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## Spain

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# González institutes the big NATO fraud

by Leonardo Servadio

The Socialist government of Felipe González has set March 12 as the date of the referendum on Spanish membership in NATO. It was set for a workday to try to attract more voters. The main opposition party, Alianza Popular, is campaigning for people not to vote, in the most absurd referendum in this century.

For the first time in history, a question of overwhelming strategic importance already settled by the Parliament will be, in defiance of parliamentary authority, subjected to popular referendum. Under conditions in which all European nations are being subjected to Russian pressures to distance themselves from the United States, the Spanish referendum sets a dangerous precedent that will be fully exploited by the Soviet-steered "pacifist" movement in all Europe, to try and push other nations into similar referendums.

González, during the parliamentary debate on the referendum, warned that the "results of going [of NATO] will be traumatic and unforeseeable." Opposition leader Fraga Iribarne, in criticizing the calling of a referendum as totally unnecessary, since Parliament has already resoundingly voted in favor of NATO, pointed out how ridiculous it is that González, until a few months ago totally opposed to Spanish membership in NATO, now pretends to be NATO's champion. One of the González's arguments in favor of the "yes" vote, was that if Spain leaves NATO, it will be harder to cut off relations with the United States (i.e., the U.S. bases on Spanish territory)—which is his primary concern.

Posed to the Spanish voters in the referendum is the following masterpiece of mass manipulation: "Do you consider it convenient for Spain to remain in the Atlantic Alliance on the terms decided by the government of the nation?" On the ballot itself, these terms are thus expressed: 1) The participation of Spain in the Atlantic Alliance will not include its participation in the military structure; 2) The prohibition against keeping deposits or nuclear weapons on Spanish territory will continue; 3) A progressive reduction of the U.S. military presence will be enacted. In short, the referendum is an open invitation to reject any link with the United States

and, for all practical purposes, a call for the Gorbachov plan of denuclearizing Europe, leaving it at the mercy of overpowering Warsaw Pact conventional forces.

In Spain, pacifist movements are coming into being out of the blue. A few days before the parliamentary debate, Communist-led groups staged anti-NATO rallies and sit-ins throughout Madrid. A new coalition on the referendum includes the Communist Party of Spain, the Communist Movement, the Workers Commission Trade Union, the Trotskyist Revolutionary Communist League, and various extreme groups ranging from the Stalinist to the Maoist varieties. The far right, represented by the paper *El Alcazar*, advocates rejection for the way in which the government has formulated the referendum, and has joined the pacifists in calling for a "no" vote.

### Terrorism: Mossad ties?

On Feb. 6, Adm. Cristóbal Colón de Carvajal was killed in the streets of Madrid by Basque separatist ETA terrorists. The admiral, a close friend of the king and descendent of Christopher Columbus, had been named to lead 500th anniversary celebrations of the Discovery of America, an event that would help to strengthen Spain's transatlantic links. Immediately the press published that the "secret service" had warned the military leadership of threats to the high command. This seems not to be true, and the chief of the security service has been questioned by a parliamentary commission on the matter.

The fact that Israel's Mossad is said to be advising the Spanish police on the anti-terrorist fight, in particular since Spain finally recognized Israel in January, throws a shadow on what is happening on the terrorist front. Journalistic sources say that, until 1977, the Mossad had actually been advising the ETA in its fight against the Spanish state. Since the police knew in advance of the threat against high military leaders, it is all the more surprising that, according to direct testimony, 25 minutes elapsed before the first police arrived on the assassination scene.

The Trilateral Commission-linked *El Pais*, the most widely circulated paper in Spain, has begun publishing polls that indicate that the referendum will lose, that 39% of the population is against NATO and only 21% in favor. German conservative leader Franz-Joseph Strauss, intervening at the National Congress of the Alianza Popular Party, stressed that Spain must not abandon NATO, and the referendum must be won. This is not a popular stand, since the Alianza Popular's official position is to push people to abstain, in order to use a small voter turnout to call for the government to resign.

It is an impotent posture, from a party that could have the necessary popular strength to explain what is going on at the strategic level, and call for the Spanish people to rally in defense of the Western world. The real problem is that this referendum is debated in Spain merely as an internal ques-

tion, a faction fight between the Socialists of the government and the conservative opposition, with Spanish neutralism and anti-Americanism as the only ingredient reflecting the outside world. No political leader has spoken out on the strategic reasons why the Atlantic Alliance is necessary; none has even hinted at the dramatic increase in Soviet fleet operations and Soviet influence in the Mediterranean Sea and in the Atlantic, as the reality in the context of which the Spanish NATO debate must be located.

This has lent plausibility to González's posing of the false alternative between either leaving NATO or staying in NATO in an anti-nuclear, anti-U.S. mode, which Gorbachov will doubtless appreciate. González himself declared during the parliamentary debate, "Not even the Warsaw Pact countries have an interest in a neutral Spain." The exact game González is playing may be clarified if some non-public deals he made with the Moscow leadership concerning NATO during a visit to Russia in 1982 were made public. It is significant that the same day as the NATO debate, it was announced that González will visit Gorbachov in Moscow *the day after the referendum*.

The voice of the "Western branch of the Empire" was heard in Spain in an article dictated by International Monetary Fund director Jacques De Larosière, published Feb. 9 in *El País*: The prospect outlined is that West Germany and Japan, taking advantage of the fall in oil prices, will become the new "locomotive" of the world economy in their respective areas. The division of the world into "dollar," "yen," and "ECU" economic and strategic areas, the last encompassing Eastern and Western Europe, is the old Trilateral plan. González's actions fit right in.

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## Portugal

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# Communist vote seals Soares comeback

by Laurent Murawiec

After years of hurling epithets at Portugal's Socialist leader, Mario Soares, the Communist Party of Alvaro Cunhal played the decisive role on Feb. 16 to send him to the presidential Palace of Belem, in the run-off of the presidential election. Soares, who had captured less than 30% of the vote in the first round, beat by a thin margin of 2.5% his right-wing rival, Diego Freitas do Amaral, who had himself missed victory by only 3%.

Most commentators had foreseen the triumphant entry of Freitas into Belem Palace. Had his sponsor, the young Prime

Minister Anibal Cavaco Silva, not swept last September's parliamentary elections? A 'dynamic of victory' was unfolding between their parties, Cavaco's Social Democratic Party and Freitas's farther-right CDS.

Many voters may have feared an 'unbalanced' domination of right-wingers, and especially the heavily monetarist-tainted crew around their presidential candidate, whose entourage is by no means free of nostalgia for one or the other form of the rotten Ancien Regime overthrown in 1975. Since Cavaco Silva seems firmly entrenched as prime minister, voting Soares into the less powerful presidency might have been a "hedge" by parts of the electorate.

But the crucial factor, undeniably, was the solid Communist vote by Cunhal's forces for his supposed arch-enemy, Soares, one of the vice-presidents of the Socialist International, the man who became Portugal's prime minister with the money and backing of Willy Brandt and the French Socialists. It is Moscow's liking for Willy Brandt, the West German Social Democrat who invented "détente," that is behind Cunhal's shift of the Communist vote to Soares. Soares harvested in the second round virtually all the votes cast in the first in favor of the Communist-backed candidate and pacifist-Catholic contender Maria Pintasilgo, herself supported by a bevy of left-radical revolutionary officers.

Cunhal's party had overwhelming reasons, beyond the fear of contributing to the election of a "right-winger." Soares has incurred a debt to the Communists; it will have to be paid. His predecessor, General Ramalho Eanes, had owed his 1980 election to the Communists, and paid dearly for it. The debt was coined in the form of political influence, Communist infiltration of the administration, Soviet penetration in Lisbon, and facilitation of Soviet enterprises in Portuguese-speaking Africa.

Observers in Lisbon deem that Soares, known as "the State Department's candidate," owes his new job to a deal passed between State and Moscow. Soares, "the symbol of April 25 [1974]," will use the international position of Portugal on behalf of the common aims of his patrons, first the destabilization of southern Africa. Alvaro Cunhal, Lisbon-based sources report, will soon retire from his leadership in the PCP to become some form of Soviet roving ambassador for Africa.

Internally, the election was a wasted opportunity. The discredit that swept Soares's party out of parliamentary power was due mostly to his slavish kowtowing to the International Monetary Fund. Prime Minister Cavaco Silva, whose political wings have been somewhat clipped by the failure of his presidential candidate, is also a monetarist adherent to IMF recipes. After three national elections in six months, a pause will be decreed in politicking, affording some degree of empty stability. Parliamentary elections will probably be decreed by Cavaco within one year in order to consolidate the parliamentary base of his minority coalition government.