

The most powerful man in the world

The Life of Sir Henri Deterding

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to what extent the hand of this employee, utterly unknown to the ordinary man even in England, may be seen in the actions of Sir Henri Deterding recorded from this date onwards. An indignant French writer knows what *he* thinks: "*Ce MacDonogh est un chiappe supérieur qui a quitté le service de George V pour celui de Deterding. Il est l'un de ceux qui orchestrent internationalement la campagne systématique d'agression contre l'U.R.S.S.*"

What did Sir George do? The father of the British Intelligence Service found himself in the witness box some years later, being questioned by the Attorney General in a case concerning the Astra Romana company. In reply to a question, Sir George, acting nobly up to his own precept of discretion and reticence, said, "It is difficult for me to give a complete list of all I've done since I joined this group."

Of course, it *would* be difficult. It is also difficult for us to trace his actual deeds, for he has been tight-lipped. But we may speculate on his motives. As a good Catholic, Sir George would naturally attach some importance to what the Pope and those around the Pope had to say; and if there is anything on which the Pope is distinctly articulate, it is the awful menace of atheistic Communism. The Pope is perfectly clear, is he not, on what Catholics are to do. Has he not laid it down, in his encyclical letter to his venerable brethren dated May 15th, 1931, that "no one can be at the same time a sincere Catholic and a socialist properly so called"? Has he not said over and over again that the struggle against Marxist materialism, its "great financial resources," its "propaganda so truly diabolical," its "hatred and savage barbarity" is the one outstanding duty of all good Catholics? "The most urgent need of the present day is therefore the energetic and timely application of remedies which will effectively ward off the catastrophe that daily grows more threatening."

So said the Pope on March 19th, 1937, as Franco murdered the women and children of Spain.

Some years previously Sir Henri Deterding had the privilege of an audience with Pope Pius XI, and although he does not