The sanguinary conflict in Spain is an enigma to the impartial observer. It defies the keenest and best-informed students of Iberian traditions and trends to clearly define the issue.

Discriminating readers will be skeptical (therefore) of the prophetic utterances of Walter Duranty who seems to have assumed the role of herald of Spanish Communism. In his daily dispatches this NANA news service correspondent does not categorically subscribe to the tenets of Communism, but his 15 years residence in Moscow renders him at least suspect.

He admits he has "only a cursory view of the Spanish picture." He has contacted only the Loyalists. He has confined his observations to the provinces under the control of communist government forces. Is it because he did not want to hear the Rebel side of the dispute?

This correspondent with suspiciously communistic leanings sees anarchistic Catalonia setting the pace for the rest of Loyalist Spain, and predicts that the Bolshevist ideology will be adopted throughout the nation. This prognosis of Loyalist victory is hardly consonant with the developments of the last few days on the fighting front. The heroism of the defenders of Alcazar and the closing-in of the Rebel forces on Madrid would rather indicate ultimate victory for Generals Franco and Lita.

The one-sided dispatches of Mr. Duranty are rather confusing. He says "there is little or no Marxism in the Catalan people’s movement," yet he adds "Catalonia has had a proletarian revolution." He calls the leaders anarchists not Marxists. That he is at great pains to explain that an anarchist is not the same thing in Spain as in America.

This confusion of terms and manifest meaning of words is a pot stock in the U.S. of the Russian propaganda.

At length Mr. Duranty has had to admit that the Church is the first object of the hatred and fury of the Spanish mobs who have been armed by the Communist government.

The present government in Spain, combining all the Leftist parties--Left Wing Republicans, Socialists, Anarchists, Communists and Syndicalists--is not the popular government. These Leftist groups polled 200,000 fewer votes than the Rightist parties. Ever that vote, says a reliable witness, "was due to heavy spending of Soviet money put at their disposal for the express purpose of establishing a Communist regime in Spain, as predicted a long time ago by Lenin."

This typically Soviet government gave short shrift to any who dared to oppose it. All outspoken critics were assassinated. The policy of annihilation of all opposition of the government came to a climax when Jose Calvo Sotelo, leader of the Monarchist party, following his attack on the government for failing to uphold the Constitution, which guaranteed protection and security to all Spaniards, was taken from his home and shot down by government soldiers.

The rebellion is not a Fascist cause. It is not a Monarchist coup. It is essentially a national movement supported by the civil population of all classes fighting for their very existence. The "Rebels" are not fighting a de jure government. They are fighting "wells" who have usurped the functions of government and are murdering the citizens who disagree. They are fighting to save Spain from Soviet slavery and to preserve the civilization that owes so much to the great Spanish nation.

(From the Providence Visitor of September 24, 1936.)

PRAYERS: (deceased) friend of student; father of Ray Gowles (Walsh); uncle of Jack Osborn (Brownson). Ill, friend of Fr. Ryan, C.S.C.; Jim Hill, B.S.