

Wall St. And Rome Are Against Mexico

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CATHOLICS thruout the United States are being asked to pray for Mexico. It is obvious, however, that these prayers are not directed to any supernatural being. They are political prayers. Everyone of them is part of an ingenious religio-political dumb show, designed to mobilize all possible forces behind an attack upon the Mexican government.

The church in Mexico represents black reaction. Its interests are identical with the great landowning aristocracy, in support of which it has consistently opposed every move of the poor peasants to secure land and every move of the workers to free themselves from the domination of the ruling classes. The church supported the counter-revolutionary coup d'etat of Victoriano Huerta in 1912. It supported the revolt of Adolfo de la Huerta in 1924. It is trying to organize a counter-revolution against President Calles now.

Because of the reactionary role of the catholic hierarchy in Mexico, the Mexican constitution of 1917 prohibited the church from owning property, prohibited foreign-born priests from officiating in Mexico (two-thirds of all priests were foreigners), limited the total number of priests, excluded priests from participation in politics and secularized education. Calles has done no more than put these provisions into effect.

THE church has responded by organizing the "League for Religious Defense," Archbishop Mora y del Rio declaring explicitly that its object is "to create a grave situation and to paralyze the social and economic life of the country." The first step in this program has already been taken. An interdict has been laid upon Mexico. All public religious services have been discontinued; priests have been ordered to refrain from celebrating mass.

It is a reactionary political general strike of the clergy.

But despite its considerable strength in certain sections, the power

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of the church among the masses of Mexico has been broken. It is the international phase of the conflict that makes it so serious.

According to the public admission of Archbishop Mora y del Rio, it was the pope of Rome who advised the interdict upon the country. In the United States there has been an undoubted rapprochement between the pope and the dominant capitalistic interests, as was evidenced at the recent eucharistic congress, in the glorification of which protestants and Jews participated—so ostentatiously in fact that there could be no doubt that the congress was not Roman catholic, in the religious sense, but political.

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IT is no accident that the eucharistic congress occupied itself so extensively with assaults upon Mexico. It is no accident either that the interdict from Rome follows closely after.

The eucharistic congress came at a time when American imperialism was carrying on its ruthless offensive against Mexico's land and oil laws. Wall Street and Washington, no less than the catholic church, is interested in fomenting counter-revolution in Mexico. Imperialism and reaction are inseparable bedfellows. It is now plain that the rapprochement of American capitalists with the catholic church was largely for the purpose of utilizing the church as a political instrument for the subjugation of Latin-American countries.

That is why the present church conflict in Mexico receives such prominence in the United States. That is why public "praying" is conducted here.

The whole move bears the unmistakable earmarks of having been initiated in the United States, to provide an entering wedge for American interests eager to weaken the Calles regime.

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IN the present situation, Calles must rely more than ever upon the Mexican masses. They are sure allies against imperialism and counter-revolution. It is, therefore, unfortunate from all points of view that he should at this very moment be engaged in a maneuver to break up the organization of the Mexican railroad workers. These dubious maneuvers must stop if Calles is to have the solid support which he unquestionably should have in his struggle against reaction. The Mexican government is making a sincere fight against imperialism. It must at the same time demonstrate its confidence in the masses of its own people.

Never was the Mexican government in greater need of support. The imperialist and reactionary elements are united on an international scale. The Mexican clergy would never dare to go as far as they have gone if they were not stimulated from outside.

The Mexican archbishop now threatens to excommunicate President Calles and all his subordinates. And this—no more than the carefully organized public prayers—is intended to influence a non-earthly god.