ANGRY BASQUE PROTEST AT HOLDING OF TERROR SUSPECT IN FRENCH JAIL

From Harry Debelius
Madrid, Aug. 21

Agitation for the release of a Basque activist imprisoned in France continued in the Basque provinces of Spain today during a weekend of violent clashes between demonstrators and police.

There was a new demonstration in San Sebastian today, as crowds joined about 100 people coming out of a church from a night of prayer. Similar possibilities took place over the weekend in other Basque towns, and some protesters took part in a hunger strike. At the Maintenida prison in San Sebastian, four political prisoners joined the hunger strike.

About 20,000 people took part in a march last night on the French consulate in San Sebastian, where leaders of the demonstration presented a written appeal for the release of Señor Miguel Angel Agapeta, under arrest in France in connection with the kidnap and murder of a Spanish millionaire earlier this summer.

At least 12 police were treated for injuries as a result of that demonstration, the second in two days in San Sebastian. In the first, on Friday night, five people were injured when police fired arrows, bullets, and smoke grenades to disperse demonstrators. Last night, the police reported four injured.

Authorities cancelled services on some city bus routes last night after rioters commandeered two red buses and parked them across streets to form barricades, slashing their tires so they could not be moved easily. Some private cars were said to have been overturned or on fires, and a number of shop windows were smashed, either by demonstrators or by rubber bullets fired by police.

The violence has been denounced by spokesmen for Socialist and Christian Democratic political parties.

In Barcelona, an anonymous telephone caller told a newspaper reporter that sympathizers of the Basque Nationalist Party had burnt 25 cars with French licence plates on the Costa Brava.

In other incidents involving violence, police discovered a bomb in a store in central Madrid last night. Considering it dangerous, police diverted traffic away from the area, erected temporary shielding, and exploded the bomb where it was. There was no immediate indication who placed the bomb.

In Malaga two petrol bombs were thrown at the Chilean consulate on Friday causing slight damage.

Irun, Aug. 21.—A company of French riot police today stopped several hundred Spanish Basque demonstrators from crossing the frontier from Spain into France.

The demonstrators, protesting against the jailing of Señor Agapeta in France, lined up on the international bridge dividing the two countries and lined up against them 50 yards away inside French territory, witnesses said. They would not use force if the Basques continued towards the French border, the demonstrators said.

The demonstrators pulled Basque and French flags flying over the border bridge, and hoisted the red, white and green Basque flag, the eyewitnesses added. This was removed by police when they warned peacefully and dispersed.

Arrested in France in June, Señor Agapeta is now in a Marseille prison hospital after beginning a hunger strike three weeks ago. He has vowed not to eat until he is set free. The Spanish government has asked for his extradition. —Reuters.

WEST EUROPE

DEBATE ON SPANISH CONSTITUTION BEGINS

From Harry Debelius
Madrid, Aug. 22

The debate began in the Spanish Parliament today on what will be Spain's eleventh constitution. When it is finished, it will take the place of General Franco's "fundamental laws.

The debate, at present limited to a committee appointed to draw up a draft constitution, is expected to be long and bitter. However, there are signs that one of the main issues, whether or not the document should specifically define Spain as a monarchy, may not cause any conflict.

The version sponsored by the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE), which is opposed in principle to the monarchy as an institution, avoids the issue altogether, apparently leaving it to be settled in the future. Informal sources say that the Spanish Communist Party is also willing to accept some noncommittal wording on the matter.

The question which remains is whether the majority party, the Democratic Centre (UDC), and other parties of the centre and the right will agree to suppress specific references to the state as a monarchy. King Juan Carlos himself gave the Government more than a broad hint when he referred to himself in his inaugural address to Parliament here last month as a constitutional monarch.

Other burning issues are regional autonomy and whether or not new general elections should be called immediately after the approval of a constitution. The UCD favours giving any reference to autonomy deliberately vague and regulating it by ordinary legislation.

However, Basque and Catalan parties would prefer to have the matter clarified constitutionally, in order to make it perfectly clear that they have a perpetual right to a degree of self-government which cannot be revoked by decree, or even by ordinary legislation.

With regard to the question of the immediate dissolution of the Cortes (Parliament), the discussion once the constitution has been accepted, there are two positions. The one sustained primarily by the right-wing and probably the centre, is that the members of the Cortes were elected for four years and that they should serve their full term of office. The other, sustained by the left, is that the present Parliament should not be considered as anything more than a constituent assembly, bound to give way to a new one, in whose framework the nation has a democratic constitution.
Spanish hotel strike appears to break down but some staff stay out in demand for more pay

From Harry Debelius
Madrid, Aug 15
Survey work in Spain today has revealed that the strike among hotel workers threatened to bring more than 300,000 hotel guests in Spain to a grinding halt. Although some hotels have managed to stay open, the strike has forced many guests to leave their accommodation and seek alternative accommodation.

The strike, which is the largest ever in Spain, has been called by the Union of Hotel Workers (UHT) in protest against the low wages and poor working conditions faced by workers in the hotel industry. The UHT has demanded a 50% increase in wages and an end to the use of temporary and precarious contracts.

The government has been under pressure to address the demands of the UHT, but so far has only offered a 10% increase in wages. The UHT has threatened to continue the strike until their demands are met.

The strike has had a significant impact on the tourist industry, with many hotels forced to close or reduce their services. This has led to a decrease in the number of tourists visiting Spain, which is a major source of income for the country.

The UHT has called on the government to negotiate with them and address their demands. They have also called on tourists to support their strike by choosing not to stay in hotels that are participating in the strike.

Despite the strike, some hotels have been able to operate, but many have had to reduce their services and close their doors.

The situation remains tense, but the UHT has said that they are willing to negotiate with the government to find a solution to the strike.
Reporter is jailed for offending Civil Guard

From Harry Debelis
Madrid, Aug 23

A reporter for the Madrid newspaper Diario-16 has been imprisoned by order of the military authorities for 20 days for a minor offence involving a slight lack of respect for the Civil Guard, it was learnt here today.

Señor Juan José Romano reported that a right-wing murder suspect had been seen at a youth club in the Basque town of Amorebieta, "a club which is normally frequented in the small hours by members of the Civil Guard".

Several residents of the town later confirmed that they had seen the suspect at the club, and that the club was a gathering place of known right-wing extremists.

In the same town last July, after a number of violent incidents allegedly provoked by right-wing extremists, a group of citizens captured some armed men, two of whom turned out to be policemen.

The writer's imprisonment in the Basauri prison in Bilbao last night drew protests from Basque political parties except those of the far right.

A statement by journalists from the four Basque provinces said: "It seems incredible that in these times certain organisms and institutions can still be among our companions whose professions require a professional record, even in the toughest days of the Franco dictatorship, the journalistic profession, the demand for a democratic society is for such a society for all the citizens of this country, and we journalists should not be and do not want to be, an exception."

In the Bilbao Roman Catholic station Radio Popular, Señor José Aspíroz, said: "Romano's imprisonment seems like a bad joke and it leads me to believe that there is more to it than a minor offence involving a slight lack of respect.

Basques demand leader's release

From Our Correspondent
Madrid, Aug 22

Protest marches in two Basque cities yesterday kept up pressure for the release of a Basque separatist leader being held in France, while authorities in San Sebastian denounced "subversive attempts" for organizing attempts to disturb the peace.

A note signed by the civil governor of Guipúzcoa province was published in San Sebastian last night, appealing to the "good judgment" of citizens and asking them to refrain from involvement in public gatherings which degenerate into acts of violence.

Coming after nearly a week of daily demonstrations for the release of Señor Miguel Angel Apalategui, the note was distributed at about the same time as police were breaking up a demonstration in San Sebastian by about 500 youths who had blocked traffic sitting down on a main thoroughfare.

In Bilbao, about 800 marchers paraded through the streets carrying the red, white and green Basque flag and banners referring to Señor Apalategui, who was arrested earlier this summer in connexion with the kidnapping and murder of a Spanish millionaire by the separatist organization ETA.

In Madrid, petrol bombs were thrown against the main doors of the Palace of Justice on Tuesday night, but police extinguished the flames quickly and there was little damage.

The sources said that an emissary of Señor Suárez, the Prime Minister, was expected to go to Bayonne, in southern France, this weekend to see Basque officials. They would probably arrange a meeting between Señor Suárez and Señor José María de Lezoaola, the president of the government-in-exile.

WEST EUROPE

Basque protest marchers banned from centre of Pamplona after violence threats by right

From Harry Debelis
Madrid, Aug 25

The authorities in the city of Pamplona have banned thousands of people from coming to the city's famous running of the bulls, which is happening this summer.

A group of Basque political parties and trade unions said that they would be unable to hold a rally in the city unless the authorities granted legal status.

The authorities said that they had received "a series of threats" involving a slight lack of respect for the Civil Guard.

The marchers are demanding autonomy for the Basque provinces, local amnesty and the immediate release of Basque prisoners. By the time they reach Pamplona, it is expected that there are expected to number tens of thousands.

The organizers of the march say that they have invited Basque and Catalan leaders to attend the rally on Sunday.

Meanwhile, men claiming to be policemen visited several bus companies in the Basque city of Vitoria, telling the managers not to rent their buses to Basque separatists for a rally next week.

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Basques injured in protest over detained ETA man

From Harry Debelius
Madrid, Aug 26

At least eight people were seriously hurt in the latest demonstrations in the northern city of San Sebastian demanding the release of Señor Miguel Angel Aparategui, a Basque activist imprisoned in France, according to reports published here today.

The clashes occurred last night. An 18-year-old boy who was watching the demonstration from a second floor balcony was seriously hurt by a rubber bullet fired by police. Among the injured were two Spanish journalists.

Similar demonstrations took place in Bilbao and Santurde, but no one was hurt.

Meanwhile, Señor Aparategui, the main in the centre of this disturbance continued his fast at Beaumettes prison in France, in support of demands that the Government should legalize some banned leftist groups.

Miss Redgrave, an executive member of the Workers' Revolutionary Party, came to Spain on Sunday, when tens of thousands of demonstrators will converge on the city of Pamplona.

The authorities fear possibly clashes between the "freedom marchers" and right-wing protesters. The weekend meetings were called in support of demands that the Government should legalize some banned leftist groups, among them the Trotskyist and other revolutionary groups.

Miss Redgrave, an executive member of the Workers' Revolutionary Party, came to Spain as a guest of the Communist Workers' League, a small Trotskyist group—UPI.

Immunity dispute over 'beating of MP'

From Our Correspondent
Madrid, Aug 31

A dispute over parliamentary immunity continued today with three investigations underway, prompted by allegations that police beat up a congressional deputy of the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE) last weekend in Santander.

A spokesman for the PSOE, the main opposition party in parliament, said in Madrid today that the party is still waiting for an answer to its demand for a special plenary session of Parliament to which Señor Rodolfo Martin Villa, the Interior Minister, can be questioned about the incident and related matters.

The Interior Minister has sent senior police officials to Santander to look into the case. He told journalists in Madrid last night that he could not make any formal judgment until he had heard from the investigators in his own ministry.

Besides, he added, "as Interior Minister it is my obligation to keep up the morale of the forces of public order."

A second investigation is being carried out by a special parliamentary committee. A third is under way as a result of claims made by policemen involved in the alleged beating that the Socialist deputy Jaime Blanco, insulted them.

This last investigation is to substantiate charges brought by the policemen.

The storm over parliamentary immunity began last Saturday after a political rally in Santander in favour of regional autonomy. While all the circumstances are not clear, it appears that Señor Santiago Carrillo, the secretary-general of the Spanish Communist Party, that the Interior Minister should resign. The Minister had replied that he was ready to quit at any time if he felt he should. But he did not give any indication that this time had now come.

The Socialists rejected efforts by Señor Ignacio Camuñas, the Minister in charge of relations with Parliament, to settle the issue in talks between party representatives and members of the Government. In what appeared to be an effort to play down the incident, Señor Camuñas went, so far as to say: "There will be more Santander cases before Spain finally gets used to democracy."

But such an explanation is far from satisfactory for the PSOE. The Socialist Party's position is that the alleged attack by police on their deputy after he had identified himself as such, was a flagrant violation of the principle of parliamentary immunity, and possibly an attempt to intimidate the Opposition.

The party considers that the attack on Señor Blanco should be interpreted as an attack on