

Military Dictatorship Will Follow Rebel Success in Spain, Gen. Franco Declares

JAY ALLEN

Chicago Daily Tribune (1923-1963); Jul 29, 1936;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers Chicago Tribune (1849 - 1986)

pg. 2

Military Dictatorship Will Follow Rebel Success in Spain, Gen. Franco Declares

BY JAY ALLEN.

[Chicago Tribune Press Service.]

TANGIER, International Zone, Morocco, July 28.—“Is your movement monarchist?” I asked Gen. Francisco Franco, leader of the Spanish rebellion, at his headquarters in Tetuan, Spanish Morocco.

“No,” he answered, “there is no question of the régime, but the content of it.”

“Is it Fascist?”

“No. It is Nacionalista Espanolista --Nationalist Spanish.”

“But young Primo de Rivera's Phalanx [Fascist organization] is fighting with you.”

“So are all other patriotic elements.”

Military Dictatorship.

“Would your government be a military or civilian dictatorship?”

Franco, hardly five feet tall and only 43, smiled:

“A military dictatorship and, later on, we would have a plebiscite for the nation to decide what it wanted,” he said.

By the eyes and the words of the Spanish legionnaires who directed me from Tangier to Tetuan yesterday and back again, I could see that they worship this gentle voiced and studious military genius who was the prodigy of the Spanish army—the youngest lieutenant, the youngest captain, and the youngest general.

But this man, with high forehead, getting higher; beak nose, pointed chin, and tiny hands and feet, is the backbone of the rebel cause.

As we talked the radio droned:

“Orders of Gen. Franco. The families of mutinous sailors of the pirate loyal fleet will be arrested at Cadiz and held as hostages, and if any more of our ports are bombarded, they will be executed. Our glorious troops are advancing on Malaga.”

“Save Spain from Reds.”

Malaga, Gen. Franco said, is just a way station on the road to Madrid. He declared there will be no lute in the advance on Madrid—whatever the cost.

“I will save Spain from the communists and will pacify it.”

No western power can ignore the gravity of the situation “if there is a Red Spain using its strategic position to spread propaganda in Morocco and Algiers, and even in America. The interests of Great Britain, Italy, and France are at stake.”

Gen. Franco described the régime which followed the revolution of 1931 as artificial because it promised a republic of priests and monks. The present régime, he said, plays to masses which want a Red revolution. As a result, half of Spain is persecuted.

Preached in Schools.

“The cause of revolution was preached in schools, fields, and workshops. They [the régime] have followed Lenin's doctrines to demoralize the fighting forces, since no revolution is possible while they are intact,” Franco asserted. “Since February [when leftists won the elections] they

have followed communist international's advice to lull bourgeois suspicions while speeding the work of disintegration.”

Gen. Franco said the rebellion came now because after a two months' wait “we would have had no army or navy and Spanish economy would have been in a state of collapse. There is enough left for us to build a new Spain.”

He admitted that the action of enlisted men of the navy overthrowing their rebel officers at the start was a temporary setback, but said he would bring ships around from the northern coast to clear the strait of Gibraltar.

Madrid Régime Fades.

The régime in Madrid is disintegrating, Franco said, “because they follow a materialistic cause. We follow an ideal. This is a struggle between Spain and the Reds.

“President Azana and his Republicans are hogtied by Moscow. They are prisoners of the Red votes they got in February. They take their orders from the Reds like the so-called Republican captains of the fleet take orders from Red committees and the republic's minister at Tangier.

“The republic is communistic already. It is not a question of two camps losing to a third. We win or Spain goes under. There will be anarchy and barbarism.

“I will pacify Spain and put a stop to hunting down one class of citizens by another. Spaniards are tired of politics and politicians.”