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## Spanish Elections

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# Spanish voters rebuff Trilaterals; Strategic choices face the country

by Leonardo Servadio

The PSOE, the ruling Socialist party of Spain, won an absolute majority in the June 22 national political elections, which will permit it to rule alone another four years. The elections took place three months after the PSOE won a referendum which provides for Spain to stay in NATO, but under "neutralist" conditions (no nuclear weapons, no integration into the military command, withdrawal of U.S. troops from its territory). Spain's integration into NATO and into the European Community, pose the fundamental question of what its role will be in the context of the present dramatic strategic situation, now that these elections have defined the political situation of the next four years.

Three features of the election are notable. First, dissatisfaction over the dismal economic situation (700,000 more jobless in the past four years, lower living standards, and cuts in pension funds) caused voter abstention to rise from 20% in 1982 to over 29% this June. Second, voters trounced the bid of a new "centrist" party artificially created by the Trilateral Commission. Third, a danger signal for national morale is the election of the terrorist Herri Batasuna party to parliament.

In 1982 the PSOE won 202 seats in Congress and 134 in the Senate. Now it has won 184 seats in Congress and 121 in the Senate, with 44% of the votes. Popular Coalition (CP), a coalition made up of Popular Alliance (AP), the Liberal party (PL), and the Christian-Democratic Popular Democratic Party (PDP), won 105 seats in Congress, 66 in the Senate, losing 1 congressional seat and gaining 11 seats in the Senate, but with an overall reduction in the percentage of votes, from 29% to 26%. The Social and Democratic Center (CDS) came in third with 9% and 19 congressmen and 3 senators. Convergence and Union (CIU), a party which exists only in the Cataluña region, got 4.7% and 18 congressmen and 8 senators. United Left (IU), a coalition of several volatile extreme left parties, led by the Spanish Communist Party (PCE) and the Communist Party of the Peoples of Spain (PCPE), managed to poll 4.6%, 7 congressmen and no senator—a tiny increase over 1982, when the PCE elected 4 congressmen.

In the Basque region, three independentist parties (called "nationalist," meaning by nation only that small region) got 1 congressman, the Basque Nationalist Party (PNV) 1.6%, 6

congressmen and 7 senators, Herri Batasuna (HB) 1.2% and 5 congressmen and 1 senator, and Euskadiko Ezkerra 0.5% and 2 congressmen. The disparities between percentages and number of seats derives from the fact that parties which go above 20% get a further increase in representatives, as do parties with votes from only one region.

The most important "signal" that the PSOE should understand from the vote, is that the party which Trilateral Commission towel-boy Antonio Garrigues Walker tried to paste together as the "reformist alternative," elected no one. The aim of his PRD was to become the champion of the "center," to condition, in the style of the small German Liberal Party, the two major political forces, PSOE and Popular Coalition. Garrigues's PRD had an incredible amount of money fed into its election campaign by the Spanish banks, *officially* to the tune of 800 million pesetas, (the third-largest banking credit to a party after the PSOE and Popular Coalition). Since bank campaign loans are given in the expectation they will be repaid with the money the parties receive from the State for each parliamentarian they elect (1,630,000 pesetas apiece), Garrigues Walker's party will not be able to repay the loans, proving to the world that Trilateraloids are a very bad investment.

The defeat of Garrigues Walker is the rejection of the usurious economic policy of the International Monetary Fund and the Trilateral Commission, and of the arrogance with which the Trilaterals, led by that tyrannosaurus who responds to the name of David Rockefeller, came to Madrid in May to proclaim their domination over the world economy. It is also a rejection of the known connections between this financial apparatus and the drug traffic.

### The end of Fraga?

As a result of its slight drop in percentage, as soon as the results of the election came out, Oscar Alzaga and José Antonio Segurado, the leaders of the two coalition partners of Popular Alliance, the Popular Democrats and Liberals respectively, started to contradict Manuel Fraga, who heads Popular Alliance and Popular Coalition, refusing to go along with his claims of victory. Alzaga and Segurado say they are dissatisfied and will have to "carefully evaluate" the results

before making any statement. The message is that the coalition might break up, unless something changes—probably Fraga's leadership. The line has been coming out from some conservative quarters that while a good man, Fraga lacks popular appeal.

It is a totally spurious argument, since if Fraga has little personal appeal to the voters, the others have even less. In reality, Fraga is probably a bit less corrupted and compromised with the Trilateral Commission than many other people in his Popular Alliance. Taking Fraga away will not make things better for these "right-wingers," but only make more obvious the Trilateral control over its economic policy. Conservatives also, instead of titillating their brains with sociological analysis on their "public image," ought to learn the lesson of Garrigues Walker and change their economic policy if they want to aspire to improve their electoral performance.

Herri Batasuna, which elected 6 people to parliament, is the "political arm" of the terrorist ETA, which kills dozens of people every year. The legalization of HB was decided at the outset of the campaign, creating the most dangerous precedent for a national state, of making its main internal subversive enemy a legitimate party. Its legalization will hasten the destabilization of Spain, which can only favor the Soviets.

### Strategic issues

The strategic situation of Spain is key for Europe: At the gateway of the Mediterranean Sea, it is the natural strategic backup for the NATO front line in Germany and the obvious "bridge" between Europe and America.

The Soviets have an obvious interest in forming strong political links to Spain, and the fact that Premier Felipe González was the first Western chief of government to travel to the Soviet Union after Chernobyl is the concrete expression of what a big interest the dominant economic forces of Spain have, typified by the Garrigues Walker family and the Trilateral milieu, in reinforcing Spanish ties to Moscow, in the context of the "decoupling for peace" policy which Trilateral founder David Rockefeller and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachov share wholeheartedly.

The ideology of this country tends to be isolationist, and the Franco regime had favored that isolationism. The conservatives tend not to like the United States, which "stole" the last two Spanish colonies of Philippines and Cuba at the end of the last century. In the context of the recent referendum the various communist parties united in opposition against NATO and remained united around the Spanish Communist leader Carrillo. The "leftists" have made the fight against NATO and against nuclear energy their main campaign issue.

In this situation, will Spain work for decoupling? Will Spain work for the economic and strategic integration of Western Europe under Mother Russia?

To provide a documentary picture of the present situation of Spain, we have interviewed two spokesmen of the two main parties: the ruling PSOE, and the main opposition party, Popular Alliance (AP).

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## Interview: Carlos de Miranda

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# Socialists seek cut in U.S. troops

*Carlos de Miranda is an aide to the Spanish defense minister and foreign policy adviser to the ruling party, the PSOE, of Prime Minister Felipe González. The interview, abridged here, was conducted by Leonardo Servadio and Elisabeth Hellenbroich shortly before the June 22 elections.*

**EIR:** Now that Spain is integrated into NATO, what are the threats which you think the country must meet, and what are your responsibilities in the Alliance?

**Miranda:** I think that the threats are the same, before and after our belonging to the Atlantic Alliance. Spain is part of Western Europe, and therefore we are aware that the Warsaw Pact represents a possible threat. Since we became members of the European Community, perhaps the perception of this threat has become more emphasized, keeping in mind also that the present government considers that Europe should move toward a unified future.

The threat for us is not that of a country on the front line with the Warsaw Pact. Rather, we have the functions of a rearguard country, although very essential ones, e.g., protection of communications, if Germany is attacked. In the south, we don't feel threatened in general. We know that the political stability of North Africa is not that of Western Europe, so we see there a potential instability which, if it continues, could lead to certain consequences. We understand that our role in the Alliance, as a rearguard country, is to secure the more strategic areas which are properly ours. We have armed forces which are being modernized. As we are not a rich country, and cannot afford to secure everything, we understand that the defense of our territory must be our responsibility. We also have to assure, for our forces and for the Alliance, the communications between the Balears and Canaries archipelagos. The Strait of Gibraltar is also very important: Our projection is essentially naval and aeronautical, to hold the strait, and also we have an Atlantic projection in the north of Spain.

These are the zones where obviously the presence of other countries concerns us, in particular if they are not allied countries, as in the case of the Soviet Union. Recently the Soviet Union carried out exercises near the Spanish coasts. We are aware of this presence and dislike it, but we have to be prepared against them. We have to keep in mind that we are now inside the Alliance, and that we are going to carry out coordination accords in the most sensitive areas, where