



# FREE

# CATALONIA

No. 10

New York, June-August, 1943



*CATALONIA* is situated on the northeastern side of the Iberian Peninsula, as shown in the above map. Catalan territories include all the shaded areas, which together form Greater Catalonia, with a population of over 6,000,000 people.

*CATALONIA* existed as a free Nation until 1714, when she was incorporated by force into the Spanish unitarian State.

*CATALONIA* has a language of its own—Catalan—belonging to the Romance group or neo-Latin languages and as independent from Spanish as French is from Portuguese or Italian.

*CATALONIA* aims to be again a Free Nation and to freely govern herself. After regaining her national independence, she will be in a position to consider a Confederacy of Iberian Free States, on the basis of a voluntary association of free peoples of the Iberian Peninsula, which would include Catalans, Basques, Galicians, Spaniards, and Portuguese, if they so desire. Catalonia identifies herself with the cause of the United Nations.



## THE HOUR OF FULFILLMENT

ON the second anniversary of the birth of the Atlantic Charter, President Roosevelt reiterated the lofty aims and ideals that inspired the present will to victory. This was timely and reassuring.

We find however, a certain sense of restlessness and almost of impatience when it comes to the application of these ideals. This creates a feeling of insecurity among the peoples who have placed their hopes for the future on the American historical record of fighting for freedom and liberty.

Sometimes it seems as though America is inclined to play the part of the breadwinner when it comes to supplying the wherewithal of the war but accepts a secondary position when it comes face to face with European complications. Then, although not abandoning the high purposes proclaimed, America seems a little puzzled at the reaction she finds to her acts and overtures. The danger of this is that it may again give rise to a sense of futility and recoiling into the dangerous shelter of isolationism.

It is not for us to discuss here the handling of the Darlan deal nor the long debate on the French Committee, the flirtations with Victor Emanuel and Badoglio and the concomitant delay which strengthened the German forces in Italy, but the fact remains that each one of these questions has deeply worried and even caused dismay among the peoples waiting for liberation. The oppressed peoples want clean-slate politics, clearly defined purposes, and positive decisive actions. The oppressed peoples, the really true friends of the United Nations, are not inclined toward cliques, deals, or combinations. They want to be done with back-room arrangements and the typical see-saw diplomacy.

Above all they do not want to be faced with a political "fait accompli" which, although imposed by well-meaning friends, is nevertheless an imposition. The oppressed peoples look to America as a guarantor of these hopes against old world European diplomacy. But sometimes it almost seems as though American diplomacy is being intrigued into that musty atmosphere.

The students of history know that when Washington spoke about avoiding entangling alliances, he was not expressing the foundation for isolationism but rather a true preoccupation about world problems as far as they concerned America. Now, more than ever, it is evident that America for its own self-interest has a definite stake in what happens and what is being done everywhere. It is time therefore, for America to study the problems of Europe and to search for solutions that will be in line with an enlightened self-interest as far as America is concerned. To relinquish that position is to endanger the future of America.

We can be sure that England and Russia will study the questions of the Mediterranean, of the Atlantic and of the Pacific according to their needs and interests. And rightly so. If we are not to have solutions in Europe that are strictly for England, or strictly for Russia or even strictly for America, but solutions that will bring peace and hope for all the peoples of Europe and of the world, we can only accomplish this if in all these discussions America is very much present and contributes through independent thinking and analysis based upon American self-interests. We are sure that in this manner the perhaps too-ready solutions offered by the other partners will be tempered and weighed and we will thus come closer to the fulfillment of the promises made by America.