Carrillo role likely in opposition meeting

From Our Correspondent

Madrid, Jan 3

Señor Santiago Carrillo, the Communist leader, is trying to make up for lost time after being barred from openly taking part in opposition politics in Spain for 37 years. He is expected to attend tomorrow's meeting of the opposition's negotiating team to discuss future contacts with the Government.

Señor Carrillo was released on bail nine days ago from Madrid's Carabanchel prison. He is accused of illegal association, although it is most unlikely that he will ever come to trial. He holds a meeting with the party's executive committee over the weekend.

Confidence between the opposition and the Government seems to have arrested Señor Carrillo and other Communist leaders. The opposition decided not to participate in any further contacts until they were wanted.

When the opposition met last week, it was thought that Señor Antonio Merino, the party's chief negotiator, would refuse to accept the party's right wing pressure. The position is still not clear, but with the release of Señor Carrillo on bail, which is tantamount to recognizing his right to stay in Spain and take part in politics, it is thought likely that the Government will now be willing to proceed with the talks.

Señor Joaquín Serrategui, the Liberal representative in the group, was quoted in the newspaper "Hoy y el Lunes" as saying: "The Government will find a satisfactory solution to the problem of the Spanish Communist Party."

Here Señor del Carmen Chacon, the joint German Chanceller, is due to see the Prime Minister in Madrid on Thursday in Señor Suarez's new residence at the Moncloa Palace. The move from the Castellana has been made for security reasons and to give more space to his office.

There was no further development in the blackened offices of Señor Antonio Merino at the end of his two-day deadline on his run out at the Luso-Brazilian Embassy. A new team was sent in the evening newspaper "Las Provincias" last night confirming that he was still alive.

WEST EUROPE

Spanish reforms keep up momentum of drive to democracy

From Harry Debelius

Madrid, Jan 5

It was King Juan Carlos's thirtieth birthday today and documents held a few things to celebrate: a decree excluding observers from military service; the temporary suspension of a collapse in negotiations between Government and opposition over the release of a Basque prisoner demonstration; and a more liberal draft of a law to legalize trade unions.

The text of the contentious 167-page decree, published today, says that observers may take "in points of view the principles of liberty" rather than in the armed forces, but this service will last for three years only. The Basque prisoners service of one year is 18 months.

Leaders of the principal Basque parties avoided expressions of satisfaction with the Government's move. One Basque economist team would have begun negotiations with the Prime Minister, on the president for talks towards democracy.

There was less comment on the new opposition bodies established in the region, the Government would refuse to meet.

The opposition bodies originally were resources of the National Movement, associations including the Communist party and formed to represent the interests of the Basque country and the south with new death threats to the editors of the Basque weekly magazine Berriak. Anonymously telephoned calls, telling them that they would be blown up, came only days after arsenals burned out the magazine's San Sebastian office.

Meanwhile right-wing extremists reacted in the north with pro-amnesty demonstrations in the north and with new death threats to the editors of the Basque weekly magazine Berriak. Anonymously telephoned calls, telling them that they would be blown up, came only days after arsenals burned out the magazine's San Sebastian office.

WEST EUROPE

Falangist support for political amnesty to aid Spanish democracy

From Harry Debelius

Madrid, Jan 3

The cardboard Falangist surprisingly joined the clamour for a broader amnesty today. The self-styled "authentic sector" of the party sent a letter to Señor Adolfo Suárez, the Prime Minister, listing five conditions for advancement "along the road to democracy."

The Falangists wanted the voting age lowered to 18; representation in Parliament for cultural and neighbourhood associations; abolition of the National Movement, the political organization in which they were incorporated by General Franco; elimination of the requirement for political parties to seek official approval and register; and amnesty for political prisoners.

The appeal for amnesty collected with similar appeals from many political organizations and, with a continuing series of demonstrations, particularly in the Basque country. However, the Falangists appealed in a letter that is common with the demands of the demonstrators. They demanded the return of the "true" representation on anything but a proportional or geographically based list. They had a clear threat to Franco's regime "organic democracy"; and the presence of the Falangists' amnesty appeared to have developed only since Señor Suárez's Government last began to arrest right-wing thinkers as well as leftists.

As for the abilities of the National Movement, hard-core Falangists have been encouraged that in only serve, because the government absorbed them and eliminated their influence.

Meanwhile right-wing extremists reacted in the north with pro-amnesty demonstrations in the north and with new death threats to the editors of the Basque weekly magazine Berriak. Anonymously telephoned calls, telling them that they would be blown up, came only days after arsenals burned out the magazine's San Sebastian office.

The weekly, which began publishing only last September, has argued right-wing extremism not because of its pro-Basque editorial line.

In Madrid a select committee of nine representatives of the opposition designated by three parties to negotiate with the Government about the upcoming elections, today found of its face at their discussion. The Spanish Communist Party was represented by Señor Santiago Carrillo, who changed his idea after his brother's letter in the Carabanchel prison and the subsequent release pending trial on a charge of an illegal association.

Señor A. Canellas, the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party, the Christian Democratic Party; Señor Juan de la Fuente, of the Spanish Socialists' Workers' Party; Señor Antonio Merino, of the Christian Democratic Party; Señor Juan de la Fuente, representative of the Spanish Socialists' Workers' Party; Señor Joaquín Serrategui, of the Liberal Party—Agence France-Press.
**Herr Schmidt in Spain to offer advice**

From Harry Debois

Madrid, Jan. 6—In keeping with the West German Chancellor, who is in Spain on an "official" visit, after spending Christmas on the Costa del Sol, Herr Schmidt is to call on the King, and the Prime Minister, to offer advice for both King Juan Carlos, and the Prime Minister, that Spain should become a "normal" state, and not "another Vietnam". The day he was released from prison, Herr Schmidt is to call on the King, and the Prime Minister, to offer advice for both King Juan Carlos, and the Prime Minister, that Spain should become a "normal" state, and not "another Vietnam".

**Senor Carrillo will use new found freedom to campaign for the return of 'La Pasionaria'**

From William Chrisler

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**W E S T  E U R O P E.**

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WEST EUROPE

Madrid shop stewards call for steps to curb terrorists as gunmen wound factory guards

From Harry Debelius
Madrid, Jan 10

Political activists wounded three workers today with machine guns during a 24-hour strike called by the General Confederation of Workers and managed by the Unión General de Trabajadores (UGT) in the Basque country in a demand for total amnesty for political prisoners. The public prosecutor of the Madrid area and former mayor of the town of Paracuellos, Señor Antonio Maria de Oriol, has reportedly issued a warning against the “assassin of Paracuellos” to be tried for the murder of three guards, one of whom was killed, and a half before the military uprising which eventually brought General Franco to power.

The “vertical” proposal, backed by Señor Rodofo Martin Villalba, the Interior Minister, took up the comment of the Prime Minister, who has reportedly called for a total amnesty for political prisoners. The Government has already called for an end to the Basque problem.

The shop stewards of the Basque region, who have been on strike since yesterday, have announced a weekly meeting with the Prime Minister to discuss the Basque problem.

WEST EUROPE

Madrid bans meeting of Basque mayors

From Harry Debelius
Madrid, Jan 13

An order banning a scheduled ‘summit meeting’ of Basque mayors today provoked indignation and a threat of more disturbances in the north of Spain.

At the meeting, promised by the Basque National Party and other Basque political movements for next Sunday, the mayors were to have discussed a plan for total amnesty for political prisoners, a demand for the reinstatement of a degree of autonomy, and a request for the recognition of the Basque language as official for all public institutions, on a par with Catalan, Spain’s official languages.

The order banning the meeting was issued in Madrid today by Señor Roderico Martín Villa, the Interior Minister. He alleged that the meeting was an attempt to introduce a degree of autonomy into Spanish national life, which would give more power to the people of the Basque country.

The meeting was organized by a committee of the Cortes, the Spanish parliament, and was to have been attended by the mayors of the Basque country, including Señor Roderico Martín Villa, the Interior Minister.

In contrast with the diehard separatists, who have threatened violence if the meeting is not held, the mayors have been calling for a peaceful solution to the Basque problem.

The Basque problem is one of the most pressing issues facing the Spanish government, and the Prime Minister has already called for a total amnesty for political prisoners.

On pressure from some of the mayors, the order was rescinded, and the meeting went ahead as planned.
WEST EUROPE

Señor Suarez meets negotiating team of opposition parties

From Our Correspondent

MADRID, Jan 11

Sharings in the past two days and a raft of demonstrations in which at least two persons have died in a week have created a ‘verge of a situation, comparable to the uncontrolled and escalating violence in Argentina’, the Spanish Communist Party, the newspaper said: “It seems clear that the PCE will present candidates for Parliament, either through ‘electoral groups’ or as independents. But there will be no legal recognition of (Señor Santiago) Carrillo’s party before the spring elections, by all leading parties.”

Tourists seriously wounded in a violent confrontation with the Basque country today, in the second political meeting in two days.

Señor Jesús Sanz Torrejón, the editor of a Basque nationalist newspaper, was injured and is in hospital. The Basque paper said, “It is feared that the attack was carried out by the separatists, who have been responsible for the recent violent incidents in the area.”

Doctors in a Madrid hospital today reported that the surgery of the three guards from the aircraft factory who were involved in the attack on the Basque newspaper was successful.

Bilbao: An open air funeral was held today for a 15-year-old youth who died during a recent protest. The funeral was attended by a large number of Basque nationalists.

About 60,000 workers around Bilbao, Basque’s most important port, struck for the second day to protest against the police action.

Basque women may have cool reception to minister

From Our Correspondent

Señor Rodolfo Martín Villa, Minister of Commerce and Industry, today gave the Basque women a cool reception to their minister. The minister, who is responsible for Basque affairs, arrived in Bilbao today to be met by a group of Basque nationalists who are demanding the restoration of the Basque language.

The Basque nationalists are demanding the recognition of the Basque language as an official language of the Spanish state. They are also demanding the right to hold Basque language schools and the right to use Basque in public institutions.

A councilor told me: “We feel that the minister is not taking our demands seriously.”

Police guard bus drivers defying Madrid strike

From Our Correspondent

MADRID, Jan 16

Police guarding the bus drivers who are defying the strike called by the Basque nationalists in Bilbao. The drivers, who had previously occupied a bus depot, are now being guarded by police to prevent them from blocking the road.

A similar organization of Basque nationalists was carried out for the Basque newspaper, which is being threatened with legal action.

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Basque lawyer tells of abortive efforts to bring police to court

Suspects allege ‘bath’ torture sessions

From William Chislett

It is a myth that police torture and maltreatment have stopped in the Basque country since the death of General Franco, Señor Juan Maria Bandres, a Basque lawyer, told The Times.

"People have the idea that this went out with the death of Franco, but it continues, and the problem remains unnoticed," he said. He did admit that there were no reports of physical torture in the press, due to a different climate in the Basque country. But not only were the police committing these acts, the Madrid judges were also being brought in to try these cases. Bandres has had many years' experience in defending Basque nationalists, including members of ETA, the Basque separatist organization.

The police appeared to be hardest against people in favour of autonomy for the Basque country, he said. His latest attempt to bring alleged police torturers to trial concerned two young Basques arrested on October 20. According to their own statements, they had been arrested at a home in Bilbao, outside San Sebastian, by several plain-clothes Civil Guards, who did not show identity cards.

They were taken by car to a flat where they were interrogated for about an hour, which they said they knew nothing. After repeated denials they were told to take off their clothes.

"Once undressed," said one of the statements, "they tied my hands behind my back and slapped me. I dropped on the floor, and they stamped on me. I am 21 years old, and I have a broken leg. It is not clean. I have injuries all over my body, on my back, my legs and my arms."

After he had been in the flat, the suspect was taken from a cell and "they did another 'bath' session with me during which I lost consciousness, according to the witnesses (one of whom was the other man arrested) who heard the conversations and voices of the people submitting me to this treatment, they thought that I had died from suffocation."

He was released the next day without being brought before a magistrate.

The statement of the other man reads almost the same except that during his "bath" session his wrists broke. This suspect was also beaten without any charges being brought against him. He did, however, appear before magistrates in San Sebastian, but no warrant was made of the treatment he had suffered.

Immediately after being set free, they made contact with Señor Bandres and started lengthy proceedings to bring those responsible to trial. So far they had heard nothing.

Señor Bandres said that the most that had happened in this matter since General Franco's death was that "now magistrates at least recognize that maltreatment exists but do not go any further. There is no shortage of victims of maltreatment here, but none of them has had a successful action."

Only a month ago, Señor Bandres had been arrested and held in a similar case of the hit squad he had ruled that there was no case to answer. This case concerned a girl who fell from the third floor window of the San Sebastian police headquarters on September 23, 1978.

She was arrested for her political activities and, according to her statement, severely beaten while being interrogated. She apparently nearly died at the police station and fell out of the window. She now walks with crutches.

Investigations were carried out last year on the advice of magistrates and a photograph was produced of the policemen allegedly responsible for her maltreatment. When the policeman appeared in court in December 20 last year, he denied any knowledge of the incident and the magistrates decided there was no case to answer.

Recently a group calling itself the Adelante! Commando Group threatened to kill Señor Bandres. He has also had two of his cars set on fire. A few weeks ago, the police arrested him when he arrived at his office. The police said they had orders to take him to Madrid as he was wanted in connexion with an anti-terrorist meeting there.

Señor Bandres said that he could not have attended the meeting as he was in San Sebastian that day. On the way to Madrid the police car stopped at Burgos, and a check was made. The police drove then told his driver back to his office.

Separatists flaunt the flag Franco banned

From Harry Debois

Madrid, Jan 31

The red, white and green flag of the Basque country was flown above the Spanish town hall this afternoon, bringing to light the intense desire of the separatists to win a total autonomy for the region.

The first flag hoisted by order of the Basque authorities in Gernika, near Bilbao, according to local Basque newspapers and Basque news agency CIOO. The flag went up at 6:15 pm yesterday, but in most other towns it was only hoisted this afternoon, coinciding with Basque meetings throughout the region.

The Interior Ministry has been informed by the Basque regional government of General Manuel Gutiérrez Mellado, the Deputy Prime Minister in charge of security and defense, of the fact that the yellow Spanish flag should be replaced by the preferential position.

The Interior Ministry also directs the Basque government to investigate the possibility of a Basque flag being used in respect of terrorism.

Such acts presumably include the burning of a Civil Guard's vehicle near San Sebastian last week. The vehicle was destroyed, but the policemen in it escaped serious injury.

The ministry also said it intended to proceed gradually to warn the use of the Basque language, which is the language of the Basques, of the Castilian language in Basque official offices, and the recognition of the Basque language.

A committee of Basque lawyers has met several times to discuss the situation, and General Manuel Gutiérrez Mellado, Deputy Prime Minister in charge of security and defense, has ordered the Basque Chief Military in the Basque provinces to enforce the Basque language.

The Basque regional government demands that the Basque language be used in all official offices, as they believe it is the Basque language.

A committee of Basque lawyers has made a series of proposals to the Interior Ministry, and the Basque Regional Government has proposed that the Basque regional government take over control of the police in the Basque provinces.

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**Student shot dead in three-hour battle on streets of Madrid**

From Harry Debelius

Madrid, Jan 23

A student, aged 19, was shot and several people were injured when pro-amnesty demonstrators fought police and right-wing groups in the centre of Madrid for three hours today.

The clash, which took place on the Plaza Santa Maria de la Cuesta, near the black front of Madrid's main street, the Gran Via, according to a young woman who claimed to have seen the incident, faced young men, mostly dressed in black, 10 or 11, who formed a group of shooting demonstrators. One of the four who "was there" said the young men were carrying revolvers. Two of the demonstrators fired at the police, and one of them was killed. The area was a thing of horror. In the same way, police and demonstrators were fought in central Madrid today.

There is a strong suspicion among opponents elements that the Argentinian right-wing extremist organization AAA may have taken part in some of the incidents.

The battle started on a street leading to the plaza in front of the Argentinian Embassy. The group of demonstrators, which had apparently been formed by an unknown number of youngBasques in the area, was leading a group of young men, mostly dressed in black, who had been shot and injured. According to witnesses they first shot the police car with two officers parked in front and behind.

Once he was refused, General Vicente was shot by his own car, while his driver was wounded in one of the other assailants. The official car was abandoned a few miles away in southern Madrid, and the driver was found in it, dead, with multiple bullet wounds. It was the second political kidnapping in Madrid in a little over six weeks. Within hours police claimed to have identified the identity of one of the kidnappers and arrested him in a church near the site of the incident. The police then took him to the General Office of the Forces of the Royal Palace. The operation was delayed by a gang of young men who attacked a police station as the police were leaving the church.

At least four people were wounded, including a young woman who was hit in the face by a grenade. She was rushed to hospital, where she was treated. The incident took place in the early hours of the morning.

Meanwhile, police have been on high alert, with a heavy presence of officers, including members of the National Civil Guard, who were seen in the area this morning. The government has ordered a series of measures to prevent further incidents.

At the same time, the government has called on its top political leaders to address the crisis. A group of opposition leaders have met with Prime Minister Aragona to discuss the situation. The government has also called on the police to increase security in the area.

*Caution Madrid on prots*

From Our Corrеспondent

Madrid, Jan 27

An Argentinian right-wing organization has announced it will hold a pro-April 20th rally in Madrid on Saturday afternoon. The event is expected to attract thousands of supporters and could become a key event in the political conflict in the country.

The organization, which has been active in recent months, has called for a "national" demonstration to coincide with the 20th anniversary of the military coup. The rally is expected to take place in the centre of Madrid, near the site of the original military coup.

Leaders of the organization have been calling for a "national" demonstration since last month, and have been targeting the government and the opposition parties. They have also been planning a series of other events in the capital, including a march on Sunday.

The organization's leader, who was killed in a car bomb last month, is reported to have said that the group would continue its activities in the country. He has also called for a "national" demonstration to coincide with the anniversary of the coup.

The announcement comes just days after the government announced a series of measures to prevent further incidents. The measures include increased police presence in the capital, and a ban on demonstrations in certain areas.

*Union strike at right*
Unions in Spain call strike in protest at rightist violence

From Harry Debelius
Madrid, Jan 25

An Argentine political activist was killed today by a group of people who are the escalating police allegations of a paramilitary organization called Jusucialista, a destructionist organization that has been involved in recent rightist attacks. The activist, named as one of the victims, was seen last night in front of a building in the city center, where he was believed to have been involved in a disturbance.

Meanwhile, the trade unions announced a day of mourning to honor the deceased. The workers gathered in the streets, blocking traffic and disrupting activities in various parts of the city. The government has implemented emergency measures to prevent more violence, including the banning of demonstrations and the deployment of troops to maintain order.

Spain bans all demonstrations in tough drive against terrorism

From Harry Debelius
Madrid, Jan 26

The Spanish Government announced tough new measures to stop the recent wave of terrorist killings and kidnappings. The measures were decided at a Cabinet meeting presided over by Prime Minister Suárez, the Prime Minister, and included the clamp-down also reaffirmed by the courts.

The measures went into effect to halt a wave of terrorist attacks, with far right elements of the Spanish Falange. The Government also announced that police will use fire arms in the possession of private individuals, the owners of whom have been identified. The measures were decided to be moved on to the terrain to the ámbitos of the authors of this violence in the right-wing attacks, in particular those in the Basque country, Barcelona and Madrid.

Prime Minister Suárez conferred with the country's junior military leaders. The Prime Minister, Jose Luis de Alba, confirmed that the army and civil forces have been mobilized to maintain order. The Army, if the military were to decide to heed the Government's intention to move on to the terrain of the right-wing violence, would have to move on to the terrain of the Government's intention to move on to the terrain of the right-wing violence.

The announcement revealed officially for the first time that the recent terrorist attacks, including the planting of five bombs by right-wing groups, were efforts to create the conditions for a general strike. The announcement revealed officially for the first time that the recent terrorist attacks, including the planting of five bombs by right-wing groups, were efforts to create the conditions for a general strike.
**West Europe**

Threat to kidnap more Spanish politicians

From William Chilcott

Madrid, Feb. 1

Five prisoners, including three political ones, who were reported to have escaped from Basuriprison, near Bilbao, six weeks ago have been caught in the prison, it was learnt in Madrid today.

The prisoners were discovered last night in the prison attic where they had been hiding since December 15, the day their escape was reported. Their discovery has caused embarrassment to the prison authorities and relieved to the police, who searched the Basque country for them.

Two of the prisoners, José Ignacio Ansorque and J. A. Arauz, Artabalejo, were imprisoned for activities in connection with the Basque separatist organization ETA. Pedro Martínez de Iturriga was said to be a member of the Resistance Group ETA and Lieutenant-General William de Bosch, head of the Armed Division, belonging to the former F. O. W. A. Organization, ’Grapo,’ threatened on October 1st in a printed leaflet sent to foreign correspondents to kidnap more Spanish politicians.

The leaflet, assuming that it was legitimate, was sent by the First of October Antifascist Resistance Group which has claimed responsibility for kidnapping two high-ranking politicians, and booking three police officers, it is said that unless the Government releases 13 police officers who are of particular interest to the police in their efforts to capture regime personalities, there is no other way of making them listen to reason.

Grapo said that the Government has launched a campaign of lies against the organization in order to confuse the public. It was not true, as had been suggested, that Grapo was ‘mobilized’ by the extreme right, which acts as a sort of shield for the superpowers. There has been speculation that KGB or the CIA might be involved, as confusing the issue.

The letter, delivered in the morning’s post, said that the reference to the Spanish Government was intended to ‘present an image of the Government that keep inside all the essential qualities of the regime, to wit, only one difference now, said Grapo, was that groups which previously were persecuted were now able to take part in the change. The letter was signed on Saturday night and the postmark was not legible.

Grapo implicitly criticized Senor Santiago Carrillo, the secretary general of the Spanish Communist Party, for being along with the reformists and said that he had asked for an audience with King Juan Carlos.

The reformers could do nothing to improve the lot of the people and were aligned as ‘puppets’ of the struggle of the regime.

‘With the aim of distracting attention, the Government attempts that the only extreme right wing are the extreme left wing,” the letter concluded.

There have been unconfirmed reports that several senior military men, including General de Bosch, have criticized the Government’s handling of the recent violence, according to the general are believed to be in favour of a more hard-line policy.

The police are continuing widening arrests in connection with the violence. In Barcelona they have arrested 21 members of the Russian Antifascist Federation who were holding a meeting. The police said they had also seized 800 of explosives, six fuses and detonators.

In San Sebastian, the police discovered a cache of arms and took the weapons. They arrested another 10 people who were later released by magistrates. The anti-Antifascist organization (ATA) and the Warriors of Christ, the King are known to have been active in this area.

Four Huskies, said to have connections with Italian antifascist organizations, have been arrested, it was learnt today. One of them, Mario Frosini, is wanted in connection with a 159 December explosion in a Milan arms depot.

The four are expected to be expelled from Spain. The Cabinet discussed law and order problems and a short meeting today.

Sparks reestablished full relations with Poland yesterday. Relations were reestablished last week with Romania, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia and it is reliably reported that the Soviet Government is to send a new ambassador in Madrid.

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‘Escaped’ prisoners found hiding in attic of Spanish jail

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More than lip service needed on autonomy

The political and economic importance of Catalonia and the Basque country will play a decisive role in determining Spain's entry into the EEC. With most of Spain's industry concentrated in those two areas, the country will require substantial reforms to meet the EEC's standards. The Basques, with a population of more than 550,000, have suffered from Spanish colonialism for centuries and have a strong sense of identity and autonomy. Catalonia, with its population of more than 36 million, has a similar sense of national identity and has been the focus of many political and social movements.

The Spanish government, led by Prime Minister Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo, has faced significant challenges in making Spain a more attractive destination for foreign investment. As a result, the country's economy has struggled to keep up with its European neighbors. The government has implemented a series of reforms aimed at reducing corruption and improving governance, but progress has been slow.

The Basque region, with its strong cultural and historical ties to France, has also faced challenges in maintaining its identity. The region has a long history of resistance to Spanish rule, and many Basques feel a strong sense of national belonging to France. The government has taken steps to recognize this sentiment, including granting the Basques greater autonomy within Spain.

The EEC, which is currently working on a new round of enlargement, has expressed interest in seeing Spain join the union. However, Spain must address the challenges facing its two autonomous regions before being considered for membership. The Basques and Catalans will play a crucial role in determining Spain's ability to meet the EEC's criteria for membership.