

1835

Enclosure to despatch no. 1514
dated December 19, 1946, from the
American Embassy, Buenos Aires,
entitled "Pamphlet Issued by the
Under Secretariat of Information
of the Argentine
Government".

TRANSLATION¹

BRITISH DEMOCRACY FOLLOWS THE COURSE
OF ARGENTINE DEMOCRACY

At the same time that certain unrestrained passions attempt to attack the democratic action of the Executive Power with accusations of totalitarianism which they pretend to see reflected in the Government's Plan submitted for the consideration of the Congress of the Nation, the English Government, through the intermediary of the President of its Council, Mr. Morrison, publicly announced the creation of a corps of specialized officials charged with planning the economy of Great Britain.

As it is not likely that the critics of the Argentine Plan will venture to qualify as totalitarian the position of British labor, the injustice of the criticism is proven and, consequently, the good position of the Argentine Government in regard to the problem under reference.

There will not lack commentators who will attempt to indicate that the mere coincidence of the plans for action of the Government is not sufficient to show a similarity of thought or of orientation, much less in equality in the content of the laws. Such reasoning lacks foundation because it is evident that problems and requirements of Great Britain are very different from those of our country. But the coincidence also occurs in the manner in which the problem has been met. A few words would be sufficient to demonstrate it.

General Perón in his message of June 4 to Congress, said:

"The impelling duty which the Constitution assigns to me of promoting general welfare implies, above all, the building up and maintenance in good order of a sound social and economic structure.

"Natural resources constitute the foundations of that structure. In order to take full advantage of them (natural resources), stimulation of production is required. Thus the industrialization of the country has advanced. Now an exaggerated interpretation should not be given to this problem. In order to achieve an adequate industrialization, the activities which require the support of the State because of the vital importance which they have for the country or for contributing the world interchange with

finished

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finished or semi-finished products, shall be determined, taking care to take advantage of all of the possibilities which our fertile soil permits. The consolidation of the basic activities -- agriculture and livestock -- will be followed by suitable industrialization. The rhythm of progress will be controlled necessarily by the possibilities of sound utilization of powerful resources as yet unexploited."

The President of the British Council has expressed himself regarding the same subject in the following terms:-

"The object of a balanced economy, which is being prepared at this time, is the industrial planning of the country. On the one side capital, raw materials and domestic labor; on the other, the manner in which these elements will be utilized and the end to which production must be directed. The requirements of industries which produce for the internal market (political considerations above all) and those which supply the export trade will be taken into account. The requirements of the different ministries will be reduced to the greatest degree possible and these will be subject to priorities."

Other similarities between the Argentine and the British plan are pointed out as follows:

Argentine Plan

"Indeed: we begin to study the situation and the first difficulty arises. We have gone 30 odd years without a census. We do not know what we have . . ."

. . .

"For the first time governmental action is defined and planned for carrying out in a period of time, by means of which the economic and spiritual power of the Republic will be placed in operation . . .

"For that it is necessary to plan gradually the undertaking . . .

British Plan

"On terminating the war, there is a lack of statistics and means for orientation which permit coordination of labor . . ."

. . .

"The objective of the economic balance which is being prepared at this time is industrial planning for the country."

"It is

Argentine Plan

"It is, I repeat, necessary that we organize our country in an economic manner . . .

"For this reason we consider that we cannot continue with disorganized resources. A single example clearly shows the necessity of that organization . . ."

. . . .

"In the first place the work must be distributed intelligently: the statistical position sets forth the situation, the statesmen will give the objectives, and the technicians must indicate the road by which they will be accomplished. The distribution of work must be made sanely; to respect each one for his specialty is the best method for achieving success. For this reason we have had to work out a synthetic plan in accordance with this orientation, and the contents of which we shall see subsequently, while each one of the Government departments works out a synthetic plan for immediate execution . . . Thus dividing . . . This permits that each one of the Ministers and Secretaries of State makes an explanation of his analytical plan prior to the 1st of January 1947. On that day we shall put it into execution and it remains for me afterwards to supervise and coordinate the work of execution of each plan . . ."

. . . .

" . . . and it remains for the Technical Secretary of the Presidency to coordinate the various phases . . ."

. . . .

British Plan

"In the future there will be an economic general staff, a novelty in the British administration, which is called the "Central Committee of Planning". It has been created above all with personnel of the statistical and economic services, with participation of the Ministries of Finance, of Supplies, of Commerce, of Public Health, and of Labor. These members form sub-committees . . . Their studies go to the Central Committee which coordinates their recommendations and presents them in their final form to a Ministerial Committee over which Mr. Morrison presides."

. . . .

" . . . their studies go to the Central Committee which will coordinate them and make recommendations . . ."

. . . .

"For

Argentine Plan

"For the first time a President of the Republic appears before Congress in order to speak face to face with the public . . . for the purpose of presenting the chief concern of its mind, which is the program itself of the Government.

"We have considered it necessary to give the plan wide publicity among all the constituent elements of the public, beginning with the legislators, provincial governments and the governments of the territories, labor directors and masses, State officials; and we shall give knowledge of the plan through all possible means and even to the children of the schools. We desire to form with it a true popular doctrine . . ."

. . .

"This explains, indeed, the necessity of building a plan, of coordinating the various factors . . . The chapters referring to economy have been created also considering the desirability of a strict cooperation of economic elements."

. . .

"On completing the initial organization of the office previously mentioned, with the creation of the National Council for Power (electrical energy), an organization for integral planning and interministerial coordination on the subject . . ."

. . .

British Plan

"The works which will be presented (by the Central Planning Committee) to the public in order that it may understand its role . . .

"Publicity will be, in fact, a complementary element to the execution in order to create a community spirit . . ."

. . .

"On the one side capital, raw materials, and domestic labor; on the other the manner in which these elements will be utilized and the end to which production must be directed."

. . .

"The creation of a Central Committee contemplates the serious problems to be solved by the official members of Parliament who were preoccupied as to the lack of coordination among the Ministries . . ."

. . .

" . . . so

Argentine Plan

" . . . so that once this National Plan for Power (energy) has been accomplished, there will be only one single supplier of gas and electricity in the entire country: the State.

"In mining, it is necessary to organize and stimulate its basic utilization through a strong State intervention which leaves integrally in its hands the exploitation and distribution of critical and radioactive metallic minerals."

. . .

" . . . industries already established which elaborate domestic raw materials should be consolidated . . . it will be necessary to develop, that is, it will be necessary to seek installation of new industries . . .

"The Executive Power will develop the mixed state production of coal, iron, copper and principal metallic mineral mines . . . For the purpose of being able to develop integrally the ends outlined, the Executive Power may create companies of a mixed character."

. . .

"Private initiative. Welcome . . .

"We are not enemies of capital, even foreign capital, which is dedicated to its business . . .

"We are not in any manner enemies of capital, and it will be seen in the future that we have been its true defenders."

. . .

British Plan

" . . . on transfer to the State . . . which is imposed by the plan of nationalization of production sources."

. . .

" . . . rapid, practical attainments require that they be accomplished with the greatest possible speed, insofar as they may be able to count on the collaboration of private industry, avoiding in this way the period of waiting which a nationalization program imposes . . . "

. . .

" . . . the political plans of the Labor Government require . . . to count on the collaboration of private industry . . . "

. . .