Memorandum to Mr. Messersmith:

I am an assiduous reader of Franco propaganda.

In "Spain," a magazine published here by the friends of Cardenas and edited by Prof. Francis X. Connolly of Fordham, I have run into an appeal that strikes me as very curious in the light of some of the so-called "Catholic protests that followed upon the President's appointment (and a very astute appointment it was, in my humble opinion) of the MacDonald wheat committee.

"Spain" appeals for Breac for children in Franco's Spain. Compare this with the fulmination of Mr. Merwin K. Hart in the Herald Tribune and the New York Sun of December 30. Mr. Hart "protests plan to feed Spain" (Sun headline). He says that no food is needed in Rebel Spain and that to send it to Loyalist Spain would be to prolong the war. "...another intervention by the United States on the side of Communist Spain." In the Herald Tribune of December 26, a U. P. dispatch from Saragossa said that the Insurgent authorities "did not need and did not want wheat."

In this respect please note the following from Harold Callender's piece in the New York Times of Sunday, the first: "While the Republican territory is on short rations, General Franco's territory is oversupplied with many kinds of food and has even exported wheat to Germany." My own information is to the effect that there is at the moment an artificial food shortage in Rebel Spain as the result of the shipments to Germany.

Did you see John Haynes Holmes' comeback to Father Cox when that worthy objected to food being sent to Loyalist Spain? I am attaching it herewith.