

pleted, may be able to more effectively make use of the support that the air force can provide to ground forces.

EIR: On the anniversary of the Malvinas crisis, Great Britain is dealing with Spain in a very provocative way. What are your observations on the Gibraltar problem?

Gen. Conde Ceñal: Your question refers to a political problem, in which the air force is simply an instrument at the disposition of the government, ready at all times to fulfill its duty.

For my part, I, like all Spaniards, aspire to re-establishment of the [territorial] unity of Spain, but I understand that it concerns a very complex problem which has already lasted for centuries and which is not easily solved.

EIR: What would be the strategic and technological effects of closer collaboration with France, such as Defense Minister Charles Hernu has proposed?

Gen. Conde Ceñal: There is no doubt that if there were closer collaboration with France on defense questions, there could undoubtedly be strategic and technological advantages for both countries as well as for Western defense in general.

Interview: Felix Alonso

Naval shipbuilder wants beam technology for Spain

Felix Alonso is an engineer who worked for over a decade on the security of the Spanish nuclear program. The firm he heads, a state enterprise, builds warships and merchant ships for the Spanish navy. The following interview was conducted by EIR correspondents Anno and Elisabeth Hellenbroich and Katherine Kanter in Madrid April 21.

EIR: What are your main technological projects?

Alonso: We are primarily doing research on naval construction, and in particular on how to improve our productive systems. We are working on systematic analysis of mathematical series for high-speed hulls, and we are developing another series of systems which will improve our productive systems, as well as new prototypes which will introduce an innovative content.

We are working on a catamaran propelled by its hydrodynamic forms, to create a stable platform even in heavy seas. We are also working on systems engineering, integrating weapons systems onto ships, and profiting from our ever-greater experience in the building of ships like the aircraft carrier for the Spanish navy with a very high electronic content, which is to be a command unit for other units.

EIR: On May 23, Mr. Reagan made a speech on space-based anti-missile weapons, which would mean doing away with MAD through a laser or particle beam civil defense system. To what extent does this proposal concern Spanish industry and science?

Alonso: There is no doubt that the affair concerns us. We want this to be done in Spain because, in the final analysis, we will have to use the technology, both from the standpoint of defense as well as from that of other systems of protection.

Obviously, laser and other such systems are necessary and we will be requested to incorporate them into our navy. Either we enter the program at the outset and begin to produce ourselves, or else the same thing will happen to us that has occurred many times before: we will be running behind, trying to buy the technology or forced to accept whatever may happen.

I believe that Spanish industry will be very interested. And we ourselves will insist that Spanish industry shows interest. Since we will be the user at the end of the line, we are going to insist that every system like that which Reagan proposed be truly useful and be placed at our disposal. I do not know how to apply it to improve the situation, but we must include more national production. In other words, what we do must create more jobs here, because the Spanish demographic growth rate is slightly higher than most of Europe. Either we create new jobs or the only solution will be to send emigrants abroad. These technologies will be fundamental for us to do just that and find a way out.

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