

CURRENT HISTORY

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FASCIST FRENCH MOROCCO?

*(Will French Morocco be the spring-board of France's Fascists, just as Spanish Morocco was Franco's?)—
Editor's Note.*

In an interview which General Noguès, governor general of French Morocco, gave to the reactionary *L'Époque* of Paris, concerning Italian and German propaganda in that colony, he used the expression "These nations have found here a propitious terrain."

He could not have been more explicit. For once, at least, Mr. Noguès did not lie, because it is he who has made that region receptive toward Fascist propaganda.

Mussolini made it known in Morocco that the Italian state is paying all expenses for the support and tuition of several hundred Moroccan Arab students in Italian universities. Thus Morocco is becoming a propitious terrain for Fascist propaganda, because Mr. Noguès has refused all requests for scholarships made by young Moroccans who want to continue their studies in French universities.

Mussolini made it known in Morocco that Italy protects Islam in its colonies and the terrain becomes propitious for this Fascist propaganda because Mr. Noguès, great protector of the Catholic Church, has authorized a procession of bishops and of the Holy Sacrament in a Mohammedan country, prohibiting at the same time the celebration of a traditional Mohammedan holiday.

Mussolini floods Morocco with newspapers and pamphlets and albums in Arabic, which sing the praises of the Fascist regime in its colonies, and so the terrain is becoming propitious for these panegyrics because Mr. Noguès took it upon himself to prohibit all counter-propaganda. While Fascist literature in Arabic may circulate freely all over Morocco, under the vigilant and protective eye of the police, Mr. Noguès has prohibited in Morocco the spread of anti-Fascist literature in Arabic, particularly the pamphlet "Italian Atrocities in Libya," which describes the crimes committed against the tribes of Tripolis and Cyrenaica. And then Mr. Noguès has the audacity to justify his persecution of the Moroccans by the existence of Fascist propaganda, which he encourages, while prohibiting propaganda opposing Fascism.

If all these facts were not sufficient to show that the provocateur Noguès

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is working for international Fascism by his systematic preparation of the "propitious terrain for Fascist propaganda," those who prefer to judge situations by men instead of by facts, shall examine the records of the men whom Mr. Noguès has entrusted with the task of carrying out his policies, the men whom he has appointed to the most important offices of the State.

These are, among others: Colonel Mellier, Director of Political Affairs, royalist. Colonel Mellier belonged to



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the inner circle of the former Governor Lyautey, and just as all its members, he had the same royalist opinions as his chief. This was the reason he was removed by one of the civil governors who followed Lyautey.

It was Noguès who recalled and reinstated Colonel Mellier and, by entrusting him with the direction of political affairs, made him the most important functionary of all Morocco.

General Blanc, chief of the region of Fez, as ultra-reactionary as Colonel Mellier, belonged to the circle of Lyautey and due to his reactionary opinions was dismissed by one of the civil governors.

It was Noguès who recalled him and who by entrusting him with the command of the most important region of Morocco, established him as the organizer of provocation. In his role as provocateur, he does not hesitate to act in person. Thus, even before the present events, in a public street, he slapped the face of a prominent Mohammedan guilty of not having greeted him. This caused a protest from the Socialist deputy, Hussel, which, however, no attention was paid

Among the civilian employees, Mr. Mazoyer, Director of the Press Bureau appointed by Mr. Noguès, is a *for camelot du roi*. His assistant, Mr. Simonnot, also brought to Morocco Noguès, is a former editor-in-chief the anti-Jewish magazine, "*Saveur Vous?*"

—R. Louzon in the semi-monthly old syndi magazine *La Révolution Proletarienne*, Paris, cember 1937.