

GENERAL SCIENCE

# Rescue Being Sought For Anti-Fascists in France

## Mexico Takes Lead in Offering Asylum to Exiles Now In Danger Through Nazi Pressure on Conquered Land

ONE OF the world's largest rescues of political refugees, some 165,000 anti-fascists caught in capitulated France, is being planned, with hope that they may be evacuated from the Old World and brought to the Western Hemisphere.

Most important step so far is the action of the Mexican government in extending its diplomatic protection to all alien anti-fascists in France threatened by the terms of the French armistices with Germany and Italy. President Cardenas of Mexico himself initiated the measures necessary to allow Mexican consulates in France to give visas to such refugees, many of them intellectuals of international fame.

Mexico has made representations to the German and Italian governments, it is understood, to allow the removal from France of such anti-fascists, whose very lives are believed to be in danger if they fall into the hands of German and Italian police.

### U. S. Visas Offered

It is also understood that the State Department has forwarded to American consulates in France the names of about 150 prominent anti-fascist professional men and women to whom American visas can be given should they apply.

Of the 165,000 anti-fascists in France, about 160,000 are Republican Spaniards, victims of the Franco victory. These men, women and children have been in concentration camps in France, and they cannot return to Spain under Franco. Among them are probably 6,000 professional men and women, and perhaps 2,000 teachers. There are also between 4,000 and 5,000 other anti-fascists, most of them citizens of the axis powers, who cannot return to their countries. About 3,500 are members of the famous International Brigade of the Spanish war, the rest include those who fled from Germany and Italy for political reasons. Among them are perhaps 1,500 scientists, physicians and engineers.

American organizations have been urging American aid to implement and supplement the Mexican action. Among

the groups active are the American Committee for Democracy and Intellectual Freedom, the United American Spanish Aid Committee, and the Committee on Displaced Psychologists. Active as representatives are Dr. S. A. Mitchell, University of Virginia astronomer, Prof. Roland H. Bainton of the Yale Divinity School, Kenneth Leslie, editor of the *Protestant Digest*, Ralph Raeder and Douglas Jacobs, New York authors.

The possibilities of obtaining the cooperation of the Maritime Commission and the Red Cross in providing transportation of the refugee anti-fascists from France to Mexico are being explored.

### Cuba, Chile, Bolivia

Mexico is also understood to be suggesting to Cuba, Chile and Bolivia that those governments take a similar course of action to its own with regard to the refugees in France.

A petition has been presented to the State Department by the interested groups urging that the United States government offer similar protection to the refugees in France and to cooperate with Mexico in its planned action.

The whole matter of European refugees, particularly those in danger because of anti-fascist leanings, is expected to be discussed at the Havana conference of Pan-American nations. It may be possible to work out there ways and means of getting joint action.

The plight of anti-fascists in France is acute and urgent. When Great Britain and France went into the war, German citizens, even though they were refugees from Nazism, were generally put in concentration camps. There was danger that Nazi spies might be posing as refugees. So when France fell, the enemies of Hitler were conveniently to be found in these camps. The armistice terms required that they be handed over upon demand. No doubt Hitler and Mussolini would wreck vengeance upon these exiles who have fought totalitarianism from French soil. It is such a fate that the present effort is intended to prevent.

A classic case of protection being afforded to political refugees is the action of the Chilean Embassy at the fall of Madrid. About 70 or 80 Republican leaders wanted by Franco were taken into the Chilean Embassy just before the city fell, given Chilean diplomatic status and eventually gotten out of Spain.

*Science News Letter, July 27, 1940*

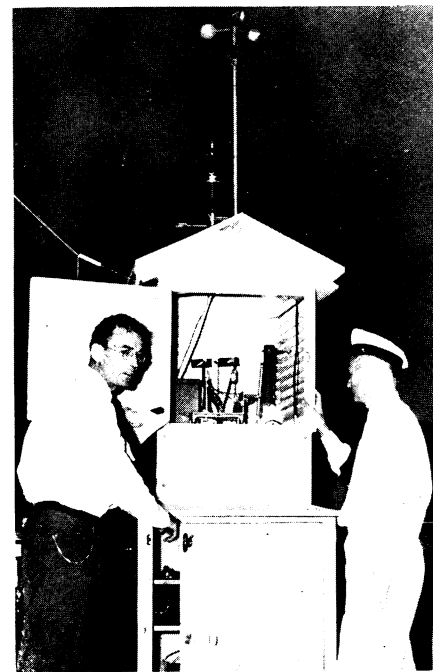
METEOROLOGY

## Weather Robots Planned For Inaccessible Spots

AUTOMATIC weather observing stations, untouched by human hands for months at a time, may soon be scattered around on high mountain peaks or at inaccessible sea locations so that Uncle Sam's weathermen can have complete and automatic radio reports on the changing weather, necessary for predictions.

A radio weather robot, developed by two national Bureau of Standards radio engineers, Harry Diamond and Wilbur S. Hinman, Jr., with the cooperation of the Naval Bureau of Aeronautics, has undergone a successful two-months test at Naval Air Station near Washington, D. C.

Radio messages that it sends out at predetermined intervals tell the barometric pressure, air temperature, relative



**ROBOT OBSERVATORY**

*This compactly housed equipment can keep unsupervised watch over the elements in lonely spots, reporting its observations automatically by radio.*