

of government operation of the closed collieries. If the companies can't keep the pits open, they argue, and if people need much more coal than they can afford, then why not let the government put men to work digging anthracite so that the increased supply will lower the price and raise consumption?

The United Mine Workers of America has long demanded nationalization of the mines. It takes time to achieve this program. Until then, the anthracite region has need of relief—more relief than at present—and a housing program. Until then, the miners will continue to bootleg. And the people of Schuylkill County add that they will also fight Judge James because, after all, he is the voice of the seven men, the ten railroad companies, and Messrs. Baker, Rockefeller, and Morgan.

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AID FOR SPAIN

THE solidarity ship sent by the International Coordination Committee for Aid for Spain arrived in Valencia amidst the greatest enthusiasm of the population. The ship, which was loaded with hundreds of tons of sugar, soap, chocolate, beans, bacon, tinned meat, writing materials, and five million cigarettes, had been equipped by the Spanish Aid Committees of Argentina, Scotland, France, Switzerland, England, Czechoslovakia, Finland, and Holland.

A delegates' meeting representing 12,000 trade unionists in Puteaux (suburb of Paris) adopted a resolution in favor of the restoration of free trade with the Spanish republic. On May 29 a regional collection day for the wounded of the Spanish republican army was carried out in Marseilles, on the initiative of the Spanish Aid Committee. The district secretariat of the Union Populaire Italienne of the Alpes Maritimes Departement has commenced collections in order to send a motor lorry with food for the Garibaldi Brigade in Spain.

Collections were carried out in 149 schools in Berne, with a total of 54,000 children, in aid of distressed Spanish children. The collections brought in forty-six tons of food to the value of about sixty thousand francs, and about sixty thousand articles of clothing and underwear to the value of eighty-one thousand francs. Besides this, 24,400 francs were collected in cash.

The collecting campaign in aid of the Spanish children, carried on by the Swedish Women's Committee, which had raised 181,628 crowns by January 1, has since collected a further 15,000 crowns. Since June last year the committee has been maintaining two hundred Spanish children in two children's homes, and since March of this year it has been supplying food as well to 170 mothers and children in Denia. The committee of the Danish Inter-Trade Union has contributed five thousand crowns to the Spain Committee of the Iatteotti Fund in Denmark.—INTERNATIONAL PRESS CORRESPONDENCE, June 4.

OIL, SWASTIKA, CEDILLO

Democratic Mexico Prepares Her Defense

ENRIQUE GUTMANN

IF ONE investigates the financial backgrounds of Italian fascism and German National Socialism, one finds that these "mass movements arisen from below" were brought up, fed, and fattened from above, and that the creators and promoters of the fascio and the swastika, who always are hidden behind the scenes of what is going on in the world at any moment, of course, are to be sought in the camp of the big money magnates and monopolists.

Among the monopolists of the world Sir Henri Deterding, chairman of the Royal Dutch-Shell trust, the biggest oil concern, occupies a peculiar position, not only as a factor in financial power, but chiefly as a capitalist political actor and wirepuller. Married to a Russian princess, whose relatives had owned extensive and rich oil fields in the Caucasus but had lost all these holdings in the Russian Revolution, Deterding became one of the worst Bolshevik-haters. He swore an oath to destroy Bolshevism, to exterminate Socialism in general, wherever it might raise its head. Today we know that Deterding's money played a prominent part in the Black Shirts' glorious "March on Rome" and throughout the whole rise of Hitlerism. Sir Henri Deterding, one of the principal financiers of German and Italian fascism, may be regarded today as the most powerful ally of Hitler and Mussolini.

For nearly three decades now Mexico has been going through a tremendous process of recasting its economic, social, and political foundations. This process, the historical course of which has been marked by revolution, rebellion, and putsch, could only be of service to the capitalist interests in Mexico so long as it resulted in the rebellious forces within the country tearing each other to pieces. It became dangerous only when the revolution had been led into orderly channels, when it was given a goal and a direction, when it became a program and thus obtained inner and outer impetus of far-reaching significance. This occurred when Gen. Lazaro Cárdenas took over the presidency of the United States of Mexico in 1934, setting up a six-year plan as the basis for the acts of his government and immediately proceeding to the realization of this plan, clearing all political and bureaucratic obstacles (Calles, Garrido Canabal, Morones, etc.) out of the way.

The astonishing successes of Cárdenas, who managed to draw all the forces willing to help build up the country into united, pro-

gressive action and who far outdid the prescriptions of the six-year plan during the very first stages of his administration, be it in the field of agrarian policy, education, or public health, the emancipation of the working class, or the struggle for the political and economic independence, domestic and foreign, of the republic—these successes naturally alarmed the eternal opponents of all progress. Sadly enough, they could no longer count upon the friendly help of the United States government, which in the past had so often been ready to interfere in Mexico's domestic affairs. So they had to look elsewhere for allies. Mexican reaction found these allies in the German Embassy and in the oil companies, headed by the biggest company, El Aguila, which is nothing but a subsidiary of Royal Dutch-Shell, i.e., one of Deterding's branch firms.

German National Socialism, the most expansive, most aggressive, and ablest in matters of secret propaganda and organization, was selected by the fascist international to "prepare the terrain" in Mexico, as it had already done in Eastern Europe, in Spain, in Brazil, and the rest of the world. The connections of the Calles group, and the close connections of Nicolas Rodriguez, the leader of the Gol Shirts, to the German Embassy in the Calle de Cordoba, which have existed ever since the establishment of the Calles administration have received documentary proof long ago. But all too soon did Plutarco Elias Calles, upon whom such great hopes had rested at Hitler's *Mein Kampf* in his hand. Nicolas Rodriguez, on the other hand, was shoved to the background because of his "unpopularity." There was but one candidate left to serve worst came to worst, as a tool against the press of the Mexican people. This candidate Gen. Saturnino Cedillo, a personal friend of the President, Minister of Agriculture Cárdenas' cabinet, an experienced old but at the same time a provincial and feudal ruler in the style of the Middle Ages, a protector of the clergy and persecutor of Socialist teachers in "his state" of San Luis Potosi, which he had ruled despotically the past eighteen years with the aid of a thousand armed peasants.

So "for lack of a prominent figure, turnino Cedillo was selected by Mexican foreign reaction as the leader of the counter-movement—under the most unfavorable circumstances imaginable. On the one side head of the government, in possession

"technical equipment," with a newly organized army largely behind him, and supported by all the workers and peasants of the country, enjoyed a national popularity such as hardly any President of Mexico had ever had in the past. On the other, a man who is known to be unable to speak or write correctly, who had a certain strength in only one of the twenty-eight states, but who did embody the desires of all reactionary forces: the *Cristeros* of Guanajuato, the *hacendados* of Laguna and Yucatan, the industrialists of Monterey, the oil men of Huasteca, brawling students, and a few discontented generals.

But although the relation of forces was still unfavorable two years ago, time might possibly bring some advantage, if it were correctly utilized. And it was utilized. Systematic propaganda, paid for from "secret" funds, was made for Cedillo in almost all of the big daily newspapers of the republic, most of which are still rightist in their tendency today. The refrain of this propaganda was that the only state in which order and contentment prevailed was San Luis Potosi, Cedillo's territory, that real constructive work was being done solely in the Ministry of Agriculture, and that, on the other hand, Cárdenas, with his radical policy of dividing the land among the peasants, handing over industries to workers' cooperatives, and nationalizing plants and institutions of public importance, was only steering a course for national impoverishment.

This propaganda had a certain degree of success, particularly among the petty bourgeoisie. It was powerfully aided when months of crisis set in in Mexico's economic life after the distribution of the cotton area in Tlaxcala and the chicle fields in Yucatan, owing to an insufficient crop and an inadequately prepared organization. Now was the time for action. With the aid of German export firms, which re, of course, "nothing but" respectable representatives of highly respected machinery manufacturers, large quantities of arms were smuggled in through the oil ports, via the Gulf of Mexico, via Campeche, and across the Guatemalan border, and brought to San Luis Potosi. These arms included airplanes, machine guns, motor trucks, anti-aircraft guns, Thompson machine guns, hand grenades, air bombs, enormous quantities of explosives.

About this time Cedillo resigned from post as Minister of Agriculture and withdrew into so-called retirement, residing on his estate, "Palomas," and waiting for a favorable opportunity to strike. He had already been

German army instructors, flying instructors, chemists, and engineers to aid in preparing for the putsch. It was now "recommended" that this "staff" be permanently accompanied by political organizers, trained in the National Socialist Party of Germany.

At the beginning of this year the oil crisis, which had been latent for years, entered the stage. The companies refused to comply with the demands of their workers for an improvement of the economic and hygienic conditions of labor. The Mexican arbitration board declared the trade unions' demands to

be justified. The companies then entered into open rebellion against the Mexican government, not only refusing to comply with the arbitration award, but stopping all tax payments to the government. Their intentions were obvious. They wanted to bring about an economic catastrophe, cause the fall of the Cárdenas administration, and thus place a fascist regime in power. Sir Henri Deterding and the German Embassy were working at top speed.

But the progressive government of Mexico was on the alert. It had learned from the case of Spain: while the masses of the population were summoned to national unity and transfers and shifts of army units were made throughout the country, President Lazaro Cárdenas proclaimed the properties of all the oil companies on Mexican soil to be vested in the people.

The whole country was shaken to its foundations. Together with the class-consciousness of the proletariat, the patriotic feelings of nearly all the sections of the population were aroused. A tremendous united front was formed against foreign imperialism.

To be sure, the economic consequences were grave. Deterding and his allies made use of their world power, closing all oil markets, depreciating the Mexican peso, with the resultant onset of a crisis of confidence, which was to affect all trade with Mexico.

And now, precisely now, was the time to strike "militarily," before the country could recover from its momentary economic "depression."

The putsch was set for May 18. On May 16 the German Ambassador to Mexico, Baron Ruedt von Collenberg, left for a "vacation"; he went to San Francisco, where the German Consul-General, Manfred von Killinger, directs the American headquarters for Nazi espionage. The general representatives of the oil companies were holding an "executive session" in Tampico.

Early in the morning of May 18 Lazaro Cárdenas appeared in the capital of San Luis Potosi accompanied only by a little group of his closest associates. A double file of soldiers and loyal trade-unionists was hastily formed from the railroad station to the governor's palace to protect the President's entry. But his loyal adherents waited in vain. Surrounded by the few members of his staff, Cárdenas marched to the center of the city by a roundabout route, passing through many of the streets on foot and thus showing the whole world that he did not need any protection, "because he whose weapons are peace and conciliation has no enemy." The impression was overwhelming. The Cedillistas sneaked out of the city and fled to the mountains. The first battle had been lost; the putsch was bound to collapse. Don Saturnino realized this himself, for he concealed himself at once in the Sierra Huasteca, leaving his adherents to their distressing fate. Since the population of San Luis did not want to rise in arms, but rather welcomed the President as their liberator from long years of slavery, there was nothing left for Cedillo's few mercenaries to do but to

surrender willingly or unwillingly. Now "mopping-up operations" are taking place.

National reaction and international fascism have suffered a signal defeat in Mexico. But it would be altogether false to assume that the danger of an overturn has been banished once and for all. On the contrary, it must be expected that the eternally discontented elements, the expropriated capitalists, the putschists and adventurers, together with their followers, will rally and reorganize their forces. Money and aid from the outside will always be available.

Lazaro Cárdenas knows this. He also knows that he has only two years of his term of office left. That is why he is making haste to foil the plans of the conspirators who want to disturb and block Mexico's development.

While the remnants of the rebels are being smoked out of their haunts bit by bit and put out of harm's way, while order is slowly being restored in the state of San Luis Potosi—in a wholly bloodless manner—the President is already undertaking a new tour of the country, which will take him throughout the North of Mexico. This is not a mere matter of inspection or for purposes of inspection, but a trip of historic significance. The most important problems of the people are to be solved right now.

Only two years! But in these two years Mexico must be prepared politically and economically to a degree that will guarantee its success in resisting future attacks of fascism and its manifold accomplices.

FRANCO'S P.O.U.M.

How the Trotskyist POUM has worked directly with Franco's agents to carry on espionage, sabotage, and demoralization in loyalist Spain is a story spread through innumerable documents seized by the Spanish police in a series of raids on spy rings. Photostats of many of these documents, with a summary of the evidence, are contained in a pamphlet, *Trotskyism in the Service of Franco*, by Georges Soria, recently issued by International Publishers.

Even before the fascist uprising, as early as October 1935, "White Russian organizations and the Trotskyites of Paris and Berne," according to one of the letters seized, kept the Rightist leader, Gil Robles, "informed on the machinations of the Communists with regard to Spain." The "program of collaboration" in this espionage service embraced nine points, including reports on Spanish "cells" of the International Labor Defense, and on "People's Front movements in France that may have repercussions in Spain."

With the beginning of the war, Trotskyist activity extended to sabotage and attempted assassination. A Franco spy has described the work, in documents uncovered by the police when they broke up an extensive espionage organization last October. The evidence shows that POUM members of the group succeeded