

THE FASCISTS WRITE TO THE REFUGEES – Article from Twitter translated by MDL Power

1937, November 28 – Reynolds News: “Fascists Write to Refugees”

I am about to reveal the secret of the disparity between the long list of requests by parents for the return of their children from the Basque refugee colonies in this country, and the comparatively few that were repatriated.

Fascist agents have been writing friendly and even emotional letters to minors in various colonies under the pretext of being old friends of their parents.

PROMISE LETTERS

One letter that promises a speedy meeting with parents with whom the writer says he is in contact with and finishes with “Till when I see you in Bilbao”, is signed by a Liverpool man who is one of the most active of fascist propagandists.

The biggest problem occurs in the way the requests are verified.

All the investigations have to be carried out by a committee based in this country. No investigations are allowed in Franco-occupied territory, and those overseeing the return of minors have to go back to England instantly.

Most parents who are still living are refugees in Catalonia where the problem of distributing food, shelter and clothing for the refugees has reached its limits so that any idea of sending their youngsters there is out of the question.

The Basque priests and the women who saved the child refugees from the Italian troops and German bombers are considered to be traitors by the fascists and cannot return to their place of birth.

The repatriated children are met at the frontier by francoist agents whose first action is to force them to perform the fascist salute.

It is an unlikely possibility that more than a few hundred of the 3,800 child refugees will be repatriated.