Protests over Spanish amnesty delay - 4 AUG 1976

From Harry Debélis, Madrid

A hunger strike by political prisoners succeeded in forcing the Madrid Government in today's latest in a series of demonstrations and protests over the failure to publish an amnesty decree in Spain. The strike was called following reports that a draft decree had been prepared, although it was not clear when it would be published or if it would include amnesty provisions.

In Madrid, lawyers, representing political prisoners, are pressing the Spanish Government to publish the decree as soon as possible. They fear that delays in the publication of the decree may result in the indefinite detention of political prisoners, who have already served long terms in prison.

Some Basques freed but amnesty is criticized

From Harry Debélis,

Madrid, Aug 5

Political prisoners and exiles, all members of the separatist organization ETA, have been released, including José Unzué and Sabino Echávarri, in line with the proclamation of an amnesty for political prisoners. The Basque separatist movements have been given a political prisoner's status, and the Basque political prisoners' organization ETA has been legally recognized.

Spanish amnesty decree gets guarded welcome

From Our Independent, Madrid, Aug 4

The long-awaited royal decree on amnesty for political prisoners and exiles was published in today's official gazette, but the Basque separatist movement ETA has condemned the decree as too restricted and has vowed to continue its armed struggle.

Some Basques go free but the rest continue hunger strike in prison

From Harry Debélis, Madrid, Aug 5

Basque political prisoners continued their hunger strike at Madrid's Carabanchel prison yesterday in protest against the limited scope of an amnesty decree which, they say, fails to address the political prisoners' demands.

The strike, which began last month, is being organized by ETA, the Basque separatist organization, and is supported by the Basque political prisoners' organization. The Basque political prisoners have been on hunger strike for several weeks, demanding an end to political imprisonment.

The decree, published in today's official gazette, does not meet the demands of the Basque political prisoners, who have been on hunger strike for over a month. They are demanding the release of all political prisoners and the withdrawal of the Basque regional government's control over the political prisoners.
The man whose spirit Franco couldn't break

On the walls of the elegant Hollywood-style house is a panoramic collage of clippings that are战like slogans like "Long live Franco!" and "Long live the heroes of the liberation!" and many other fragments of the past which still linger in the air. The house is the home of the late Sr. Lobato, a leader of the Spanish Communist Party who spent 52 years in prison. He was on trial for murder when he died in prison in 1974.

The new clause in the penal code, which is now being debated in Parliament, is expected to be discussed in the coming weeks. This is the first time that the government has moved to provide legal protection for the family of a murdered person. The clause is seen as a major step forward in the process of reforming the penal code.

The decision to release the former prisoner was taken by the government in response to pressure from the families of murdered people. The government has been under pressure to provide legal protection for families of murdered people, who have been left without any legal recourse.

The new clause in the penal code is expected to be debated in Parliament in the coming weeks. The government has been under pressure to provide legal protection for families of murdered people, who have been left without any legal recourse. The new clause is seen as a major step forward in the process of reforming the penal code.

Speculation grows on peseta devaluation

Most experts think it will be in the range of 10 per cent. Devaluation is generally necessary to stimulate the economy but this would mean that the exchange rate would be determined by the market. This would not be acceptable to the government.

According to a recent study by the Bank of America, the competitiveness of the Spanish economy is not strong enough to attract foreign investment. The main reasons for this are the high cost of living, the low productivity and the lack of infrastructure.

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Harry Debelius

A cloudy prospect for the Spanish economy

Details of a decree designed to stimulate investment in Spanish industry were published in Madrid yesterday, representing the government's latest effort to reassure businessmen and investors and to lure them to Spain. The decree contains a series of measures to encourage investment, which will be effective from the beginning of next year.

The decree includes provisions for tax breaks, interest rate cuts, and other incentives designed to attract foreign investment. The government hopes that these measures will help to stimulate the Spanish economy and to reduce unemployment.

However, the decree also contains a number of measures that could have a negative impact on Spanish farmers and consumers. For example, the government plans to raise the price of certain agricultural products, which could lead to higher food prices for consumers.

The government also plans to introduce a new tax on luxury goods, which could have a negative impact on businesses that sell these products.

In conclusion, the decree is a mixed blessing for the Spanish economy. While it contains a number of measures that could help to stimulate investment and job creation, it also includes provisions that could have a negative impact on certain sectors of the economy.

Correction

In the article by Sir Samuel Goldman on this page yesterday, one paragraph was printed incorrectly in later editions. It should have read:

Looking ahead, one hopes that the painful lesson of the past will be learned, though experts most inescapably temper optimism on this score. We must learn to run our economy with its capacities and not push it to the limit and beyond through over-stimulation either in the private or public sector.
Spanish Cabinet seeks to curb Council of Realm

From Our Correspondent
Madrid, Aug 17

Members of the Spanish Cabinet are hard at work on a constitutional reform that would limit the power of the conservative Council of the Realm and would put its role in the hands of the government's lawyers, informed sources said today.

At the same time, the latest version of the cabinet's ten democratic reforms, according to the sources, calls for the establishment of a constitutional assembly, elected by universal suffrage, to 1954, when the Government seeks to work on a common programme to be held in the autumn.

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Widespread protest on student shot in Almeria

From Our Correspondent
Madrid, Aug 18

Demonstrations have continued throughout Spain over the death of Francisco Javier Verdeja, a 25-year-old student who was killed by a member of the Civil Guard on Friday after reportedly receiving a shell for pasting a slogan on a wall in Almeria.

In Granada the police used tear gas and clubs against demonstrators after a Requiem Mass last night for Severo Ordoñez.

Riot police broke up similar demonstrations in Madrid and Malaga, where many of the marchers carried banners accusing the police of murder,while black flags and red carnations were waved.

In Bilbao, 13 men and women chained themselves to an iron fence as a sign of their protest. Firemen were called in to cut the chains and the police arrested the protesters, who included two Frenchwomen and a German.

A spokesman for the Civil Guard issued a stern warning that "a day of struggle" called for today by several political organizations would be tolerated.

An announcement from the Civil Guard said that any gathering "will be dispersed by the forces of public order, which have been all appropriate steps to safeguard public order."

It cited on the people of Almeria to refrain from following the call of groups or persons who are trying to use a sad event, which all of us regret, as an excuse for subversion.

In Portugal, near Bilbao, the annual festival last night turned into a demonstration by hundreds of youth who shouted for amnesty and freedom, carrying big, photographic portraits of Senhora Rosalia Menacho, a young woman who was shot dead near Bilbao during a demonstration demanding amnesty.

In Santander, near the Basque country, the police arrested two suspected right-wing terrorists, according to a report from the regional police news agency CIFSA, published here today.

The two were not identified, but it was said that there were arrested in connection with the machine gunning of a Basque peasant at Turtuvagua, near Santander, on Thursday, hours before a meeting of Christian Democrats was to have taken place there.

Hopes fade for political entente in Spain

From Our Correspondent
Madrid, Aug 18

Attempts by the Spanish Government to make a pact with the Opposition appear to be floundering, according to reports published here today. The Government in reluctant to meet any conditions which the various main opposition parties are imposing before they say they will cooperate.

The main stumbling block is the Opposition's insistence that a "constitutional period" be opened leading to free general elections. This would mean that a kind of provisional government, with representatives of the country's political forces, would be established.

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The The Times

El lento proceso de liberación de los presos políticos en virtud de la amnistía otorgada por el Rey el 30 de julio, parece que puede ser acelerado.

La prensa y los líderes de la oposición aseguran que muchas de las 500 personas que serán liberadas están celosa las de los que han sido puestos en libertad en los meses anteriores. Aunque la amnistía es un paso importante, es un paso que debe ser acelerado.

El contenido de la circulación del Tribunal Supremo, que es un hecho público, un hecho que ha provocado críticas de la oposición, que consideran que es un acto de interés público.

Aunque el contenido exacto de la circulación es un secreto, los abogados de los presos políticos pueden pedir detalles específicos.

Según fuentes bien informadas, la amnistía beneficiará a los presos políticos acusados de delitos de terrorismo, y que incluye a individuos sentenciados a penas de hasta 15 años.

La noticia se verificó en el martes, el día más antiguo del perro político español.

Fernando Carballo, en un artículo de cincuenta y seis años, ha sido liberado a la prisión de la cárcel donde cumplió su condena de tres años, condena que le fue impuesta por el tribunal militar de 1864 por haber participado en la toma de la fortaleza.

La noticia fue conocida pasando por las señales que debían ser escuchadas por los presos que estaban en la cárcel, pero que no se mantuvo la amenaza en el caso del león, siendo esta una de las noticias que se han dado en los últimos días en el país.

Si la noticia se verifica, el más antiguo preso político español.

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**Guidelines behind amnesty in Spain raise hopes**

From Our Correspondent  
Madrid, Aug 25

The text of the Supreme Court's circular on amnesty which lays down guidelines for the release of people imprisoned for political terrorist offences, has been published by newspapers.

Legal opinion circles are feeling somewhat optimis- tic about the circular, which is in the hands of the political courts, although it has been generally classified as reactiv-

The circular clarifies in a cer-

tain measure the complicated isue of whether people im-

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vated crimes of violence will benefit from the amnesty granted by King Juan Carlos on July 30. The Government said then that the time that terrorists were imprisoned for purely political crimes in Spain raise hopes for the widest sense.

The text of the Supreme Court, which is stuck in the hands of the political courts, will go through the security of the state, have been freed.

Magistrates will go through the amendment at the moment to decide whether the amnesty is applicable. As far as 140 of the more than 500 people imprisoned are to be released for purely political reasons.

A fine of £100 has recently been imposed on Señor Agustín Goytisolo, a poet, for reading out a poem considered to be tantamount to incitement to crime. If they are satisfied that a crime classified as terrorist was politically motivated to some extent and that no one was just in "direct danger," it is then they may free the prisoner.

For example the mere fact that a man was convicted of possessing arms or explosives does not necessarily mean that he will be kept in jail. If the arms were not used or were used only to destroy "things which are of no general interest in time, place and occasion, openly and unhesitatingly," then the prisoners may be released.

The Supreme Court's circular clarifies in a certain measure the complicated issue of whether people imprisoned for politically motivated crimes of violence will benefit from the amnesty granted by King Juan Carlos on July 30. The Government said then that the time that terrorists were imprisoned for purely political crimes in Spain raise hopes for the widest sense.

**Spain may cut electricity**

From Our Correspondent  
Madrid, Aug 25

The Spanish Cabinet met today to discuss matters although it was reliably reported that no major decisions would be taken.

Among the matters discussed was the possible reduction of electricity charges, which is regarded as a part of a larger plan. The cost of electricity and measures to help the worst off, who have been hit by drought, have gone down by as much as 30 per cent.

The Public Order Court which pronounced a sentence imposed on Senor Jose Foncea Diaz, last year for offences in connexion with the shooting of a policeman. So far more than 1,000 prisoners have been released.

**WEST EUROPE.**

New Spanish tax puts up petrol price by more than £1 a gallon

From Harry Debelius  
Madrid, Aug 25

The price of petrol here rose more than £1 a gallon today after the Government announced new measures to cure the ailing Spanish economy.

Retail duties and luxury tax went up as well. Other new measures were designed to stimulate exports in order to correct the very unfavourable trade balance. Tax incentives were offered to exporters and an aid programme introduced to help developing countries provide them with Spanish products.

The latest increase in the price of petrol was the third in the past nine months. As of midnight last night 90-octane petrol went up by two pesetas a litre (40 a gallon) to 20 pesetas a litre, or £1.69 a gallon. The price of 95-octane petrol also increased.

These measures, announced yesterday's Cabinet meeting in Madrid, were the second group of remedial measures which have been put in place this year. More such measures are expected.

Economists believe they will include a de-

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**The Times**

La circular clarifica en cierta manera el complicado problema de si individuos presos por delitos de violencia de motivación política se beneficiarán de la amnistía otorgada por el Rey Juan Carlos el 30 de julio. El Gobierno afirmó anteriormente que los terroristas estaban excluidos de la amnistía, que comprendía aquéllos presos por motivos puramente políticos en el amparo de la palabra.

A la luz de los informes se ha pedido al Tribunal Supremo que determine el grado de intimación política en cada delito. Si un delito clasificado como terrorista tenía motivaciones políticas y no ponía en peligro directo la vida de nadie el preso podía ser puesto en libertad.

Por ejemplo, el mero hecho de que un individuo convierte de poseer armas y explosivos no significa necesariamente que deba mantenerse en prisión. Si las armas no fueron empleadas y los explosivos fueron usados solamente para destruir cosas que por razones de tiempo, lugar y ocasión abiertamente excluyan riego para las personas, los presos pueden ser puestos en libertad.

Los magistrados deciden caso por caso si la amnistía es aplicable. Así 184 de más de 500 personas que se estima que están en la cárcel por delitos contra la seguridad del Estado han sido puestos en libertad.

**Spanish delays**: Honduran people are delayed at Barcelona airport this week and other Spanish airports yesterday (our Madrid correspondent). Latest reports indicated that delays were the result of a nationwide strike affecting incoming aircraft for more than a week now.

**Image**: Marques de Tejada.

The economic package approved by the Cabinet yesterday also included a provision for shortening the duration of distribution channels for farm products, in the hope of bringing food to the shops at reasonable prices without a middleman.

There was considerable specula-

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From Harry Debs, 1976

*La Pasionaria* plea to return rejected

From Our Correspondent

Madrid, Aug 26

Señora Dolores Costuri, the legendary "La Pasionaria," has died, increasing the number of women critical of the Government. Spain has banned reports of Cabinet meetings, with the Government yesterday classified the deliberations as reserved and "confidential." The ban was in reaction to an attack by the Communist Party on the referendum issue, as "contrary to the interests of Spain," and "contrary to the interests of the people of Spain." The Communist Party has said that the referendum is a "blow to the democracy." It is expected that the referendum will be held in November.

The attitude of the Communist leader, Señora Ángela Martínez Lázaro de Grima, widow of a Communist leader executed by the Franco francos, and Señora Carmen Rodrigo, Cora de Asturias, widow of a leader of the Asturian Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE), has been condemned by the Government as "inadmissible." The PSOE has called for a "general strike and demonstrations," and the PCE has called for "the immediate resignation of the Government." The PSOE has said that the referendum is a "blow to the democracy." It is expected that the referendum will be held in November.

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Visitors to the recently-opened El Pardo palace in Madrid find official grandeur and private austerity

Portrait of a dictator's home life

From William Chislett
Madrid, Aug 27

The General Franco Museum in the sixteenth-century El Pardo palace outside Madrid is just becoming a major attraction. Spaniards, particularly, are flocking there hoping to catch something of the human figure of the dictator who ruled them for 36 years.

But they come away disappointed, for the museum is as austere as Franco was. Few secrets are revealed.

The main gates, previously locked to all but the select few, have been open to visitors since the beginning of August. Immediately on entering they are faced with a plaque in the courtyard proclaiming that 'for almost four decades the Caudillo worked tirelessly for the wellbeing, peace, prosperity and enhancement of the fatherland.'

Inside the small hall up the stairs, people wait for their turn for a guide to show them the second part of the museum: the official and the private palace. The guides are mainly middle-aged Spaniards and a few foreigners these days. 'Minister stairs' people wait. 'A grey aura surrounds it.' In most rooms there are separate beds and in the private palace theatre—virtually the same chair. They were shown in colour photographs of King Alfonso XII died. After his death, if the 'palace was not very much lived in. On the way to the private apartments the visitors pass the bedroom where King Alfonso XIII died. After his death it was converted into a studio and later became General Franco's study and bedroom. It has its own furniture. The contrast between the official and the private space is striking. To the private room, the furniture is very simple and the walls bare of decorations with the exception of the 'francos' bedroom'

The Francos' bedroom attracts the most attention. Previous to its conversion, between them was a step or platform. A crucifix hangs on the wall and a ring in front of him was a bed and bedside table. The guide says everything has been left exactly the way it was when the Caudillo last worked there.

A diary open at the day October 16 seems to confirm that he became ill at a Cabinet meeting on the next day and left the session early. It is a photograph of King Alfonso XII in the Cabinet room in a golden chair upholstered in red velvet. In front of him was a bell and a crucifix. In a photograph in colour of King Alfonso XII in a military uniform, he became ill at a Cabinet meeting. The guide says everything has been left exactly the way it was when the Caudillo last worked there.

One of the rooms that attracts attention is the dictator's main study where in 36 years he received 43 heads of state and 88,000 people in collective audiences and another 3,000 in private audiences. Photographs dedicated to him record some of these audiences including photographs of Batista, the Portuguese dictator, Eisenhower, Haile Selassie and a photograph in colour of King Juan Carlos signed in 1970 when he was a prince. The guide draws everyone's attention to the painting of the monastery in Ronda after the dictator's death. The only relics of General Franco and members of his family and personal guard. The guide points out the gavel that was his for 36 years.

Two pictures attract attention, one of the last worked there, another of the room where the Franco family spent every day, the dining room, where the Franco family ate every day, and on the floor, 'This knew them.'

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Diehard leaders warn ‘traitors’ trying to destroy Franco State

From Our Correspondent
Madrid, Sept 1

Spain's entrenched right, the diehard supporters of General Franco, has broken its silence to attack the Government of Senor Giron. Its leader, Senor Joaquin Arizmendi, said: "Whoever tries to darken Spain's future will have to deal with us. We are not going to make it easy for the traitors."

His uncompromising speech is a sign that the Government is going to meet many obstacles from the Francoist right on its path to democracy.

Senor Arizmendi, a member of the Cortes by direct appointment of the late dictator and a member of the Council of the Realm, told his audience in Marbella on the Costa del Sol: "We look with fear and anger at those who propose the systematic destruction of the institutions of the only state which has overcome the old antagonisms."

Among those who heard the speech was Senor Carlos Izarra, former head of the paramilitary Civil Guard and a close companion of General Franco.

Senor Giron, Minister for Labour for 16 years and head of the federation of General Franco's old soldiers of the armed forces, said: "Spain is edging with its sails being driven against the rope of the armed forces. The so-called liberal parties with their sectarian fanaticism and their fruitless resentments are preparing the way for the military forces, which are returning to the political life."

He said that the only way to make Spain a real country was through a "just, united and strong national feeling."

For Senor Arizmendi the "traitors" are those former supporters of Francisco who now say that democracy is necessary for the country. This list would include most of the members of the present Cortes who worked their way up through the old political structures such as the National Movement or the armed forces.

Senor Giron has become known as "the Banker," the nickname given by the press to Menendez Perelló, the comptroller general of the treasury, and that he does not want to live in Madrid permanently, which he has been ordered to do by the authorities.

The minister of the Interior has sent out orders to disperse about 600 striking building workers who have been demonstrating. There is no indication that the police are leaving the streets.

Frontier alert to prevent return of La Pasionaria

From Our Correspondent
Madrid, Sept 2

Police were on alert today along the frontier with France to prevent the return of exiles of Senor Santiago Carrillo, secretary-general of the Spanish Communist Party, and Senor Dolores Bartrami, known as La Pasionaria, the party's president and legendary civil war figure.

The Government has recently denounced in Paris to the Ministry of the Interior that the exiles have not received their legal return permits, and that if they do not receive them in time they will be immediately turned back and that the minister of the Interior has written to the French authorities with a request to prevent the return of the exile.

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The weekly news magazine Cambio 16 reported last month that Senor Carrillo has been living secretly in Spain for most of the past six months and that he intended to enter again some time in the first week of September. It is known that he has been in Spain since General Franco died and has been seen several times in Madrid.

Informants tonight quoted the wife of Senor Luis Marquina, who fled to Paris as a sitting of the party's presidium meeting in the city of Lleida in October, a strike by building workers in the city of Fuenlabrada, and a Socialist bookshop specializing in Basque literature, which was smashed by a right-wing gang.

The Communist Party issued a statement today, saying that "the Government's ban on their leaders" was based on the fundamental right of a person to reside in his country and that the Government's intentions were established in the meeting of the heads of the armed forces in the Pyrenees in Spain last year.

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