Basques call off rallies after royal decrees grant form of self-rule

From William Chislett
Madrid, Jan 5
Basque politicians met in San Sebastian today to call off the massive demonstrations planned for Wednesday as a result of the Government's granting over the weekend of a limited form of autonomy to the Basque country.

Under two royal decrees, winning support in the Basque cause, where the ruling Centre Party is in control, will stay on, the thing long. There will probably be a referendum to see whether the people of Navarra wish to join up with the other three.

The three strictly Basque provinces enjoyed autonomy during the Civil War after which the Franco regime suppressed all nationalist aspirations. The Basque country now joins Catalonia, with its autonomous region. --"•:

Navarra, the province long associated with the conservative parties, still remains in control. The central Government also has the right to disband the Basque council if it violates the law.

The exact powers of the Basque council have yet to be detailed but are expected to be similar to those of the Generalitat in matters like education and agriculture.

Bilbao: The Basque Nationalist Party, in a statement, said that the transfer of powers from Madrid to the Basques and the struggle was not yet over. "It represents an important step in the process of recovering our liberties," it added.

In an interview with a Basque newspaper, Senator Jesus Martinez de Lezo, president of the Basque government, said that the armed forces continued to be "worried, but confident, brave, but disciplined, conscientious and serene despite the sacrifices."

The liberal general, who has made himself very unpopular with the conservative elements of the High Command, added that if the object of terrorists was to make the Army intervene "in the process of evolution" they would not be successful.

The general did not name which terrorist group he meant, but it was clear from the impartial nature of his speech that the remarks were addressed both to right-wing and left-wing extremists.

The general made it perfectly clear that the armed forces would be behind the King in bringing back democracy to Spain and that they had immense confidence in him.

"The crown is the union, the guide and the safest protector of the present, of future Spain," he concluded.

The King asked the armed forces to respect the limitations imposed on their getting involved in political issues and to be on their guard against becoming politicized.

Communists accept Spanish monarchy

From Our Correspondent
Madrid, Jan 5
The tenth congress of the Spanish Communist Workers' Party (POU) ended today with the reappointment of Senor Enrique Lister as Secretary General.

Senor Lister, who considers the Eurocommunist leader of the Spanish Communist Party, Senor Santiago Carrillo, an apostate, told the POU party congress that Senor Carries was really a "Euro-opportunistic" and a social democrat in disguise.

Ignoring the attacks, the Spanish Communist Party this weekend announced that it will not oppose the definition of the Spanish state as a monarchy in the draft constitution soon to be voted on by Parliament.

Spanish armed forces urged by the King to live with democracy

From William Chislett
Madrid, Jan 6
King Juan Carlos appealed to the armed forces today to avoid becoming politicized and to continue the march of history to demonstrate to the world and to ourselves that we are capable of living in peace, in democracy and in freedom.

The King made his speech during the armed forces Christmas celebration, traditionally held on the day of Epiphany at the Orient royal palace, in reply to an address in which Lieutenant-General Miquel Gutierrez Mellado, the Defence Minister, said that the armed forces continued to be "worried, but confident, brave, but disciplined, conscientious and serene despite the sacrifices.""

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Discipline, he said, must be observed, including when punishments were being meted out. Disciplinary measures were recently taken against several paramilitary Civil Guard officers for political offences.

Since the death of General Franco, under whom the armed forces formed the main pillar of the dictatorship, the King has had to face a group of difficulties relating to democracy. One of them Lieutenant-General Carlos Iniesta made the sign of the cross yesterday when Lieutenant-General Jose Vega Rodriguez pledged to two communist generals who commanded Republican armies during the Civil War.

Madrid, Jan 6—The Spanish armed forces have launched a campaign to improve their political image, but coupled it with a reminder that they could intervene if civil authority breaks down.

In newspaper articles marking the armed forces' celebration of the new year, senior generals reiterated their mission of neutrality and safeguarding the constitutional order and the independence, integrity and sovereignty of Spain. One of them

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Press photographer sought after Basque bombing

From Harry Debby
Madrid, Jan 10
A Basque newspaper photographer was the object of a widespread manhunt today after Basque terrorists attacked three police stations in northern Spain in less than six hours.

Suárez aide quits at 'move to left'

From William Chislett
Madrid, Jan 10
Señor Alfonso Osorio, a personal adviser to Señor Suárez, the Prime Minister, has resigned because he believes the ruling Democratic Centre Union Party is moving dangerously to the left.

The Basque Nationalist Party during the Franco era is causing red faces in Communist circles and has started a fierce polemic.

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Señor Osorio said he never thought the book is aiding a hostile campaign against him, and he said he never thought Señor Semprún would say such things.

Spanish Communists upset by former comrade's book

From William Chislett
Madrid, Jan 9
A best-selling book which deals with the leading figures of the Spanish Communist Party during the Franco era is causing red faces in Communist circles and has started a fierce polemic.


WEST EUROPE

Three killed in police gunfight with Basque separatists

From Harry Debelius
Madrid, Jan 11

At least three men were shot dead in a gun battle between plainclothed policemen and Basque separatists on the streets of the northern city of Pamplona this afternoon.

The shoot-out occurred in the San Jorge section of the city only minutes after police inspectors had searched a flat thought to be used by members of the extremist organization ETA. As police lay in wait outside the entrance to the apartment block, their quarry drove up and shooting broke out. Two ETA men and one policeman were killed.

Initial reports said others were injured. It was not clear whether the injured included bystanders as well as police.

The search was carried out apparently on the basis of evidence which police gathered early this morning after the arrest of two suspected terrorists.

The arrests were part of an intensive operation which got under way after the Christmas week theft of about one ton of high explosives by the ETA in two separate incidents in the Basque country.

The death toll today was the highest so far in a single incident since last October when Basque extremists shot dead a government official and two members of his bodyguard near Bilbao.

In a recent clandestine statement the ETA promised to "escalate its violent activities until the security police and the Civil Guard withdraw from the Basque country".

A suggestion that a general should be out in charge of the Interior Ministry has been repeated by Senor Ramon Tamames, the Communist MP, in spite of his party leader's rejection of the idea. The Madrid newspaper El Pais reported today that Senor Tamames, who has said in Gijon that he still believed a military man should head the ministry, because the present minister, Senor Rodolfo Martin Villa, "is burnt out and should go.

Shortly after Senor Tamames had expressed that opinion for the first time at a recent press conference, Senor Santiago Carrillo, secretary-general of the Communist Party, remarked that military men should not be dragged into political affairs.

Senor Tamames said in Gijon: "I expressed a personal opinion and Carrillo gave his opinion, which does not coincide with mine; but there is no need for any rectification." Senor Tamames, a leading economist, proposed that Lieutenant-General Jose Vega Rodriguez, the Army chief-of-staff for the job.

The existence of "certain anti-democratic strongholds" in the security police and the paramilitary Civil Guard made the appointment of a military man "advisable", he said. General Vega Rodriguez is a former commander-in-chief of the Civil Guard.

In Madrid, Lieutenant-General Miguel Gutierrez Mellado, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence, addressed the defence committee of the Congress of Deputies and called on political parties to advise their members to refrain from political activities while doing their military service. He also asked for "support and respect" for the armed forces.

He told the MPs that the government would be "outlawed" if the changes were not included in the Government's autonomy measures for the Basque country. It is believed that ETA had deliberately chosen Pamplona for its operations in order to increase tension. The Democratic Centre Union won a majority of seats in the province and is resisting the pressure by the Basque Nationalist Party and the Communist, to incorporate Navarra into the Basque country. There is a likelihood of a referendum being held in Navarra on the issue.

Señor Suárez will try to speed up local polls

From William Chislett
Madrid, Jan 15

Señor Suárez, the Spanish Prime Minister, and Señor Felipe Gonzalez, the Communist Party leader, have agreed to try to see that municipal elections and a referendum on the new constitution are held before June 15.

Señor Suárez is understood to have told Señor Gonzalez that he could not commit himself to this date, but that he would make every effort to meet it.

If this timetable is fulfilled, the political programme emanating from the general elections of last June will have been finished in a year. Trade union elections start next week.

The Socialists have rejected the Government's idea that towns halls be run by the moment by committees made up proportionally according to the votes each party obtained last June.

The Socialists want elections by May 15 to replace the town councils, which still contain many people from the Franco era.

In an interview published in the newspaper El Pais today, Señor Gonzalez said his party would not form an alliance with the Communist Party for the municipal elections. It would run alone as part of its strategy of "achieving in the next referendums sufficient forces to become the alternative political power".

Police stoned: Thousands of Basque demonstrators, protesting over the deaths in Pamplona five days ago of two separatist guerrillas, pelted police with bricks, tiles and stones in San Sebastian. Riot police fired back rubber bullets and smoke bombs, but made no attempt to penetrate the old part of town.

Nightclub bombed: Four men and a girl hurled bags filled with control bombs into the Scala nightclub complex in Barcelona, the biggest in Spain, killing at least three people, the police said. The building was gutted. A telephone call to the national radio saying Frap, the outlawed anti-fascist front, was responsible led Frap to issue a disclaimer.—Reuter.
Metro bombs put police in Madrid on alert

From Our Correspondent Madrid, Jan 17
Police patrols were increased here today after two bomb explosions this morning and yesterday's fire-bomb attacks in Barcelona, in which as many as four people may have died.

One of the bombs in Madrid tore out a section of track of the underground railway in a suburb, the other damaged the entrance hall of the offices of the company which owns the underground. No one was hurt.

Spain's most elegant supper club, La Scala, burnt to the ground in Barcelona yesterday afternoon when four men and a girl smashed the plate-glass doors and threw in petrol bombs. At least one employee died and three other people are missing.

An adjoining discotheque was also destroyed. Losses were estimated at about £3m.

An anonymous telephone call to a Barcelona newspaper said 'The illegal Maoist movement Frap (the Patriotic Antifascist Revolutionary Front) was responsible for the blast but Frap later issued a disclaimer.

In other bomb incidents in Barcelona yesterday, gangs of youths, said by police sources to be members of the Maoist PCI (Independent Communist Party), attacked a police station, three police vehicles, a bank, a municipal office, an office of the internal revenue service and two policemen on foot.

Violence also erupted in San Sebastian in protest against the shooting of two Basque guerrillas.

First union vote: Spain's six million industrial workers began voting in the country's first ever trade union elections since the civil war ended in 1939. They were choosing works councils which will be responsible for salary and other negotiations.—Reuter.

Spain legalizes a radical Basque party

From Our Correspondent Madrid, Jan 17

The Spanish Interior Ministry has legalized the Basque Revolutionary Party (EIA) which is an offshoot of ETA, the militant Basque separatist organization.

Last September, the ministry refused to legalize ETA because its statutes favored the setting up of a separate socialist Basque State. The party has since modified its statutes and the ministry approved them yesterday.

The controversial legalization is believed to have been affected in order to reduce political tension in the Basque country.

ETA, which is said to establish an independent, Marxist Basque state, has denounced its campaign of violence.

Simultaneously the Interior Ministry declared illegal an extreme left-wing party operating the Canarian Islands, together with another one in Galicia and a small communist splinter party.

Spaniards are urged to invest more

From Our Correspondent Madrid, Jan 19
Professor Enrique Fuentes Quintana, the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs, has told Spanish business journalists that there are no easy solutions for their country's economic problems and that the Moncloa pact on economic measures, including a 22 per cent wage ceiling, is the only way out of the crisis.

He said in a speech yesterday that he would resign if the Government did not fulfill the conditions of the pact. He also emphasized the need for further investments.

Spaniards have been reluctant to invest since the death of General Franco because of the uncertain political situation. This is reflected in the steady slide of the Madrid Stock Exchange.

Figures published today show a balance of trade deficit for 1977 of 575,202m pesetas (£3,735m).

King Juan Carlos rallies to his Prime Minister

From Our Correspondent Madrid, Jan 17
King Juan Carlos has come to the aid of his Prime Minister, Señor Suárez, whose popularity is reported to be declining and who is under attack from the right, by letting it be known in an interview that he continues to have confidence in him.

He is quoted in this week's issue of the news magazine Cambio 16 as saying: 'Why should I not trust Suárez? If I had not trusted him, as some have said, I would not have re-appointed him.'

He appointed Señor Suárez head of the Second Government under the monarchy after dismissing Señor Carlos Arias, then asked him to form the third one after Señor Suárez's party, the Democratic Centre Union, won last June's general elections.

Last week Señor Alonso Osorio, one of Señor Suárez's personal advisers, resigned his post because of wide political disagreements over the 'centre left' line of Señor Suárez.

Señor Manuel Fraga Iriarte, leader of the neo-Francoist Popular Alliance, later congratulated Señor Osorio on his action and made his strongest attack yet on the Centre, claiming that many voters had been swindled when they voted for it.

The right, particularly conservative banking circles, are beginning to feel uneasy about the economic situation and the attempts being made to reduce their privileges.

The King has been most careful, since he took over from General Franco, not to descend to the political arena, although identifying himself wholeheartedly with the democratic process. He is aware of the attempts being made by the Popular Alliance, which was defeated humiliatingly in the general election, to change its image to one of 'centre right'. The King regards the role of Señor Suárez as vital for the transition period.

In the interview the King defined his role as "a mediating power above political parties". His considerable powers, left to him by General Franco, will be reduced to those of a constitutional monarch in the new constitution, which will be debated soon in the Cortes.
Time for Spain to stop living beyond its means

"Under Franco we lived better" is an emerging right-wing slogan that will be severely tested this year when the Spanish Government puts its economic programme into practice.

The political structure of the country is becoming profoundly changed with the existence of political parties and trade unions, regions in the process of getting home rule, and a Parliament slowly beginning to function.

But economically the rigid structure left behind by General Franco—the excessive power of the banks and of the state-run industrial cartel INI and the high degree of centralization—leaves a lot to be desired.

The economic programme, the Moncloa Pact, agreed between all political parties, will affect everyone including King Juan Carlos, who this year will have to submit an income tax declaration. The King has to pay income tax on his income from his horse dealing. There is no record that the late dictator ever paid tax on income.

In the two years since he died, the Spanish economy has gone from bad to worse, and now that the birth pangs of political democracy are overtaking problems, however, remain—attention will be urgently focused on the economy.

Already it is clear that the pesetas in the Spaniard's pocket will not be worth as much this year as last year. Inevitably this will lead to a hardening of political positions.

The reality of the situation is that Spain can no longer afford to keep on living at the rate that it has for the past few years. It is unfortunate that political capital for left and right that this decline coincided with the end of the dictatorship. Between 1971 and 1976, according to the National Institute of Statistics, Spaniards lived beyond their means, but in 1978 it is expected that they will sharply cut down on their expenditures.

The inflation rate for 1977 was about 28 per cent, making it the highest in the OECD (1976 was 20 per cent), the balance of payments deficit of the order of $3,000 million. Unemployment was at least a million (unofficially) out of a 13.3 million labour force and hundreds of small firms are faced with the prospect of bankruptcy.

The Moncloa Pact is designed to cure the ills, or at least inoculate Spain against the economic malaise before it infects the democratic process. Its architects—from the Communists to the neo-Francoists to the Popular Alliance—have had the wisdom, unlike their counterparts in Portugal, to get together.

They hope to bring inflation down to 15 per cent by the end of this year through imposing a wage ceiling of 22 per cent and price controls. They will try to cut the payments deficit through fiscal controls and export incentives. The money supply growth will be reduced to 17 per cent in 1978, after having been cut to an annual rate of 18 per cent in the last quarter of 1977.

State spending will also be cut in some areas, but overall will still rise by 25 per cent.

On the brighter side the fiscal revenue should rise by 25 per cent with the tax increases (a very gradual reduction of tariffs) being offered to her.

William Chislett

Franco assured the support of workers not just by imprisoning leaders and bringing out the riot police every time there was labour trouble, but also by a high degree of feather-bedding job security and protectionism. The first democratic government hopes to win workers' support through an improved social programme and a more equitable share of wealth.

The prospects are cloudy. It is hard to see, for example, how Spain can reduce its huge energy imports bill which last year amounted to nearly $3,000 million for crude oil—a big drain on the balance of payments—without enormously pushing up the price to act as a deterrent for consumers. Spain herself produces a tiny amount of what she consumes.

Spain's eventual membership of the EEC is a long way off yet, and already negotiations, particularly over agriculture, are bogged down with Spanish officials firmly resisting the measures (a very gradual reduction of tariffs) being offered to her.
Spain’s Election Year

Spaniards will have plenty of chances this year to exercise their new-found right to vote, tested last June when the country went to the polls for the first time in 41 years, for 1978 has already been billed as 'the year of elections'. No one knows, not even Prime Minister Suarez, the exact order in which the elections will come, but trade union, municipal and fresh general elections after a referendum on the new constitution to replace Franco’s Fundamental Laws will be held. The Government found to its surprise at the end of last year that the price of democracy was not as high as it had thought. After paying out the money due to those political parties, which won seats in the Cortes in the June election, it found that it was left with a surplus of £4m. The Government budgeted for £15m. and paid out £11m. – which came as a much needed boost for the fledgling parties.

Spaniards got through their first democratic year remarkably unscathed, although there were 30 deaths (18 police and 12 civilians) from political violence. The Manuses (the people of the island of Manus) of New Guinea are famous for having gone in one generation from the Stone Age to the 20th century. Spaniards are beginning to be famous for going from a dictatorship of 40 years to democracy without revolution or war,' said the bestselling weekly news magazine, Cambio 16, in its last issue for 1976. Exactly the same percentage of Spaniards as Britons – 82 per cent in both cases – were satisfied with their way of life, although Spaniards have many more reasons to be discontented. But there is a mood of pessimism here, over and above the normal cynicism of Spaniards. Surrealism would perhaps better describe it, as democracy stops being a word that Spaniards were taught was decadent under Franco. Now they watch the new political class put it into practice, like children discovering a new toy.

'Ve have the very painful sensation,' Professor Enrique Tierno Galvan, head of the minority Popular Socialist Party said, 'that we are spectators at our own destruction.' For the old guard, democracy is still something horrible, and for the great majority an unknown quantity. They have little at the moment to help them understand it more clearly. They are baffled by the new Cortes, whose debates are not much more lively than in Franco’s rubber-stamp days, when it was not uncommon for those few attending to fall asleep.

The new representatives still fall asleep from time to time on the polished wooden benches of the 19th-century chamber, but never when Manuel Fraga, head of the neo-Francoist Popular Alliance, and Santiago Carrillo, leader of Spain’s Eurocommunist party, confront one another in debates. It was only eight months ago during the electoral campaign that Fraga said he would never sit down with a Communist. Now he has no option. In the last debate on public order, arising from condemnation by the Socialists and Communists of the continued repressive way in which the police put down demonstrations, Carrillo was so incensed by Fraga’s remarks about the illegal use of the Republican flag, and the need to strengthen, not disarm, the police, that he pointed his finger at him and told him that in the next confrontation the winners would not be the same as in 1939. It was the first time that Carrillo had lost his cool. A woman spectator from the public gallery then shouted 'Paracuellos' (a village outside Madrid where thousands of people were murdered during the civil war by Republican forces).

Fraga’s law and order speech sounded...
South Africa's Other Terrorism

Roger Omond

‘This year can’t be worse than 1977’, said somebody shortly after the New Year was ushered in with South Africa’s usual drunken car-hooting. ‘Can it?’ he asked desperately searching for optimistic reassurance. ‘Yes it can. The year was exactly a week old when banned University of Natal lecturer Rick Turner was gunned down in front of his two young daughters. South Africa’s terrorist epidemic had entered a new phase.

Turner, a brilliant Marxist political scientist, was far from being the first victim of right-wing gangsterism. Up to 1974 there had been at least 100 reported cases. Since then there have been many more. And surprise; surprise – only one court case. The authorities don’t appear too concerned about right-wing terrorism, although the liberal press is always accused of double standards when it draws attention to this phenomenon and does not beat its editorial breast over every incident of terrorism from the Left. Police Minister James Thomas Kruger, quick to rush in with a statement after the Johannesburg Carlton Centre bomb blast and most other incidents of anti-government terrorism, has remained unusually quiet over right-wing attacks. Nor does he appear eager to activate his police force. In 1974, presented with the list of 100-odd rightist terrorist incidents, he said:

What do you expect me to do? I am not a policeman.

He added the victims should report to the police and write to him if not satisfied; not much comfort there. And in December last year Lieutenant-General Mike Geldenhuys (former head of the Special Branch) said it had not been proved that any of these cases had been politically motivated.

The surprising factor in all these revenge and/or intimidatory attacks is that nobody was killed before Rick Turner. Cars have been firebombed and tampered with, houses shot at and bombed, parcel-bombs sent through the post. (There was, in fact, one earlier fatality when exiled Black Consciousness leader Abraham Tiro was killed by a parcel-bomb in Gaderone but Dr Turner’s death was the first known political murder of a white radical in South Africa itself.) One of the most sickening incidents of right-wing intimidation was the skinning of a cat belonging to the retarded daughter of radical theologian Dr Basi Moore. The cat was left at the Moores’ front door with a ribbon round its neck. The family left the country shortly afterwards. More recently the five-year-old daughter of banned editor Donald Woods was sent an acid-impregnated T-shirt. They too left.

Unlike most extremist organisations, which scramble to claim responsibility for acts of terrorism, only one right-wing South African organisation has ever admitted to being on the warpath. That was the right-wing Scorpio Group, two of whose members were caught red-handed painting defamatory slogans on a wall of the University of Cape Town. They were also the only two ever to be convicted of right-wing terrorism. The Left believes (with some justification) that police investigations often are cursory at best. And there is a well-founded suspicion that at least some of these criminals operate from police stations.

South Africa, in the words of one black playwright, is ‘a land where a cop is not your friend’. The politicians have legislated their prejudices and fears on to the statute book and demanded that the police enforce them against the wishes of the majority of the population. The police seldom attract the cream and political considerations go a long way in deciding promotion (as they do in all South African Government Departments). And, naturally police forces always attract their rating of sadists, particularly in a society that gives its political police...
Amnesty is granted over murder of premier

From Harry Debelius
Madrid, Jan 20

For the second time the authorities in Barcelona have banned an all-day variety show in which scores of entertainers planned to express support for five fellow troupe members facing court martial, on charges of insulting the armed forces.

The spectacle, entitled For Freedom of Expression, was to call attention to the plight of Senor Albert Boadella, the manager of a mime troupe known as Els Joglars, and four of his actors. They were arrested by order of the Army on December 18, under laws in force since General Franco's regime and giving the armed forces the authority to hold and try civilians in certain cases.

The planned spectacle was to have taken place in Barcelona's Montjuich Park tomorrow.

The event had originally been planned for January 7, but, under pressure from the Army, the authorities refused permission on the grounds that the application for the permit was improperly drawn up.

In explaining the second prohibition, the Barcelona Civil Governor said in a statement that the decision to ban the show was based on fears "of new provocations by radical groups which might try to take advantage of the noble aims of the organizers of the festival, in order to commit new criminal acts". This was a reference to a fire in a Barcelona nightclub in which four people died last Sunday.

A military prosecutor has filed a pre-trial brief in the case of the mime troupe, demanding sentences totalling 18 years in jail for Senor Boadella and 12 years for the other four.

Els Joglars presented La Torna, a mime about the execution of a Polish murderer in 1974, staged at a Barcelona theatre last December. After the twelfth performance the Army intervened. The prosecutor is asking for 12 sentences of one to one and a half years', each—one sentence for each of the 12 performances.

Among those who were to take part in tomorrow's show was Luis Lluch, a singer. A filmed interview in which he criticised the arrest of Senor Boadella was removed from newsreels shown in Barcelona cinemas this week apparently by order of the new reinstated Generalitat, the Catalan regional government.

Others who planned to take part in the show included Manuel Genera and Raimon, both singers who were repeatedly arrested, fined and banned under General Franco.

The trial is expected to be held in Barcelona before the end of the month. Even if the court accepts the prosecutor's demands, none of the five will have to serve more than four and a half years at most.

A provision in the code of military justice says that when multiple sentences are imposed, the prisoner should not serve more than three times the length of the longest single sentence.

Thus, if the longest single sentence meted out to the manager turns out to be one and one-half years, he will not have to serve more than three times that period.
Terrorists murder former mayor of Barcelona and wife by strapping bomb to his chest

From Harry Debelius
Madrid, Jan 25

Terrorists forced their way into the home of the former mayor of Barcelona today and murdered him and his wife in a particularly cruel bomb attack.

The former mayor, Dr. Joaquin Viola Sauret, who was 64, and his wife, Montserrat, were killed in their bedroom by the explosion of a bomb taped to his chest.

Within hours of the murder Radio Nacional reported from Barcelona that a spokesman for the International Spanish Communist Party, a Maoist group not to be confused with the Spanish Communist Party, claimed responsibility for the attack. The Maoist group took part in a number of violent attacks on police in Barcelona on January 15. The police said that a note was found next to the couple's remains containing instructions from the attackers. The police did not specify what they were.

A group of four or five people, including a woman, rang the doorbell at the luxurious Sauret flat in Barcelona's Generalisimo Avenue shortly after 8 am.

When a maid opened the door, they threatened her with a machine-gun and tied her up. They then ordered one of Dr. Sauret's sons and his fiancee not to leave one of the rooms, while they made their way to his father's bedroom. They found the former mayor and his wife still in bed.

The police believe that the bomb taped to Dr. Sauret's chest went off prematurely. His hands were found intact, indicating that he had not attempted to remove it. Furthermore one of the terrorists was seen fleeing from the scene of the crime, his face splattered with blood.

The case was similar to a bomb attack on a wealthy Catalan industrialist, Señor Jose Maria Bulto Marques, also in Barcelona, on May 9. That murder was believed to be the work of the leftist terrorist organization known as FRAP (Revolutionary Anti-fascist Patriotic Forces).

Dr. Viola Sauret, a member of the Cortes under General Franco for several years before being appointed mayor of Barcelona, left the mayorality to become director general of local administration in the Ministry of the Interior under the first Government formed after General Franco's death.

He was also president of several companies and was at one time a member of the Council of the Realm.

The couple were the fifth and sixth people to be murdered by terrorists in Barcelona in the past nine days. Four people died in a nightclub fire on January 15.

Minister taunted at Barcelona funeral

From Harry Debelius
Madrid, Jan 26

Right-wing demonstrators jostled and insulted Señor Rodolfo Martin Villa, the Minister of the Interior, today at the funeral in Barcelona of a former mayor of the city and his wife, who were murdered by terrorists in their home yesterday.

Of the estimated 4,500 people at the funeral, several hundred took part in the incident, shouting "the Army to power" and calling the minister a "traitor". Uniformed police escorted the minister away from the scene and there were no arrests.

Dr. Joaquin Viola Sauret and his wife were killed when a bomb taped to Dr. Viola Sauret's chest went off.

The technique was similar to that used last May when a wealthy Barcelona industrialist was killed. In both cases extortion as well as political motives appeared to play a part. Suspects arrested in the first case were set free last year under an amnesty.

A number of anonymous telephone callers have variously claimed responsibility for the murder on behalf of Maoist, Marxist-Leninist and anarchist organizations.

Among those attending the funeral was Señor Josep Turradellas, president of the Generalitat, the Catalan regional government. Newspapers and statements from political parties all over the country roundly condemned the killing of the prominent Francoist and his wife, the ninth and tenth people to die in political violence this year.

Spanish news agencies have distributed a resume of documents said to contain orders to members of the Basque separatist organization ETA urging them to "continue the executions."

Madrid, Jan 26.—Police fired rubber bullets and smoke bombs to put down a mutiny at Madrid's Carabanchel jail today, prison sources said.

Spanish prisoners have been protesting in recent months about living conditions and the Government's refusal to grant them the amnesty terms by which hundreds of political prisoners were freed last year.

—Reuter.
Señor Areilza confident of success without concessions to left by speaking for expanding middle class

Bourgeois party founded in Spain

From Harry Debélus
Madrid, Jan 30
Pollsters' predictions of victory for the Socialists in Spain's coming municipal elections have started a leftward scramble by politicians of the right and centre, all hoping to improve their individual or party positions. But Señor José María de Areilza, the former Foreign Minister, is not one of them.

He has just formed a new political party with which he, told The Times in Madrid, "we hope to fill the vacuum in the centre and the vacuum in part of the right". The new party, Liberal Citizens' Action (ICA), "appeals to a sector which for the left has a very bad name, a sector which is always being attacked by the left: the bourgeoisie".

Unabashedly bourgeois himself, the businessman and former diplomat believes that Spain's industrial development has given most Spaniards common goals and interests. "We have today a majority of people who really share a way of life, of consumer habits, of attitudes, of education", he said. "These people include the middle class—which is strong today but which was proportionately very small in 1936 when the civil war began—the members of the liberal professions and the higher level of the working class, the white-collar workers and many blue-collar workers."

"Of course this majority includes industrialists, executives, tradesmen and so many segments of Spanish society. I think it is a great mistake to split this up into pieces. I think that these people today have the feeling that they will lose the standing that they have achieved, and they do not want to go down on the scale."

Full-page advertisements in all Madrid newspapers announced the formation of Liberal Citizens' Action under the presidency of Señor Areilza, through the fusion of five smaller organizations, the Liberal Party, the Progressive Liberal Party, the Independent Liberal Party, the Catalan People's Party, and the Galician Democratic Party.

The manifesto published in these advertisements offered "a universal alternative" in order to overcome the climate of confusion, disillusionment and fear. It added: "We want to restore confidence and security in the future to millions of Spaniards."

The aristocratic president of the new party (Señor Areilza is the Marquis of Santa Rosa del Río and Count of Motrico) evolved during his long career from a loyal supporter of the Franco regime into an outspoken and heavily fined advocate of democratic freedom in General Franco's latter years.

A prominent monarchist as well as a Liberal, he was an obvious choice to form part of the first government under the newly reinstated monarchy. Now, after a year and a half on the sidelines, he returns to the political arena.

"Millions of people who voted for the Government party on June 15 are today in a state of confusion and great frustration," he remarked.

"They feel that the policy of the Government, the image of the Government, have changed. The Government has let itself be pushed into making a de facto agreement with the left. So we have today in Spain a government of the centre with the collaboration of a Socialist Party and a Communist Party."

"But the latter two have no responsibility and, therefore, suffer no erosion or degradation of their own prestige. All that falls only on the Government party."

"Yet they have a very important say in every high decision which is taken, whether in the political, economic or social field. Growing general discontent about the soaring crime rate, continuing political violence and the prolonged economic slump may swell the ranks of the new party but it seems destined to draw its supporters largely from the Centre Democratic Union of Señor Adolfo Suárez, the Prime Minister, thus fractionalising the centre.

Such a development, which would improve the relative strength of a unified Socialist movement, does not seem to be an immediate concern of Señor Areilza, and he obviously does not believe in the kind of compromises which Señor Suárez makes.

"It is one thing", Señor Areilza told The Times, "to let them (the left) participate and have their say and their vote and somehow get their consent on the general line which we are going to take as a government. But it's another to lose in two ways—one because the people who are making concessions to you are hostile, and secondly because you lose your own world of support."

Defining the "frontiers" of his party as "the Socialist and Communist parties and the extreme right-wing nucleus who do not voluntarily accept the democratic system", he continued: "We believe we have the possibility of rallying a great mass of centre opinion, incorporating a liberal and democratic philosophy that would give these people the sensation that we know what we want to do and where we are going. . We want to change everything that needs changing in Spanish society but we do not want to change the society itself."