

If the German people is affected in this way, how much more are the occupied countries. Germany has been playing a desperate card, but the "collaborators" are not even playing their own card; it is a foreign card. In these countries the national cause has been the cause of rebellion, and popular energy could not be directed to the help of a cause for which it had no feeling. As the war advanced disorder spread in Norway, Denmark and France and spread in Yugoslavia.

The occupied countries collaborate with the Reich through the supplies they give, through their workmen and their troops, though the latter are really very few, since the various Foreign Legions on the Eastern Front have only a symbolic character. On the other hand, the workers amount to several million. They live in the comfortable barracks of the Todt organisation or in their own dwellings. Their pay is high, and most of them receive the special rations which are the meed of the heavy industry workers. But the discipline of the north is a great weight upon them, and, if the Danes and the Norwegians are not affected by it, one observes how the French, Belgians, Italians and Greeks are unhappy beneath its rigour. The workers from the south have a different idea of life. They have a carelessness and a certain grace in the way they live, and, as they are a very lively lot of persons and they are well over a million in numbers, they are a cog in the German wheel. True, they work in the factory, but afterwards they insist on drinking and amusing themselves. They don't carry out orders, and are always giving rise to endless street-rows. Besides, all, or almost all, the German black market is in their hands, and the said black market is something extraordinary. A kilog. of coffee costs 500 marks, which is the equivalent of over 2,000 pesetas. A kilog. of meat is worth 1,000 pesetas. A thousand and over any sort of suit of clothes.

Therefore within Germany, apart from their great value in the factories, a matter in which the Reich does not permit any trifling, the foreigners act in Germany as a dissolving influence. There is a German saying that "when the war ends we shall fight the foreigners to win Germany back."

There is also a story that in a tramway, when a man tried to whisper something in secret to another, the second replied: "Speak to me in German, and then no one will understand us." In the midst of a population which has sent almost all its men to the front, the foreigners, with their great variation of dress and of appearance, strike a note of what might be called picturesque disorder. The Germans have a quantity of "reactions" to them. This is particularly the case with men, since the women have a certain sentimental weakness for the exotic. Consequently the foreigners, in their turn, feel out of place and indulge in "reactions" against the Germans. In this manner a certain feeling of unity has been created between all the foreigners, which has produced most lamentable consequences. This is particularly notable amongst the Spanish workers. Thousands of Reds have gone from France, where once they took refuge, to work in Germany. Germany makes no political distinctions, as far as they are concerned. Also workmen have come directly from Spain. The two groups are obliged to meet together in offices and workshops, where the Spaniards meet each other, talk together, have rows, but find a certain point of political unity in their common dislike for work under the German ferrule. They have a sentimental source of unity, which is home-sickness, very severely felt by them in this northern climate, sunless and cloudy. This has brought the national Spaniards to understand something of the sufferings of the exiles. They talk together of so many things! . . . I can affirm that more than one man has been lost for our cause in consequence of his going to Germany.

The spirit of organisation always induces a counter-spirit of rebellion. The foreign workers live in a world of a free-booting type, out at elbows with the law. They see frequently prisoners of war passing by, and when a Frenchman or a Belgian thus perceives his compatriots under armed guard or working on roads, he doesn't feel exactly happy. In this manner the spirit of each people, through its representatives the workers, forms an antagonistic *bloc* against the dominating nation. Germany has tried to make profit out of the pity in the occupied countries for their own nationals who are prisoners of war, in order to obtain more men for her factories, and she has created the system of the "relief," by which every new worker coming to Germany sets free a prisoner of war. But there is no doubt at all that this system has not produced the results that were expected of it.

But where the problem of the occupied countries reaches its climax clearly is in those countries themselves. In their case we may speak of open resistance.