
Spain

State Dept. boosts Qaddafi's ambitions

by Katherine Kanter

When, on Dec. 19, the Spanish Prime Minister Felipe González flew to the island of Mallorca to meet Libyan dictator Qaddafi, the storm of protest that erupted over the role played by the disgraced ex-chancellor of Austria Bruno Kreisky tended to obscure another, still more curious, aspect of the discussions.

Only the previous week, the President of France François Mitterrand had met Qaddafi in Greece, invited by his Greek counterpart, Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu, and had made it clear that France would abdicate all claims to Chad, a French protectorate which Qaddafi decided to annex 18 months ago. It emerged in the last week of December that it was Kreisky himself who had mediated that meeting, just as he was to mediate the madness on Mallorca.

Only a week before, Qaddafi had given an interview to an Italian paper, in which he described the Spanish terrorist group ETA as freedom fighters, prompting a Spanish weekly to come out with detailed facts on Libyan financial support for ETA. Qaddafi then informed the Spanish government that he planned to land on Mallorca on Dec. 18, and demanded that the prime minister of that country fly down to meet him. The prime minister complied.

The contents of the five-hour discussion involving, at different times, Kreisky, Qaddafi, González, and, according to some press reports, the U.S. vice-consul on Mallorca, Bartolome Bestard, were not published. However, upon leaving the meeting room, a swaggering Qaddafi held a press conference, making statements so brutal that under any rational world order, Spain might have declared itself forthwith in a state of war with Libya.

He told the press, precisely four days after the ruling PSOE (Socialist Party of Spain) had taken the highly controversial decision during its party congress to remain in NATO, that "any country which joins NATO enters the circle of Hell and destruction." He then stated that "Ceuta and Melilla are Arab cities. I hope that it will not be necessary to resort to force to recover them."

What this means is quite simple. First, a naked threat to unleash intensifying terror against the Spanish population unless the government backs down on the NATO issue. And indeed that very night, the U.S.-constructed military pipeline joining the American bases of Rota and Zaragoza in Spain was blown up in three places by what authorities described

as a professional team using the same *modus operandi* as that against the Belgian NATO pipeline the previous week.

Second, one of the few events that would lead the Spanish military to overthrow the elected Spanish government overnight would be a Moroccan takeover of the Spanish enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla in Moroccan territory under conditions in which the Spanish government, like the French in Chad, would back down. When in August King Hassan of Morocco signed the treaty of union with Libya, in the face of what one can only assume to be either mad indifference or connivance of U.S. State Department authorities, observers measured the terrible weakness of Hassan before the Islamic integrist and pro-Russian elements in Morocco, and the fearful implications for Algeria. From the Spanish standpoint, the day in which extremist elements would drive Hassan to seize the enclaves moved nearer.

Qaddafi is a tool of Russian interests in the Mediterranean, but Qaddafi is not the government of the U.S.S.R. Mitterrand and González have not yet fallen under Soviet rule; technically they are still part of the West, though the Socialist International may indeed belong to the East. The real reason for González bending over backward to Russian whims is that the policy of the U.S. State Department is *pro-Russian*.

Witness these facts: The González-Kreisky-Qaddafi meetings took place in the house of the president of Banco de Crédito Balear, Don Manuel Nigorra, whose public relations chief at the Bank is Bartolome Bestard, a Mallorqui who is the U.S. consul on the island. Bestard, according to his own admission, has been a close friend of Bruno Kreisky since the latter set up residence on the island a decade ago, and is present at *all* official and unofficial meetings undertaken by the ex-chancellor on Spanish territory. Only a week before the meeting, Bestard was given a medal by the admiral of the Sixth Fleet for his services in the cause of friendship between the Spanish and North American peoples.

One could understand the State Department overlooking a nine months' friendship. But nine years! And with a man like Kreisky, denounced by leading political figures for several decades as the man who has done his utmost to turn Austria into a refuge for pro-Nazi terrorists of every stripe, a man who has been one of the most foul mouthpieces for Muscovite policy, notably the "peace" movement, a man linked to the most anti-American elements in the Mideast and North Africa.

State Department officials like Bestard have banking interests which link them indissolubly to the Islamic-integrist financial move to take control of Western Europe. A virtual spokesman for the U.S. State Department in Spain, Juan Gariegues-Walker, a close friend of Henry Kissinger, is the official agent for Libya. The purchase of Aresbank and Banco Atlantico by Libyan capital, and the hundreds of millions sunk into Spanish real estate show that Spain, now purchasing most of its oil from Libya and Iran, is the beachhead for the Islamic invasion of the Free World.