

the near-fascist elements to endeavor to strike down the mass opposition. It is more probable that De Valera, from the force of circumstances, will draw closer to Cosgrave, while a powerful left wing will develop in Fianna Fail.

The menace to the Irish people in the present situation is serious and urgent. But at the same time the conditions are developing, if the political leadership can be realized, for the development of a broad mass front, based on the unity of the labor movement with the left wing or mass membership of Fianna Fail and the republican elements, and combining the national with the social struggle. The strengthening and revival of the labor movement is the essential first step to this. It is in the development of this process that the Communist Party of Ireland will be able to build its forces and eventually realize its role of leadership.

I SPEAK TO CATHOLICS

A Priest Raises His Voice for Spain

FATHER MICHAEL O'FLANAGAN

I HAVE come across the Atlantic Ocean to raise my voice on behalf of the cause of human liberty in Spain. The fight that is being waged in Spain today is like the fight that was waged in this country at the time of the American Revolution. The American Revolution was carried out by George Washington and the patriotic rank and file of

the American people. They were opposed by the wealthy, privileged classes of the country supported by a foreign army. The part that General Franco is playing today in Spain was played by Lord Cornwallis at the time of the American Revolution. Those who are on the side of General Franco today would, if they had been alive at that time, be on the side of Cornwallis and King George III. All the hard, stupid, lying things they are saying today about the forces of the Spanish republic, they would be saying then about the forces of the young American republic.

The fight in Spain today is like the fight in Ireland in 1798. The men who are fighting for the liberty of Spain today are like the men who fought for the liberty of Ireland then. General Franco, the butcher of Spain today, is like Lord Castlereagh, the butcher of Ireland in 1798. General Franco in Spain today is like Oliver Cromwell in Ireland three hundred years ago. Just as Cromwell butchered the women and children in Drogheda and Wexford in 1649, so Franco butchers men and children of Guernica and Barcelona. He has kept on butchering them until his friend and all-powerful supporter, Pius XI, has been compelled to utter a word of reproach.

If you were alive in 1776 and if you had taken the side of England in America, would not your descendants today be rightly ashamed of you? If you had a great-grandfather who had endured the winter at Valley Forge and crossed the Delaware with George Washington, would you not be proud of him today? If you had one who was a traitor like Benedict Arnold, you would be ashamed of him today.

I did not come here in any light mood. I knew what I had to face. I was here a year ago on the same mission. I know what I had to face then. I expect to meet with more or less of the same thing now. I do not face it without a grave sense of responsibility.

My coming is not entirely due to my love and admiration of the heroic defenders of liberty in Spain. This war does not concern Spain alone. It concerns Europe as well and indeed the world as a whole. But the most intimate reason why I have come is concern for the good name and the welfare of my own Irish people. The Irish people have proved themselves great lovers of liberty in all parts of the world. At home, in Ireland, they have fought for liberty. Here in America they played a noble part in the fight for liberty. They gave considerable help to more than on



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