WEST EUROPE
Attacks by fire on Basque and Catalan community centres

From Our Correspondent
Madrid, January 5

Right-wing extremists in Bilbao and Barcelona set fire to two community centres in the past few days. In Bilbao, 80 Chrysler car workers continued their strike in a church in a suburb of the city. They are demanding the right to elect their own representatives with the permission of their colleagues as a result of the national strike.

The presents are demanding the right to elect their representatives and have called for the seven representatives of their state-run union to be dismissed for "not losing the confidence of workers, resulting in a confrontation and protests against the company's plans to dismiss them.

In Tarragona, an industrial suburb this morning after workers in the Metro ended their sit-in, the church and the police dispersed the demonstrators. There were several arrests and one worker was injured.

The strikers are demanding an increase in their monthly wage of about £120 and an improvement in their working conditions. They are paid for 24 months a year.

Our Madrid Correspondent
The strike crippled the city and affected the daily life work. Police used tear gas to break up the demonstrators and in the early hours of the morning tents were burned. The workers, including 300 women, had been waiting for several days.

It is not known whether the Metropolitan police have permission to use force. The strike has increased the confidence of workers in the city of Aranjuez.

The municipal authorities laid on extra buses to take workers to factories in the industrial area. According to one estimate, the buses managed to transport 800,000 of the two million people who use the Metro.

Nevertheless, thousands of people were unable to get to work and the workers were dispersed with slow-moving traffic jams in the city centre.

The Metro company, which receives state subsidies, says it cannot afford to pay more.

So far the strike has had little effect. Today, the twelfth day of Christmas, was a busy day.

If the strike continues it will severely affect the city and industrial life. Thousands of people will be hurt if the Metro is not given more time.

The strike for an amnesty and has the potential of illegal labour disputes. That is why the company should with the Government's secretary-general with a group of civil servants. They will share the responsibility of the territory with Morocco and Mauritania until the Spanish-Spanish agreement is reached.

There were several arrests and three workers were injured.

The strike started last night and led to violence between police and workers demonstrating outside the Metros offices. Police used tear gas and charged the demonstrators. There were several arrests and three workers were injured.

While the Cabinet met about 2000 of the demonstrators staged a sit-in in the Church of Our Lady of Lujan. Members of their families were allowed to bring food. Police patrolled near the church and the police received severe attacks.

The strikers are demanding an increase in their monthly wage of about £120 and an improvement in their working conditions. They are paid for 24 months a year.

From Our Correspondent

Spanish Government warning of call-up for Metro strikers

The Government今晚正式宣布将实行一个新的政策，以应对当前的罢工形势。自7月1日以来，已有多次罢工事件发生，工人要求更高的工资和更好的工作条件。政府表示，他们将采取措施来解决这些问题，包括提高工资和改善工作条件。政府表示，他们将采取措施来解决这些问题，包括提高工资和改善工作条件。
Troops sent in to get strike-bound Madrid Metro working

From Our Correspondent
Madrid, Jan 7

The Spanish Government, in an attempt to end the strike which has paralysed the Madrid Underground by sending in soldiers to operate one of the lines.

About 10 trains, running at an average of almost 20 miles an hour, were operated by young soldiers using their military service. Some of those doing their compulsory national service spent some time working in the Underground.

The line which was opened is one that carries the most passengers. At the same time the Government has ordered that schools will be closed until Monday as many children have not been able to attend.

In the Puerta del Sol, the city's focal point, queues for the Underground stretched for hundreds of yards and buses ran at maximum capacity.

A protest against the action of the ecclesiastical authorities in the Underground.

According to one estimate, the buses managed to make hundreds of yards and buses ran at maximum capacity.

Many thousands of Spanish workers today came out in sympathy with the Madrid Metro railwaymen, who have been on strike since Monday night. It was estimated that 2,600 of the 15,000 factory workers in the Madrid industrial suburb of Getafe went on strike and 500 demonstrators marched through the working-class district of Vallecas in support of the railwaymen.

In Madrid and Toledo, a total of 16,000 Standard-ITT workers also staged a strike and industrial action was reported from many parts of Spain.

On the Metro front, where troops operated one line yesterday, another two lines were opened by them today. This meant the Underground was working at about 70 per cent of capacity.

An official said a fourth line would be opened tomorrow.

Some people walked to work. Streets were clogged with traffic and the workers' mood as they have shown by trams.
Spaña

**New man faces unrest from staff and students**

**from William Chislett**

**MADRID**

Spain's new Education Minister, Señor Carlos Robles Piquer, appointed last week, has taken over at a difficult moment with increasing problems on all levels.

The new minister, aged 50, who replaces Señor Cruz Martinez Estrella, was trained as a diplomat, working most recently in the Foreign Ministry.

Among the pressing problems facing the new minister are the lack of State nurseries, the conflict over whether private schools should be subsidized and the high cost of extra classes. However, some State schools have raised the cost of extra classes to £8 a month.

The classes are voluntary, but as the Catholic daily, Ya, pointed out, many parents feel that their children will fall behind if they do not attend.

Spain

**New minister faces rising problems all round**

**from William Chislett**

**MADRID**

Señor Carlos Robles Piquer, Spain's new Education Minister, has taken over at a difficult moment with increasing problems on all levels.

The new minister, aged 50, who replaces Señor Cruz Martinez Estrella, was appointed last week, following the last Cabinet reshuffle, with increasing problems on all levels.

Spain

**Students go to the polls**

Electors of student delegates for Madrid's universities were voting this week. The elections, the first since 1960, were held on 28 July and were won by the60.
**Explosion halts rail services in Madrid**

**From Our Correspondent Madrid, Jan 13**

A warning that violence will not be contained came today from Senator Fraga Iribarne, the Minister of the Interior, who announced that the violent demonstrations had led to a shutdown of communications infrastructure in the capital of Spain. The order was issued by the Minister of the Interior, in response to a call from the National Police to take action against the violent protesters.

**WEST EUROPE**

**Leaders of outlawed Spanish parties offered ‘respectability’**

**From Harry Debelius
day Madrid, Jan 13**

Spain’s outlawed political parties, which have been active in underground operations, have been offered a move towards ‘respectability’ under a new arrangement announced by the Spanish Government.

The agreement, which was reached after negotiations with the outlawed political parties, includes the following points:

1. The outlawed parties will be allowed to operate within the legal framework.
2. They will be offered a place in the political process, with a view to participating in national elections.
3. The Government will initiate dialogue with the outlawed parties to discuss their demands.

This development is seen as a significant step towards the normalisation of political life in Spain, following years of political turmoil and violence.

**Spain’s strike leaders join forces in open campaign for reforms**

**From Harry Debelius
day Madrid, Jan 14**

The strike leaders in Spain have announced an open campaign for reforms, with a view to addressing the demands of the striking workers. The campaign is led by the trade unions, which have held mass rallies and strikes in recent weeks.

The main demands of the workers include improved working conditions, better pay, and an end to the violence and unrest that has characterised recent months.

**Government leaves Sahara with bitter farewell**

**From Our Correspondent
day Madrid, Jan 13**

The Spanish Government has completed its withdrawal from the Sahara, following a long campaign to disband the Spanish army in the territory. The decision is seen as a significant step towards the normalisation of political life in Spain, following years of political turmoil and violence.

The withdrawal was announced by the Prime Minister, who said that the decision was made in response to the demands of the workers and the general public.

The Spanish army had been present in the Sahara since the 1950s, with a large number of troops stationed in the territory. The decision to withdraw is seen as a significant step towards the normalisation of political life in Spain, following years of political turmoil and violence.
Spanish Cabinet plans to delay dissolution of Parliament by year

From Harry Debbius
Madrid, Jan 15

The Spanish Cabinet decided at an emergency session here today to ask King Juan Carlos to postpone the dissolution of Parliament for a year, in order for the programme of the Prime Minister, Adolfo Suarez, to be discussed in the Cortes, the upper house of the Parliament, by the end of the year. The Prime Minister, in a brief statement to the press, said that the dissolution of Parliament would be held at a date to be announced by the King. The King, he said, will hold consultations with the party leaders in the Cortes and Parliament before deciding on the date of the dissolution.

The decision was welcomed by the opposition parties, who had been demanding a postponement of the dissolution. The Socialists, the main opposition party, had been pressing for a postponement of the dissolution, which was scheduled for March 16. The government had earlier announced that it was preparing for a general election in the fall.

The decision was also welcomed by workers, who had been on strike for four days, demanding a postponement of the dissolution. The strike, which was called by the trade unions, had been supported by the large majority of the workers in the country. The strike had been called in protest against the government's policy of increasing prices and cutting back on social services.

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**WEST EUROPE**

**120 Spanish workers arrested in police raid on hall are accused of planning general strike**

From Harry Delubil

**SECRET TRUCE BETWEEN KING AND BASQUE MILITANTS COLLAPSES**

From Harry Delubil

**Spain’s 62,000 railmen are mobilized to avert national strike**

From Our Correspondent

**MADRID STRIKEBREAKERS GIVEN POLICE PROTECTION**

From Our Correspondent
Two Spanish governors resign in protest

From Harry Debelius
Madrid, Jan 20

Political tension dominated the news in Spain today with the civil governors of two Basque provinces resigning in protest against the authorization of widespread use of the Basque flag, symbol of home-rule aspirations.

The governors of Vizcaya and Guipuzcoa, the two coastal provinces of the Basque country, handed in their resignations yesterday, according to reports published in Madrid. Other appointed officials are expected to follow suit.

Another protest action took place in Barcelona, where one of the board of judges at the annual awarding of prizes of the magazine Mundo walked out of the hall where the awards were being made last night. A llamito Gonsalez Herran, a newspaper editor, was protected by police officers in the presence of Selga Santiago Carpio, the acting governor of the Spanish Communist party, at the ceremony.

The Civil Governor of Barcelona expressed sympathy, but did not walk out himself. Plans went to President Gavard of Estan and Selga Adolfo Suarez, the Spanish Prime Minister, holder of whom was present.

In Madrid, the kidnappers of Señor Antonio de Ordoñez, president of the Council of State, gave a formal indirect assurance to the Government that nothing would happen to their hostage even if the Government complaiended refusing to meet the kidnappers' demands.

In a new message delivered to the Madrid newspaper El Pais last night, the self-styled First of October Anti-Fascist Resistance Group (Grazia) said: "We have more than enough patience to carry this matter to the end ... without any necessity of executing our prisoner."

The anonymous caller who told a newspaper reporter where to find the latest note, assured the reporter that Selga "it perfectly well" and "is being treated like a prisoner of war, not like the torturers treat undesirable prisoners."

A suburban bus driver's strike in Madrid which had seriously affected a number of factories over the past two days, however, after the management agreed to free the drivers an allowance of a month plus other benefits.

Crows jump for joy as Basque flag is flown

From William Chilcot
San Sebastian, Jan 20

Thousands of Basques leaped into chanting "Long live the free Basque flag!" last night, the self-styled First of October Anti-Fascist Resistance Group (Grazia) said: "We have more than enough patience to carry this matter to the end ... without any necessity of executing our prisoner."

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Madrid grants more rights to Basque region

From Our Correspondent
Madrid, Jan 21

Señor Adolfo Suarez and his Cabinet discussed here today the replacement of two provincial governors who were over the Government's decision to allow the free display of the Basque national flag.

Yesterday, the Prime Minister spent several hours discussing the situation with the Untoza General, the In-terior Minister.

In the town of Vizcaya, 70 Basque prisoners were yesterday to hear a report from a committee of ministers which had met the Interior Minister in Madrid to discuss the demands for full amnesty, use of the Basque flag, the appearance of Basques as an official flag, and Basque pride for the region.

In Vitoria, the capital of the province of Alava, Basque patriots were informed today that a proposal for bilingual education—in Basque and Spanish—has been approved by the Ministry of Education for certain primary schools in the area.
**Civil Guards evict 5,000 strikers from Madrid church**

From Harry Dehellos

A few smoke grenades were fired and a few would-be demonstrators fell the thrust of batons on their shoulders and kidneys. The incidents involved only a few groups of people, probably numbering not more than 500 in any incident and these occurred only in places far from the associated gathering place.

An employee of the Chrysler plant in Madrid is in hospital after being beaten up by strikers—one of several previously assorted examples of labour violence, including a kidnapping.

Employees still working at the factory, an estimated 10,000, are returning home each day with police protection for fear of reprisals.

**Spain Police at last leave campuses**

From William Childers

Student leaders closed to university last week found that something was seriously wrong at the campuses from the police.

The Government has ordered police leave the universities where they have been for many years. The order came with a promise from Senor Carlos Arias Navarro, the Prime Minister, to allow students participation and democratic reforms.

The withdrawal of police from universities is an important move by the Government in its attempt to win the support of students and teachers. Police presence, particularly at Madrid's three universities, has led to repeated clashes with students and complaints from teachers that they were unable to teach under such conditions.

Only last month a professor of sociology and political science resigned from the University of Granada because of police harassment. Efforts to hold elections were repeatedly broken up by police.
**MP enragés Cortes by saying Franco’s widow should get less**

From Our Correspondent

**Madrid, Jan 23**

One of the few elected members of the Spanish Parliament was astonished and greatly insulted today for daring to raise objections to a proposal to grant a special pension to General Franco’s millionaire widow.

Señor Vidal Careo, a representative of the central province of foro, suggested that the special pension “compatible with any other to which she may be entitled” be deleted from the proposed law.

His amendment would have had the effect of reducing the total amount which Señora Franco could receive from the Government, since she is also entitled to several other pensions, including those for being the wife of a deceased chief of the National Movement, Prime Minister and former member of the Government.

Señor Careo followed with several MPs that there are more representatives over 65 years of age who get no more than 1,345 pesetas (about £11) a month.

He was shouted down in the Cortes. Later in the building, according to a statement which has just been released, to the presidency of the Cortes, by a fellow speaker, the speaker responsible for the amendment was insulted.

The removal of the pension in question is being discussed in the Cortes, and Señora Franco has not yet publicly mentioned it to her amendment, Señor Careo founded that the historical documents shared by the excellent lady, with her August husband, cannot be paid for with money.” He refrained from pointing out that Señora Franco’s income, accumulated during Franco’s 40-year rule, is reputed to be far greater than that of any other European head of state.

While the Cortes debated and then continued its discussion on the Government’s proposal to prolong the Cortes for a year. It had before its proposals for municipal elections which were presented yesterday by Señor Díaz Sana, the Interior Minister and former member of the Cortes.

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**Flamenco singer without a song**

From Our Correspondent

**Madrid, Jan 27**

Señor Manuel Gerena, a noted flamenco singer, complained to Madrid today that the post-Franco Government is keeping him out of work and has fined him without trial.

A native of Seville, Señor Gerena explained that the Government advised him last Saturday that his contract there had been prohibited; but he turned up to perform on Sunday and was fined without trial for about 5,000 disappointed fans.

“I cannot let myself be considered a fraud,” he said. “I’ll have to get three songs and the same. I want him to sing me one song and I want half a song outside the theatre.”

As a result the police took him into custody and he was fined 250,000 pesetas (over £1,200) without trial. He was later conditionally released, pending payment of the fine.

He wrote to the Spanish news agency EFE in the hope of seeing Señor Manuel Fraga Iribarne, the Interior Minister, to ask why the Government will not let him work.

General Franco’s regime took away his passport in Barcelona 11 months ago, forcing him to cancel engagements in Sweden, France, Belgium, West Germany and Portugal.

In answer to reports that the Señor Minister was asking for the return of the passport, and was said to have been given a reply to that effect, but that the same day that he Seville concert was cancelled.

**Stronghold of Spanish right fears for its future**

From Harry Dearden

**New York, Jan 27**

The Cortes, Spain’s highest advisory body, met today for the third session of five days to discuss whether to accept the Government’s proposal to prolong the Cortes by a year.

After a lengthy meeting it issued a statement saying that it would forward its report to Señor Arias Navarro, the Prime Minister, and former member of the Cortes.

A large number of its members came up for reelection in March under the new constitution which was approved by the Cortes, he was threatened with being asked to vote himself out of office.

The 17-member Council of the Realm in its report today recommended the abolishment of political courts and the repeal of General Franco’s tough anti-terrorist decree.

It was believed that members of the right-wing for its Socialists, or semi-official bodies as is the time with more than 80 per cent of MPs. They are necessary.

The Cortes approved these reforms at a session on May 31, 1976, when it was agreed that members of the right-wing for its Socialists, or semi-official bodies as is the case with more than 80 per cent of MPs. They are necessary.

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Anti-terrorist decree to be revised

From Harry Debeylvs
Madrid, Jan 28

Señor Carlos Arias, the Prime
Minister, promised today that
some of Spain's laws will be
changed, but "as Franco would
give voice to.

The Government, he declared,
would not allow the possibility
to be taken of any reform in
Spanish law that would be tended
to be made before 18 months
before the end of the
time of General Franco's Cortes
(Parliament).

His long awaited speech in
the Cortes included a pledge to
create a two-chamber legisla-
tion, it also included the
promise of a new electoral law,
but he did promise legislation to
make it possible for political"par-
cies" to work within the frame-
work of the Falange-based National Movement.

The Prime Minister referred
to the Cortes, only 17 per cent of
whom are elected, that the"legitimate representatives of the
temporary people" and he spoke
reversely on the late dictator,
who, he said, had been "the unperceived and indispensable" leader.

Señor Arias' speech was
broadcast live, watched by an
unprecedented audience.

The 21-man Commission to
study constitutional reforms
is to study proposals which include a bicameral system for the Cortes and
changes to the law of succession
to the monarchy.

Señor Arias said that the
speech made it clear that the
speech made it clear that the
Cortes should be study constitutional reforms
in order to impose order,
promise of a new electoral law,
restore the integrity of the
Cortes and to study reform for
the future, "no matter what the
conduct.

Cortes last week for "daring to j
some of Spain's laws will be
repealed. The 21-man commis-

several issues of the new laws
drawn up by General Franco's
changes in the fundamental
laws of the Cortes and in the
the law of succession to the
monarchy. Under Spanish law,
years.

Spain TV viewers get their first glimpse of dissidents in action

From Our Correspondent
Madrid, Feb 5

The Spanish television network
broadcast a documentary in the
first time viewers could see
the views of a politician who
was one of Franco's most
respected opponents.

Señor Manuel Carro, a
leader of the Communist Party,
was interviewed in a popular
programme of the state
network.

Both the interview and the
earlier scenes of the show
broadcast an important
message.

The regular news show last
night went as far as to show
unprecedented access to
the party's headquarters.

The interview and the
documentary broadcast were
something new in Spain, where television had been a powerful
propaganda arm of the regime from the time it began broadcasting in
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1959.
Franco's ghost haunts Spanish strikes

By WILLIAM CHISLET
Special to The Star

MADRID — The wave of strikes which has hit Spain this week threatens to jeopardize the slow march to democracy and raise the spectre of another dictatorship — although it is not yet clear whether it would be of the right or the left.

The strikes, which have idled more than 250,000 workers in 25 cities, are supported by the two principal popular front organizations, the Communist-founded Democratic Unity and the Socialist Democratic Platform. Both have called on all Spaniards to continue strikes and demonstrations in a peaceful demand for immediate and democratic reform.

The two organizations, which represent an overwhelming majority of non-establishment politicians, want a "democratic rupture" with the Franco regime.

The government has determined that its pace towards democracy will be faster. An emergency cabinet meeting Thursday decided to prolong the mandate of Gen. Francisco Franco's last parliament by a year in order to organize elections peacefully.

But a year may be too long for much of the opposition, and if the government is pushed too hard there may be a right-wing backlash — which would lead to violence.

There has been little violence so far, as Spaniards take their newly-found democracy to the streets. Madrid has been wracked by workers and students. But police have been remarkably restrained. They have fired tear gas and shot in the air, but have refrained from breaking heads, as they did without qualms when Franco was alive. But it is evident that police patience is running out.

The strikes are as much economic as political. Strikers make no secret of the fact that they do not just want more money. They want an amnesty for political prisoners, free political parties and elections.

Many demands for higher wages are justified in the light of Spain's 20 per cent inflation rate. The average take-home pay for most workers at one Madrid electronics factory is 500 for a 44-hour week. The factory is shut down with 20,000 workers on strike.

But their demand for a 100 per cent increase, though it may be justified, has come at a time when the normally blooming Spanish economy has stopped booming. Meeting their demand would lead to even more from other industrial sectors and lead to economic chaos which, given the uncertain political situation, would be dangerous for Spain.

Of course some strikers — particularly Communists — are taking advantage of the relaxation of authority to exploit the situation. But it must be remembered that Spaniards are being allowed to demonstrate relatively freely for the first time in years as the lid of the dictatorship is being taken off.

The government is marking time. Interior Minister Manuel Fraga has vowed to use the full rigor of the law to meet violence.

The hardest action the government has taken so far was to end a strike by postal workers on Wednesday by drafting them all into the army. Anyone going on strike again could be court-martialled.

If the subway strikers go on strike again, as they did last week for five days, they will almost certainly find themselves wearing the same badge. Meanwhile, both the right and left are sharpening their knives. Extreme right-wing groups like the Warriors of Christ the King, which enjoyed virtual immunity from punishment in the Franco era, are prepared in the words of their leader to "remain alert at the foot of the cannon" while the dictatorship is dismantled.

That vow appears ominous in view of the fact that the strikes show no sign of letting up.

Spain's uncertain future may well depend on who gives in first — the strikers or the government.
Military draft cools militant Spanish unions

By WILLIAM CHISLETT
Special to The Star

MADRID — Spain’s armed forces have increased by more than 40 per cent in less than a week, but not as the result of military authorities preparing for war. The government has merely drafted all the country’s postal and railway workers into the army to stop them from striking.

Spain’s normally large army of 322,300 has swollen to more than 455,000, thanks to King Juan Carlos’ decree militarizing strikers.

On paper at least, Spain’s army has become the largest per capita of any western European country. One in every 82 Spaniards is now in the military.

Although mailmen and train engineers are now technically members of the armed forces, in fact their working lives are the same as they always have been. Local neighborhood postmen have not changed overnight into regimented guardsmen. They do, however, look slightly sheepish wearing red and yellow badges — Spain’s national colors — with the letter M for militarized on them.

Face military discipline

This obligatory badge is the only visible sign that anything has changed. Inside post offices and on trains workers carry on as usual — with one important difference.

If they defy orders from a superior or go on strike again they face court-martial and possible dire consequences under military law. In matters of discipline they are treated the same as any army private.

"The government used such drastic action to force the strikers to return to normal and sidetrack their demands for more pay and amnesty for political prisoners. So far the government has been right. Within hours of the decree being published, all the strikers had returned to work."

Said one postman: "We would like to thank all our colleagues in other countries who have protested against the government’s action. But if we walk out they will get us."

Eight postmen who defied orders last week were immediately arrested and are due to appear before a military court. Under Spanish military law they can expect none of the rights they would normally enjoy in a civil court. They cannot nominate a civilian lawyer and have to accept a military lawyer assigned by the army to defend them.

Workers don’t like it

In times of war the eight defiant postmen could be shot. Now they’re likely to get a stint in prison or a heavy fine to serve as an example to others.

The government felt that the strike action by postal and railway workers was a "grave disturbance of public order." As the workers are civil servants, the government felt it had the right to use the militarization decree, which was created by late dictator Francisco Franco in 1973.

The militarized workers are far from happy with the government’s action.

"Look, what can we do?" said a postman. "We don’t want to face the consequences if we go on strike again."

While the government would never court-martial all 125,000 of them, it could make an example of a few.