



FREE

CATALONIA

No. 13

New York, September, 1944



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 STATUS OF CATALONIA AS A NATION

THE United States Delegation of the Catalan National Council (Catalan Government in exile) has addressed the following telegram to the President of the United States:

THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION OF THE CATALAN NATIONAL COUNCIL REPRESENTING THE CATALANS AT HOME AND IN EXILE, SINCERELY CONGRATULATES YOU FOR YOUR PLAN FOR A WORLD SECURITY UNION IN WHICH ALL PEACE-LOVING NATIONS, LARGE AND SMALL WILL HAVE A VOICE. WE HOPE THAT IN SETTING UP THIS MAGNIFICENT PLAN PROVISIONS WILL BE TAKEN FOR THE GUARANTY OF THE RIGHTS OF SMALL NATIONS SUCH AS CATALONIA WHOSE STATUS AS SUCH IS STILL UNRECOGNIZED AND WHICH SEE IN THE UNITED NATIONS VICTORY THE LONG-AWAITED DAY WHEN THEY WILL BE ABLE TO ESTABLISH THEIR NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE.

At this preliminary stage it would be premature to foresee whether Mr. Roosevelt's plan for a World Security Union or a New League of Nations will be fully adequate to cope with the complexity of problems that the post-war world will have to face. The agreements reached at the Security Conference at Dumbarton Oaks, however, seem to prove that the United States proposal represents at least a good start. On this ground, the Catalans have reason to feel enthusiastic and put their faith on this schematic formula which, if nothing more, favors an Assembly "composed of representatives of all peace-loving nations based on the principle of sovereign equality."

Nevertheless, we are very much concerned by a problem which calls for a previous solution. We will not deal at length here on certain startling statements, for instance, the Senate Connally resolution, in which it is said that the United States "will join with free and sovereign nations . . ."; or assume that in the future world there will still exist "unsovereign" nations. We know this could not be. But, we are frankly worried about the fate of officially unrecognized nations such as Catalonia whose status as a nation will have to be formally reestablished.

It would be simply catastrophic for the future peace of the world to disregard such problems as Catalonia's right to self-government or the right of other Iberian nationalities (Basque Country, Galicia) to national liberty, under the pretext that they have been unrecognized nations long before the Nazi-fascist aggression. The success of the proposed political reconstruction of Europe, demands immediate solution of this problem. It would be unfair and shortsighted to leave the solution of this conflict to a later decision of the International Court of Justice.

Since the right of self-determination does not prescribe with time, we cannot consider an obstacle to the solution of our national problem the fact that Catalonia has been (forcibly) incorporated to the unitarian Spanish state. The Atlantic Charter extends its benefit of freedom to all nations and peoples whose liberty has been taken away by violence or force. It does not establish time, and we logically assume that the recovery of freedom is contemplated both for the nations that lost it under the present Nazi aggression or under past aggressions, even if they were perpetrated three centuries ago.

"If there are Catalans who deny the national unity of Spain, this denial by itself is already an argument against the existence of such unity."

—RAFAEL ALTAMIRA, foremost Spanish Historian.