain, which with such great courage is defending her independence and her institutions against the unjustified aggression of those who are attempting to force upon her a system opposed to her aspirations and to her vital interests.

«In the fulfilment of my mission I shall follow the unwavering line which Mexico has laid down in her relations with other nations, that of honestly carrying out her duties as a friendly nation, which goes hand in hand with her historic tradition of absolute and invariable respect for International Law. It is for this reason that the action of Mexico in rendering assistance to a friendly Government based on the will of the people has been an absolutely correct one in the strictest understanding of International Law. For this reason also, since the very first moment of the Spanish tragedy, Mexico has defended her conduct and has accepted the consequences of so doing, conscious of her responsibility and inspired by the fervour of her efforts which, for more than a century past, have been aimed at planning her existence in accordance with a regime of justice and well-being.

«In Mexico, as in no other country, the soul of the people has been profoundly moved by the hard trials which the Spanish people are bearing with such self-denial and bravery. This is due to the fact that Mexican History abounds in episodes which are very similar and have likewise brought forth anguish. Since the War of Independence—which had all the characteristics of a rebellion against the oppression of a monarchy and a privileged class of clergy and landowners similar to those who oppressed the Spanish people—our life has been a continuous battle against foreign invasion, against an empire of adventurers aided by traitors, which obliged the Republic to seek refuge in a small corner of our national territory. At that time the Republic was represented by President Juárez, who had previously passed the reform laws and who, with a handful of patriots, fought against the invader and against a dictatorship which, for many long years, tortured the people with great social inequalities. Finally, as in Spain to-day, it was necessary to fight and annihilate an army of Pretorians which, together with

the clergy and the hoarders of wealth, attempted to seize power, and in doing so it was necessary to sacrifice the nation's highest representative. But, throughout this long struggle, there was born and crystallised an advanced revolutionary ideology. It is only at the present time that the full development of this ideology has been attained. This is to be seen in present-day life in Mexico, which is so full of hopes and achievements for the working class.

«Spain and Mexico are travelling along similar paths towards the same ideal. They both uphold a social doctrine based on the irrefutable principles which govern the life, not only of individuals, but also of the people as a whole.

«Social conflict takes place as a natural consequence of biological order. Two opposing forces appear on the plane of human life: the instinct of conservation of the individual which makes man the object, the reason and the centre of gravity of the conceptions of Law and Economy, and the instinct of conservation of the human race, which safeguards and upholds general interests and confers on the collective forces the pre-eminent titles of a supreme goal.

«The composition of these two forces, or the determination of their result, generates the phenomena of our increasing organic adaptation. It is their magnitude and angular displacement which determine the rules presented to us throughout History by the evolution of the conception of justice.

«It is the task of the sociologist and statesman to find the coordination of the interests which these two forces represent by means of a technical, human and integral process. In doing this they must always take into account that the result must of necessity favour the component which represents the highest interest, that of the human race, which means the collective interest.

«The ethical contents in the above considerations impose, both on the individual and on the peoples and racial entities, the duty of a fraternal and reciprocal assistance applied to the well-being and progress of all and each, free from exclusiveness and from the arrogant and controversial ambitions which have caused the misfortunes from which the world is suffering.

«For this reason Mexico, on all occasions, has recourse to the conscience of the world. This she does by virtue of her membership of international institutions as well as by direct appeals to the Governments of other countries. She appeals for respect for the sovereignty and rights of the Spanish people and for the acknowledgement and confirmation of the legitimate prerogatives of their Government.

«It is an undoubtable fact that if, since the beginning of this bloody war, this decision had been taken, the Republic would have been able to restore tranquility on Spanish soil. Had this happened there would not have arisen the grave international complications which will surely lead the world into the most terrible of disasters, if the rules laid down for guaranteeing justice and peace among nations continue to be forgotten by the institution whose duty it is to see that they are observed.

Officers, Commissars, and Soldiers of the People's Army! All the Spaniards are endeavouring to excel themselves. Excel yourselves, too. Do not yield an inch of ground to the foreigners. With rigid discipline, with conscientious training, with invincible heroism, make of our Army the victorious Army of an independent, free, and happy SPAIN.

«In the Spanish struggle the defenders of the Republic are at the same time the defenders of human liberties. For this reason it is to be hoped that their heroic sacrifices will make the democracies decide to rectify the criterion, which lack of foresight and a superficial analysis of the causes and the nature of the conflict forced upon them. For the international significance of the struggle is now obvious.

«I cannot end without expressing to Your Excellency, in the name of President Cárdenas and in my own, the most sincere wishes for the triumph of the arms of the Republic as a necessary conclusion of this glorious chapter in its History. It is a chapter written with the generous and fertile blood of the energetic Spanish people, who are fighting for the attainment of an era of peace and progress, based on justice and the rights of the working class.»

Speech of President Azaña

Señor Azaña, the President of the Spanish Republic, replied in the following words:

«Mr. Ambassador,

«It gives me the greatest satisfaction to receive from your hands the Letters which accredit you as Ambassador of the United States of Mexico, and at the same time, the Letters recalling your predecessor. Allow me, on this occasion, to dedicate to Señor Don Ramón P. de Negri the tribute which he has earned by the way in which he exercised his mission.

«Mr. Ambassador, I accept and am pleased at the words of brotherly affection which you address to the Spanish nation. Our people have been obliged once again to defend with arms their freedom and independence, the maintenance of which is closely linked, as on other occasions, to respect for Law and for World Peace, which is now threatened if not broken.

«You are quite right, Mr. Ambassador, when you say that Mexico regulates her relations with other countries in accordance with the loyal fulfilment of the duties laid down by International Law. She rejects the use of violence. She rejects the interference of foreign powers in the internal affairs of a people. This virtue becomes more admirable the more often we see it neglected. Spain is well acquainted with the exactness and determination with which the Mexican Government and people respect and uphold the rights of the Spanish Republic, which are none other than those of the nation as a whole, to freely decide the kind of Government they wish. This the Spanish nation has done on various occasions during the past few years and this it will do once again as soon as the establishment of normal conditions permits it. The Spanish people are fighting for the acknowledgement and recognition of the legitimacy of decisions which emanate from the majority of public opinion. No minority, whatever banners it may display, has a right to impose itself on the remainder of the country. The courage necessary to face the hard trials of the present moment

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is based on this conviction, which is proved by experience. Namely, that the immense majority of the Spanish people do not wish to live subjected to a despotic and irresponsible regime.

»No political regime, in no country in the world and in no epoch in history, counts, or has ever been able to count, on the unanimous support of all the citizens. But, owing to the degree of political progress which has been reached by civilised peoples, it is possible for the discontented and dissident people to live together with the rest under an intelligent and tolerant State, which guarantees the conscience of the individual, as well as civil and political freedom, which stands for social justice and which, by affording it the

protection of the law, guarantees for men the path of their expansion and progress.

»You are right, Mr. Ambassador, in recalling that Mexico has known sufferings very similar to those which are to-day troubling the Spanish people.

»Mexico does not forget them at this time when she is enjoying the inestimable happiness of peace. She is true to herself and to her historic being. Your own experience is sufficient for you to gauge the depth of this Spanish crisis, and the determination with which you uphold the obvious rights of the Spanish people is not merely an attitude of political and legal reason, but also a feeling of affection. It is also a fact that, in doing this, the Mexican Government and people are aware of the increasing gravity which the armed at-

tacks against the Spanish Republic imply and of the general interest in the reestablishment in the near future of international normality.

»You may rest assured, Mr. Ambassador, that all times you will find the best will on my part as that of the Spanish Government to help you in the exercise of your functions. In this you will also be aided by the sincere affection with which the Spanish people respond, as at all times, to the unambiguous proofs of sympathy and solidarity which they receive from Mexico.

»Mr. Ambassador, I beg you to accept my cordial welcome and my best wishes to the President of the United States of Mexico as well as for the peace and prosperity of Mexico.»

Dr. Negrin receives the International Press

On Wednesday, March 3, 1938, representatives of the international Press were received by Dr. Negrin at the Presidency. He has not given an interview of this kind since last November. There were also present Don José Giral, Foreign Minister, and Señor Prat, Under Secretary of the Presidency. More than fifty representatives of the foreign agencies and newspapers accredited to the Government were present.

TERUEL

Questioned about Teruel Doctor Negrin answered as follows: Teruel was and continues to be the issue of the moment. But the situation in December and in January presented two different problems. In December two armies faced each other, first on the offensive and later on the defensive, and the superiority was always on our side. In January the inequality of the two armies as regards war material was so great that the troops of the Republic had no other alternative than to retire. But the retreat, like the other operations at Teruel, was carried out in perfect order. There was never a break in the line. The problem of Teruel is the problem of the war-war material. It is for this reason that the imperialist countries distract attention from this problem by making intervention a question of volunteers. For the last three months an unlimited supply of armaments of the best quality and newest types has been poured into Rebel Spain. Germany has converted Spain into a field of experiment for her aeroplanes and aviators. Her squadrons here are continuously renewed. Her pilots gain experience. And thus prepared Germany finds herself ready for any contingency of war. Not at all a bad idea!

OUR ARMY

Teruel has demonstrated to the world what the Spanish government has always said: that we have an army. We said it, but no one believed us. I hope our victory at Teruel has convinced them. Our army, which has been created during the war, would be far stronger if it were possible for us to renew our war material and get arms as easily as our enemies. The moment our forces can equal in war material those of the enemy the war will be a matter of weeks or at the most a few months. Otherwise the war will continue much longer. In January at Teruel our inferiority of arms was obvious. For this reason we made an orderly retreat to avoid unnecessary bloodshed. Each day the war goes on there is greater danger of international complications. This is what we have been telling the

world for some time. But the world does not wish to hear. The policy of «laissez faire» predominates — the policy of the ostrich.

WAR MATERIAL IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN VOLUNTEERS

Asked if he considered the question of war material more important than that of volunteers, the Prime Minister answered: —Of course! The Government won't make the mistake of giving the name of volunteers to the invading forces of Franco. To all the civilised world we have protested against the invasion of our land by forces sent from foreign countries. We raised our voice of protest in the League of Nations. Everyone knew the facts as well as we did — but no one would admit to the knowledge. It was simply a question of changing the word and calling the invading troops volunteers. I don't deny that there have been volunteers on Franco's side, but this in no way affects the question. We protested against the presence in Spain of foreign armies of regulars. Certain countries were carrying on a war without having declared war; which to judge by appearances is to be the usual procedure in future wars.

When the Republican Army was in the early stage of its formation the presence of these so-called volunteers from Germany or Italy constituted a real danger to our cause. Now, however, that we have a well organised regular army and navy, these foreign elements do not make an appreciable difference to the progress of the war. That is why support given to Franco comes now in the form of aeroplanes and cannons. We also know that Italy and Germany have meanwhile been replacing the regular troops by a mixture of colonials from Somaliland, the Rif and Tripoli. Today everything depends on the quality and quantity of arms, on the thousands of cannons, the hundreds of aeroplanes and the technical experts. It will be difficult for a commission to go round looking for technicians with a candle.

HOW WAR MATERIAL COMES IN

The continuous supply of war material to Franco's army has greatly increased during the last few months. It comes in by sea and by air. For the latter means of transport Majorca is used as the base, but there have also recently been shipments by sea protected by the German and Italian fleets.

An English journalist then asked. What was the date of the latest shipment from these countries known to the Spanish Gov-

ernment? The one about which questions were asked in the English Parliament dated from some time back.

Dr. Negrin asked in his turn: —On other occasions, how late has the British government been in finding out about shipments of arms to Rebel Spain? Indeed, has it ever admitted the facts officially? —The facts were perhaps known, but not officially recognised.

The Prime Minister was next asked, how he could explain the fact that Minorca and not been attacked. —Because it would take time and men. It is a difficult island to take. The naval base of Mahon is one of the strongest of the Mediterranean. Having already the base of Majorca the Fascists probably consider the conquest of Minorca not worth the cost.

CAN THE ANGLO-ITALIAN DISCUSSIONS PROVE FAVOURABLE TO THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT?

Spain has nothing to hope from the Anglo-Italian discussions. The withdrawal of volunteers has now been given first place in the discussions to please the democratic countries and to shelve the more important problems of arms and technicians. Perhaps also Italy may need her troops elsewhere, possibly in the Alps. That is why Italian troops in Spain are being replaced by Colonials. But supposing these are withdrawn we have no assurance that they will not be taken out by El Ferrol and come in again by Cadiz.

No, war material is the essential problem and the one that should be brought out into the open. We have in our country the synthesis of modern warfare. If the war continues it will become increasingly dangerous for the totalitarian countries supporting Franco. That is why they are sending over their best war material. They would no doubt prefer to attain their ends without having recourse to war. That being impossible, they use every means of aggression at their command.

BELLIGERENT RIGHTS INADMISSABLE

Would the granting of equal belligerent rights have unfavourable results for the Government?

—For us, replied Dr. Negrin, the idea is inadmissible. It is condemned by international law. One can recognise any legitimately formed government, but not a band of rebels who have risen against the government of their country. And how can a nation united to us in the League at the same time recognise the rebels?

—And what is your opinion of the blockade which the rebels are

trying to make effective in order to bring this about?

—I repeat, granting of belligerent rights will be advantageous to the rebels. The closing of the frontier and control would be nothing less than an attempt to strangle Spain. Luckily the project is not likely to be put into execution as the national egoism of the countries interested will cause them to withdraw at the last moment. The re-establishment of the control would clearly be favorable to our enemies.

THE RESOURCES OF THE REPUBLICAN ARMY

—You have stated, Mr. President, that the Republican Army will shortly be provided with war material equal to that of the enemy.

—We have had to overcome great difficulties, but the production of war material in Spain has been enormously intensified.

—Would the threatened blockade be more effective than the previous attempts to blockade Spain?

—Undoubtedly. It would prevent those fleets, which are at present protected by their countries, from entering Spanish waters. It would also increase the freight costs which are already high enough. But the Government has studied every contingency and we do not think that Spain can be so easily strangled. Nevertheless I trust that this monstrous crime will not be carried out. The world must understand finally that this is a war of invasion.

WAR INDUSTRIES

The journalists, who had asked the Prime Minister questions, pressed for further details of war industries in Spain.

The Prime Minister added: —The organisation of war industries was begun long ago. The results are not seen in a few months. The creation of a war industry is a slow process requiring much preparation and it is only now, after nine months, that the results are apparent. The results achieved justified my statement in a recent speech of encouragement to the technicians, war workers and combatants that we should soon be able to equal the enemy in the supply of war material. I repeat that Spain can win the war, but she could do so much more rapidly were she authorised by national treaties to acquire the war material to which she has a right. In that case the war would be over in two or three months. As it is, with the means at our disposal, it may continue for a year or more. The continuation of the war cannot fail to have repercussions throughout the entire world. It is to the interest of all to bring it to an end before the autumn. If

the totalitarian states are allowed to continue the war they will when they consider the moment ripe, throw their armies into the Balkans or elsewhere.

When a journalist remarked that this was the question of absorption, the Prime Minister replied: —Not to incorporate but to dominate is the policy of those countries. A policy of extermination. This is what the democratic nations have to realise.

FOOD SUPPLY

The Prime Minister was then asked if the Government was intending to organise the food supplies of the country in the same way as they had already organised war industries. To this the Prime Minister replied: —For armaments everything that is needed, for alimentation only the indispensable. There has been a lack of organisation in the distribution which is now being remedied. The children and soldiers come first. As for the rest of us, we shall not sacrifice victory in order to spare ourselves privations. Germany, the country of organisation, took some time to overcome these same difficulties during the world war. Therefore it is not surprising that here, where the old system of distribution has been entirely reorganised, certain problems still remain unsolved. The fact that in many villages, even in Catalonia, there is no food shortage proves that the organisation is defective. The problem requires all our attention, but is subordinate to that of war material. We hope to increase food production in this country so that imports may be reduced to a minimum. Foreign payments from the export of oranges must be converted into grain which is of prime necessity.

SOCIAL CHANGES IN SPAIN

—What are likely to be the effects of the social changes in Spain?

—We aspire to raise the standard of living in Spain. To improve the status of the Spaniards both culturally and materially has been the popular and the official policy since the 19th of July. The result has been up to now entirely beneficial to the country as a whole.

This policy is not only dictated by humanitarian ideas. We believe that the day will come when the Spaniard will be both consumer and also the manufacturer of many articles till now considered superfluous.

When a journalist observed that he had noted great deficiencies in the food ration, the head of the Government answered: —I speak of a system which on the whole is giving good results. If it

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THE MILITARY SITUATION

Following the evacuation of Teruel by the Republican forces the rebels continued their attack for the space of 48 hours but, apart from closing the circle around the city—and this was only after the safe exit of the entire force defending it—they were unable to capture any additional positions of importance. The Republicans still hold the hill known as the Tooth of Villastar, five miles south-west of Teruel and the even more important Puerto Escandón, seven miles south-east of that city on the Valencia road, both of which were held by the insurgents prior to the original Republican offensive in the middle of December. Puerto Escandón is a narrow defile, almost impregnable against a frontal attack, through which the main road and two railways pass on their way to the coast. In this sense it is a key position which must be captured before any advance can be made in the direction of Valencia.

Had the Republican Army been a defeated and demoralised army, the insurgents might well have followed up the capture of Teruel by attempting to advance towards the coast. But this they did not do for they, better than anyone class, realised the strength and resources still lying behind their opponents.

The recapture of Teruel has, therefore, been little more than a moral success for the insurgents who, in order to achieve this, were obliged to use huge quantities of their best war material which, under other circumstances, might have been used for an offensive against Madrid.

For the past week absolute quiet has reigned on all the fronts. This pause may be compared to that following the fall of the Asturias last October when everybody awaited the great rebel offensive. But since that time there is one factor which has changed, and that is the increased fighting power of the Republican Army. The capture of Teruel was sufficient proof of this and the act that Mussolini and Hitler have sent huge reinforcements of artillery and planes in order to prop up Franco is an additional corroboration of it. Any successes the fascists may have at the present time are transitory ones and are entirely due to the inequality in arms.

But the people of Spain are confident that this inequality will not last. The Government has sounded the call—and the workers all over the country are taking it up—to build up a war industry. Dr. Negrin, the Prime Minister, promised in the name of the Government that the inequality in arms will be a very transitory one. What «Non-Intervention» prevents them from purchasing abroad, the Spanish people are determined to manufacture themselves in their own country.

A new phase of the war has begun. The battle of building up an Army which is superior to the rebel army not only in man-power, but also in morale, has been won. Now it is a question of building up a war industry of supply the Army with all the arms and ammunition it needs. And this the Government, in the name of the country as a whole, has undertaken to do.

Ministry of Agriculture

Decree Reorganising Agricultural Instruction

Señor Vázquez Humasqué, the Under Secretary for Agriculture, on February 28 gave an interview explaining the decree dated 25 February, 1938, published in the Gazette of 27 February, 1938, reorganising agricultural instruction.

«This decree», said Sr. Vázquez Humasqué, «is the personal work of Señor Uribe, the Minister of Agriculture, who aims not only at achieving a temporary improvement in agriculture, but also at laying a firm foundation for the future. The 16 articles of the decree show in a clear and definite manner the introduction of modern methods of teaching, which will give the peasant the opportunity of becoming a specialised technician. This will also put an end to the old classes of professional teachers and will reduce the barrier at present existing between the technical workers and peasants.

«By applying the decree in question it will be possible to put into practice in the country districts, in an efficient manner and in a short period of time, technical improvements arrived at as a result of experiments. With this aim in view elementary instruction is being organised, so as to enable the peasants to apply scientific knowledge and thus increase production to the greatest extent possible.

«In addition to elementary instruction, intermediate and higher instruction will be given. This will assure the formation of a sufficient number of technicians to carry out agricultural research work and experiments and to direct agricultural production, as well as those industries derived from agriculture, which are every day increasing.

«This decree, which has profound social significance, will enable all citizens, whatever their origin, to take part in intermediate and higher instruction. The most humble peasant will, provided that he displays sufficient aptitude, be able to assimilate

the greatest conquests of science.

«Higher instruction will be organised in such a way that theoretical knowledge is combined with practical experience in order to guarantee direct relationship between the new technicians and agricultural problems which they will have to face.

«Agricultural instruction will, then, be organised in the following manner:

«Travelling agricultural schools, specialisation courses for agricultural workers and peasants, training of agricultural overseers, training of agricultural experts and engineers.

«The training of agricultural overseers will consist of two courses of six months each and will take place in two consecutive years. These courses will specialise in one particular

branch, and in order to attend them one must first have attended a specialised course for agricultural workers and peasants.

«Likewise, in order to enter one of the five Schools for agricultural experts, one must first have obtained the title of agricultural overseer. In the Schools for agricultural experts there will be four courses of nine months each.

«Agricultural experts, in order to enter the Special School for Agricultural Engineers, must first pass an entrance examination in which general education and languages as well as specialised agricultural knowledge will be taken into account.

«In this way it will be possible to build up a large number of agricultural technicians in order to meet the needs of the country.»

The Fight Against Illiteracy in the Rear

The work of the Government in their campaign to end illiteracy in the rear is of special interest.

The campaign has two principal objectives: first, to decrease or, if possible, entirely to eliminate illiteracy; secondly, to complete and improve the elementary education of many Spanish adults who, because of inadequate primary instruction, may be called semi-illiterate. The Ministry of Education has organised 7,570 classes for semi-illiterate persons, which are attended by 122,553 pupils.

During November and December, 1937, a total of 650,832 classes, representing 976,248 hours of instruction, were given. Many of these classes were held during rest periods in factories, workshops, and other places of work.

The conditions under which these classes are given are not always favourable. Many are

held near battle fronts, within fire of the enemy, where they are subject to continual air raids. In others there is not sufficient paper, no light, or other handicaps. But the Ministry of Education is overcoming these difficulties step by step.

This campaign against illiteracy has met with approval and support on all sides. Local authorities, trade unions, political parties, youth organisations, and student organisations are always willing to lend a hand. The teachers are all enthusiastic about their work. All sorts of people of every age attend the classes. In Fuentenevilla, a little town in the province of Guadalajara, a 70 year old woman attends these classes in order to «learn to read the letters of a son who is at the front».

The results are already apparent. Five per cent of the people who registered for these classes are already able to read and write.

The Culture Militia

The following is a resumé of the work of the Culture Militia up to the end of 1937:

Schools established in the trenches and barracks.	2,047
Soldiers in the People's Army who have been taught to read and write	75,175
Libraries established in the Army (A circulating library of 4,000 volumes also visits the fronts.)	
Individual classes.	362,381
Collective classes given by Culture Militia	531,385
Talks and lectures by Culture Militia	20,077
Talks broadcast to the enemy in order to persuade the men to come over to the loyal side	3,576
Military schools managed by Culture Militia	20
Special courses for military commanders and political delegates, in which the Culture Militia took part.	182
Soldiers homes	117
Articles published in the press	7,055
Wall newspapers founded and managed by Culture Militia.	4,223
Cinema shows at the fronts	508
Broadcasts	200
Puppet shows	78

These figures are a clear indication of the tremendous amount of work which has been accomplished. It is only fitting that we point out how this work has been achieved.

In the first place, the Culture Militia is composed of men who have made many sacrifices and are contributing to make many sacrifices in carrying out their duty. When they teach in the trenches they are protected only by a few sand bags, but never for a moment, not even in the greatest danger, do they abandon their tasks. The list of those killed and wounded while carrying out their duty demonstrates better than anything else the bravery of these teachers.

By the side of these Militia are the commissars and officers of the People's Army who encourage this important work by their praise and support because they know that the Culture Militia is their best collaborator in building up a disciplined army.

The Government have initiated all this in response to the strong desire for learning in the People's Army, and they try to keep alive this desire for knowledge, sparing no effort to carry out the work started when the war broke out. These efforts have not only been recognized in loyalist Spain, but have won the admiration of all democratic countries.

Dr. Negrin receives...

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faults they are being corrected and one must not forget that we are on war rations.

FANTASTIC STATEMENTS IN THE FOREIGN PRESS

During the interview the Prime Minister said that the Government had not and would not receive notice of the Anglo-Italian discussions. —Has France been advised?, he asked. Apparently even Mr. Eden was not informed.

He commented on the fantastic rumours which appeared in the foreign press in spite of the facilities for information provided by the Government and referred to one, published a few days ago, according to which the Government was now located in Figueras.

POLITICAL RUMOURS

The Prime Minister was asked if it were true that the Government was initiating a new policy which would entail the substitution of several ambassadors, the suppression of political commissars in the army and in the economic field, the dissolution of the collectives.

—I know nothing of any changes in the Diplomatic Corps—, he replied. Even if such changes were contemplated, it would in no way effect world politics. The political commissars are not representatives of parties but delegates of the Government in the army, where they exert a political control. As to the third

question: the Government has never issued any orders in the matter of collectivisation. How then can it cancel these orders? The conception of private property prevailing in Spain has not changed to my knowledge.

THE BOMBARDMENTS

—The Government has never wished to bombard the Fascist rear. After the intensive bombing of our civil population we consented, on the advice of experts, who considered this the only means of bringing the bombardments to an end, to demonstrate that we were equally equipped to strike a hard blow in the rear. We announced that if the bombardments continued we should be obliged to retaliate, but that our only wish was to stop them. Negotiations were set on foot the result of which you all know. Franco refused to agree.

The crew of every plane we bring down is German or Italian. The death of two hundred citizens in Barcelona or Salamanca means little in Germany or Italy, whereas we feel the same grief for the victims in rebel Spain as for our own. They are all Spaniards; they are our friends. Even if they were not, we would not wage a war of extermination on those holding different ideas from our own.

Dr. Negrin concluded by saying that the dissensions within the Fascist camp were not to be found in Republican Spain. We have achieved a unity of thought and feeling — he said — which they completely lack.

Salamanca Under the Rebels

Doval's Policemen Kept a Constant Watch on Unamuno Until his Death

Carefully collected data show that in the Province of Salamanca 15,200 men and women have been executed by the rebels in the process of «cleaning» society so as to purge it of all «evil» elements. And this cleaning process still goes on today, for after nearly two years the terror has not diminished.

The military rebellion in Salamanca was initiated by the Regiment of Hussars No. 2, which was formerly the Cavalry Regiment of the Princess. This regiment had been punished for committing acts of indiscipline after the election victory of the People's Front, when it was transferred to Salamanca.

The leaders and officers of this regiment tried to seize the barracks of the Infantry Regiment of Victoria, but were repulsed by the officers of that regiment who refused to join the rebellion. The Hussars gathered new forces, joined the Civil Guard, attacked the infantry regiment and captured the barracks. Almost all the officers, 28 sergeants and 47 corporals were shot in the courtyard.

Ever since Salamanca has lived under a permanent terror. Under the leadership of Dr. Laporta and a man by the name of Mayorga the phalangists have been continuously hunting down left-wing people, who have been mercilessly murdered. In varying degrees of intensity, this man hunt has been carried out right along, and is even going on at the present time in spite of the fact that foreign correspondents, diplomats, commercial agents and many other foreigners have their residence in Salamanca.

In order that the «eliminating process» may be carried out more cautiously and in order to do away with the boisterousness of the phalangists, Franco placed Commander Doval, famous for his sadistic and ruthless activities in the Asturias during the 1934 Rebellion, in charge of the repressive forces of Salamanca.

This appointment was a reward to Doval for having his famous column of phalangists and civil guards destroyed at Navalperal de Pinares by the Government militia, when rebel leaders accused Doval of being incompetent and a coward.

Doval selected twenty-five of his followers to form a special squad, which was known in Salamanca as the «Black Squad». They are responsible for the majority of the 15,200 murders committed in Salamanca. Their strong hand has reached out to all the social strata of Salamanca. They have gone as far as to «eliminate» five policemen who were considered «cool» to the nationalist cause.

Doval and his «Black Squad» have filled the Salamanca prisons with thousands of men against whom no concrete charges were made, except the usual one of being a «red», and these thousands of men are still in the prisons untried. They are made the object of abuses and tortures, and are awaiting the fate which will be allotted to them under the «elimination process», i. e. they are being classified. Some will be sent to the front as shock troops, others will be quietly «eliminated», and the rest will probably rot in prison.

On October 12, 1936, Sr. Unamuno at the University of Salamanca turned against the rebels, whom he had previously favored. This was his reply to Millán Astray's cry of «death to intelligence». He added «that they would only leave Spain crippled and infirm, like Millán Astray himself». For this Unamuno was dismissed from his post and two policemen were ordered by Doval to watch over him permanently.

They had instructions to follow Unamuno night and day and «not to lose sight of him for a single moment». They watched over his conversations, opened his private letters, interfered with

his visitors and his telephone calls and took note of all his movements.

Doval persecuted Unamuno to his death bed. When Unamuno became ill and was confined to bed, the policemen established their «observation post» at his bedside, and not even when he was in his death agony, when he opened his eyes and requested that the sinister watchers be removed, did they leave him. They left Unamuno only when he was buried.

When he was informed about Unamuno's death, Doval said: «It was high time already! Fortunately, he will not be able to give us any more trouble... This is a happy day for the nationalist cause. A tiger has died...!»

MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENCE

German Air Chief Working for Franco

On 2 March, 1938, the Ministry of National Defence issued the following note:

«The Ministry of National Defence has been able to prove that General Zander, head of the Condor Legion and of the other

special German forces which, together with units of the Italian Army, are invading Spanish soil at the invitation of the rebels, is the same General Zander who is listed as head of Group VI of the German Air Force.»

German Submarines Off the Spanish Coast

The following note was issued by the Ministry of National Defence on 3 March, 1938:

«The Ministry of National Defence, in a note of yesterday's date, made public the interesting fact that General Zander, the head of the Sixth Group of the Reich Air Force, is the commander of the German land forces which, with an abundant supply of modern war material, are taking part in the war of invasion which Spain is undergoing.

«Today the Ministry is able to divulge further information, which is absolutely trustworthy, about the cooperation by sea afforded by Germany, with a certain amount of dissimulation, in the international attack against Spain.

«It has been proved that for a year past — ever since February, 1937 — a large number of German submarines have been working off our coasts. The presence of the following has been recorded: U-28, U-29, U-30, U-33, U-34 and U-36. Recently the U-54 has also appeared. During the early months of 1937 part of these submarines were working off the Cantabrian coast together with an arsenal ship, the «Wollin», which used both Pasajes and Ferrol as its base.

«The present bases of the

German submarines are Cádiz, the neighbourhood of Ceuta and a point in the Canary Islands.

«Besides the «Wollin» the following arsenal ships are taking care of the needs of the submarines in the harbours and off the coasts of Spain: the «Liselotte Essberger», the «Neptun», a former cableship, and the «August Schultze». All of these ships have on board mechanics and electricians as well as machinery for carrying out repairs. They also serve as deposits for food supplies, ammunition, torpedos and mines.

«The German Command has made the crews swear to maintain absolute silence regarding the movements of the arsenal ships.

«The «August Schultze», which was recently in Ceuta and Cádiz and which on various occasions went out to the high seas in response to appeals by radiotelegraph to supply torpedoes to submarines which had fired those they had on board, returned to Wilhelmshaven at the end of January. She left that port on February 12 after replenishing her supplies.

«The personnel of all these ships has taken part in the laying of mines in the Mediterranean and of nets at the entrance of certain harbours, vying with the Spaniards in this kind of operation.»

Ministry of Communications, Transport, and Public Works

Improvements in Irrigation

Señor Artigas Arpón, general Administrator of Hydraulic Works, of the Ministry of Communications, Transport, and Public Works, made the following statement to a correspondent:

«The General Administration of Hydraulic Works and Har-

bours has continued its work with an accelerated rhythm, in the conviction that the war will inevitably change the economy of the nation and that it is therefore necessary to equip the nation with extraordinary strength which will enable it to face the

Ministry of National Defence

Priests to Be Permitted to Join the Medical Corps

On March 1, 1938, the Minister of National Defence issued the following order:

«Letters have been received by the Ministry of National Defence from Catholic and Protestant clergymen who are included in the levies recently called up for military service. These men express their desire of enlisting in the Army, but at the same time do not wish to take up arms. They nevertheless declare themselves willing to run the same risks as the other soldiers in the performance of their military service.

Among the clergy in question are two Carmelite friars, who the fascists forced to enlist in the Foreign Legion and to fight in the front line. These men succeeded in crossing to the Republican trenches in the conviction that in loyalist territory their religious vows would be respected.

Therefore, taking into account the circumstances of our war in view of the Government's desire not to go against the conscience of those who have consecrated themselves to any religion, I order that:

The Recruiting, Mobilisation, and Instruction centres shall enter in the Army Medical Corps all those who prove themselves priests or monks, whatever may be their religion.»

(Signed) Indalecio Prieto

change and to triumph in the final stage, the gravest of all, that following the war. With this aim in mind, and as a result of the constant encouragement of Señor Giner de los Ríos, the Minister of Communications, Transport, and Public Works, the General Administration of Hydraulic Works and Harbours has carried out a number of useful small undertakings, has begun others on a larger scale, and is studying even more important projects.

«It would be tedious to enumerate all the things accomplished by the General Administration of Hydraulic Works one by one. More than a hundred water supply systems have been constructed for a similar number of towns. Work on fifty others is under way. A considerable number of projects for the improvement of irrigation have also been approved: more than fifty in the past five months. Projects for irrigating large areas of dry land are also under way. Forty projects for dams, canals, etc., have also been approved. In the fields of Cartagena (Murcia Province), for example, canals are being built on which some 3,000,000 pesetas have already been spent, which will irrigate an area of over 100,000 acres of land which was formerly useless because of the lack of water.

«A curious case is that of the town of Bechi, in the Province of Castellón. The farmers of that district organised the irrigation of the region through their own efforts. At the beginning of the century a private individual by the name of Burgalets succeeded in convincing these peasants of the need for erecting a dam. This dam was finally built. But soon after it was seen that instead of helping irrigation by storing water it made it even more difficult than before. The reactionary elements of the town made the philanthropist abandon his project. Now the General Administration of Hydraulic Works and Harbours has taken over control of this dam and has discovered the secret of its failure: a hidden channel at its foot drew the water away. The Ministry of Communications, Transport, and Public Works has undertaken to reconstruct the dam as well as the principal canals of the irrigation system of the region and then to hand them over to the peasants.

«In Catalonia, since the Central Government moved to Bar-

celona, a considerable number of projects for the construction of water supply and irrigation systems have been begun. The finished dam of Foix is now being completed. Many projects for new dams — that of Jordà, for example — have been approved. The valleys of the Ter and the Llobregat Rivers are being surveyed in order to work out a plan for the irrigation of the entire region of Lower and Upper Ampurdán by means of the Crespia dams, on the first of which work is already under way. A plan is also being studied to put the exploitation of the Llobregat waterfalls, from which most of the energy for the Catalan textile factories is obtained on a rational basis, and at the same time to improve the irrigation system of the Lower Llobregat valley.

«There is also a more ambitious scheme to irrigate the Levante region taking part of the water of the River Ebro after it has completed its work of furnishing power and water for irrigation further up its course. This project all the factors that go to make up an efficacious hydraulic policy: a sufficient supply of water, good agricultural land, a favourable climate, the existence of an agricultural population which is accustomed to intensive cultivation, etc., have been taken into account. The Levante irrigation project will benefit the province of Tarragona, Castellón, Valencia, Alicante, Murcia, Almería, on the coast, as well as those of Cuenca and Albacete inland. The results expected are as follows: the irrigation of 125,000 acres will be improved; 375,000 acres of arid land will become irrigated land.

«A Technical Committee has already been appointed, which presided over by the General Administrator of Hydraulic Works and Harbours, whose task it is to gather data and on the basis of this to work out a preliminary project for the Government's approval.»

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