

*"Having been helped to power by Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany, and having patterned itself along totalitarian lines, the present regime in Spain is naturally the subject of distrust by a great many American citizens. . . . Most certainly we do not forget Spain's official position with and assistance to our Axis enemies at a time when the fortunes of war were less favorable to us. . . . These memories cannot be wiped out. . . ."*

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT (letter to Ambassador Armour in Madrid, March 10, 1945.)

## *Two Speeches*

### I. ROBERT THOMPSON

**F**RIENDS: YOU WHO ARE here tonight are but a small section of multitudes throughout the world who are determined that peace shall triumph over war. Listen, then, to the flat, cynical opinion of one of your sworn enemies. I quote: "Peace does not exist. Peace is a constant preparation for war."

Was this Hitler speaking—the man who destroyed Germany? Was it Mussolini, whom the Italian people hung up by the heels in the streets of Milan? It might well have been either but those particular lines were spoken by their ardent admirer, Francisco Franco, the new puppet of American imperialists. By their friends shall ye know them.

Yes, Francisco Franco is now the friend of the Truman administration. No one can say today that the evil road down which the men of Wall Street are trying to drive us is not fully illuminated. Its windings and twistings, its ultimate destination, are fully exposed to public view.

Franco is the butcher of the Spanish people. And American reaction has finally lost touch with reality when it considers such a man a potent ally. Yet it must be said that he is a logical addi-

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tion to the motley crew of Wall Street puppets. He is a worthy cohort of Syngman Rhee, Chiang Kai-shek and the defeated Nazi Wehrmacht generals.

Every last one of this crowd screams for war against the Soviet Union and the peoples' democracies. Why? Because it is only through imperialist war that they can hope for survival in the face of their own peoples' struggle for a better life. Say this about Franco—at least he is consistent. He has not changed his line. His regime is still the same as when the General Assembly of the United Nations condemned it in 1946 in these words. I quote: "In origin, nature, structure and general conduct the Franco regime is a fascist regime patterned on, and established largely as a result of aid received from Hitler's Nazi Germany and Mussolini's Fascist Italy." It has not changed one iota since May 12, 1949 when Dean Acheson said, and I quote: "It was and is a fascist government and a dictatorship."

So it is not Franco's policy that has changed. It is *our* policy that has changed—from a Roosevelt policy for peace and against fascism to a Truman policy for war and against democracy. And now the ruling class of our country is desperately wooing not only Franco but all his old comrades in arms.

It is a commentary on our times that the wooing is not without its set-backs. These fugitives from Stalingrad marched once before against the peoples of the world under the banner of anti-Communism and they are a little skittish about marching again. The Wehrmacht generals would, of course, dearly love to strut again before their troops. But where are their troops? The great truth of 1951 is that the troops—or the people who could make up these troops—do not want war; they want peace.

The majority of the world's peoples, in fact, want no part of American imperialism and its drive toward war. They are not afraid to fight but they will fight only for their own liberation—not to enslave others. The Koreans, the Chinese, the Indonesians, the Greeks and the Spanish guerrillas have proven that, and they will continue to prove it till their freedom is won. It is these people and people like them who are our allies in the struggle to

prevent a third world war. As they sustain their fight for liberation, they retard the outbreak of general war. As they match their skill and courage against the mechanized imperialist armies, they puncture the chauvinist delusions of the would-be war lord, MacArthur.

However, to utterly frustrate the plans of our own imperialists, to save the lives of millions of young Americans—men like those dying so uselessly in Korea—to keep atomic destruction from raining upon our own cities, we Americans must be as persistent and as courageous as these partisans of peace and freedom in other lands. Yes, as persistent and as courageous in our fight for peace as were the men of Valley Forge in their determination to win freedom.

Friends, only he who fights for peace has faith in mankind. We have such faith. Because we have it we know that the drive of our ruling class towards atomic world war can be frustrated. The world of 1951 is closely knit. It is too closely knit for the comfort of those who would dismember it with atomic bombs.

The Spanish guerrilla fights for us and for world peace when he fights Franco. We fight for him and for world peace when we call the American people to defeat every deal with the fascist butcher, Franco. If the cause of world peace is important to us, we cannot relax, but rather must we intensify our support to the anti-Franco struggle of the Spanish people.

## 2. JOHN GATES

**F**RIENDS: WE WHO FOUGHT in Spain learned early and well what fascism is. We learned that fascism can exist only through a policy of "Divide and Conquer." Above all, we learned that fascism can be defeated and that a united people can easily frustrate the aims and objectives of the fascists. Therefore it is no accident that we who fought in Spain were among the first to suffer attack by those reactionaries who would drive our country into war.

Dr. Edward K. Barsky, who ministered to the wounded in

demanding that we withdraw our troops from Korea and negotiate a peaceful settlement with China and the Soviet Union.

No matter where one looks in America today, the signs of repression are blatant. The efforts of the workers to improve their standard of living in the face of soaring prices are restricted by the Taft-Hartley law. The Un-American Committee harasses and imprisons those who fight for a decent life for all Americans. The attacks upon the Negro people are on the increase. A Negro veteran is murdered by a cop on the streets of New York. The cop goes free; but innocent Negroes are sentenced, every day, to twenty years at hard labor—or to death. The basic American rights of free speech and free thought are being denied.

This is the road to fascism. This is the road which, if it is not blocked, will lead to the establishment of a Franco-like regime in America. To you who are gathered here tonight it must be clear that Spain is not only a horrible symbol of what our American future will be like if fascism should come to power here, but that Spain is, above all, a noble and heartening example of the will and the ability of a people to resist fascism.

Though defeated by the overwhelming aid given Franco by Hitler and Mussolini, as well as by the refusal of the Western powers including the U.S.A. to aid Republican Spain, the Spanish people have continued the struggle against Franco for eleven long years. They have shown that so long as the will to resist exists, a people cannot really be conquered.

Franco may brag of his readiness to serve as a Wall Street mercenary in a third world war, but there is a tremendous gap between his promises and his ability to perform. The unceasing activity of the Spanish republicans guarantees that the Spanish people are our allies for peace, and that they deserve and need our support. The fight for civil rights and against creeping fascism in our own country is a part of that same fight.

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## TWO SPEECHES

Spain, recognized immediately that the attack upon the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee was a concrete step toward an American fascism. For his resistance to this attack he and ten fellow members of the executive board of that organization went to jail.

Almost immediately thereafter, the Hollywood Ten were attacked because they insisted that their political opinions were their own. For exercising this fundamental constitutional right they received sentences of from six months to one year in prison. And again, it was no accident that one of these gallant ten fought honorably on behalf of the democratic government of Spain.

Bob Thompson and I are proud to be members of the National Committee of the Communist Party. We are facing sentences of up to five years in prison for our progressive thoughts. If this attack upon Communists for what they think is not defeated by the American people, a period of thought control will be initiated in America. The thinking of every democratic and peace-minded American will be censored. Today those who rule our nation are determined to outlaw even the very thought of peace.

The differences between the repressive actions of our government and those of Franco Spain are rapidly disappearing. In Spain they outlawed the Stockholm Petition that demands the outlawing of the atomic weapon. Yet even there, thousands of signatures were collected. Here in America the Petition was also outlawed—not by governmental decree but by terrorizing and intimidating those who signed and those who organized the collection of signatures.

And what is behind the declaration of a state of "national emergency"? Does an emergency really exist? Are our shores being attacked? Are the vital interests of the American people really in danger?

The answer is obvious. No. One of the major reasons for the declaration of an emergency is the government's determination to suppress the ground swell of popular opinion which is