Western Communists hold
Madrid summit today

From Our Correspondent
Madrid, March 1

M. Georges Marchais and
agir Los Angeles Barrington, the
French and Italian Communist
party leaders, are arriving in
Madrid tomorrow for discus-
sions with their Spanish
counterpart, Senor Santiago
Cardenal.

The Government has refused
to allow the three men to
address a mass rally, but 7000
people were expected to attend.

The leaders of other political
parties—socialists, communists
and the Falangists—are plan-
nning a cocktail party and a
joint meeting.

The Spanish party, which is
still illegal, has no guarantees
that the cocktail party and
joint meeting will not also be
banned on the grounds that
more than 3000 people will
attend.

The maximum number allowed
on his permission is requested
—will attend. The party has
denied permission for either
and assumes that they will
attend the Madrid summit.

The three leaders will meet in
the hotel, closely guarded by
party members, to discuss their
particular plans to do with estab-
lishing communism in a pluralist
society. They are anxious to
prove that they have concrete
aims in the face of the increas-
ing Communist pressure in the
Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia
for increasing their internal
rights.

All three have previously
criticized the repressive action
of the Soviet authorities for
rounding up dissidents but in
their final communiqué they
will not make explicit the
All three leaders are expected to
contain a new def-

your party's common aims in

Marxist-Leninist program. They


Spain to free all political prisoners soon

From Our Correspondent
Madrid, March 1

All political prisoners, includ-
ing those involved in crimes of
violence, will be freed from
Spanish jails within two weeks,
according to Señor Martín Vi-
ella, attorney general, who re-
presents the Basque province
of Vizcaya in the Cortes (Parlia-
ment).

He said last night that of the
estimated 200 prisoners, most
of them sentenced to between
15 and 20 years or pardoned
by the Basque separatist organ-
ization ETA, would be
freed. He added, however,
that those who are not likely
to be readmitted to the Basque
country or who are suspected
of having committed serious
crimes of violence. The full
text of the amnesty decree will
be published in the official
state bulletin tonight.

The Basque separatist organi-
ization ETA, which has been
further weakened by the recent
federal government's ban on
such a measure is bound to
undermine the identity of
several exiles, who may very well
risk life itself.

A proposal to expel some
Basque prisoners, who have not
asked permission for either
will be presented to the
Cabinet this week.

The clamour for an amnesty
will be loud again after the
rally, which was organized by
the Government's ban on such a
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The Government has agreed
not to expel the 2500 prisoners
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### 4,000 sieve stadium in Basque protest

**From Harry Debelius**

**Madrid, March 15**

A crowd was shot dead in an ambush near Vitoria today. The element was contained in the Basque country. In San Sebastian, 4,000 demonstrators blockaded a sports stadium during an International competition.

The policeman, Señor Cano, was killed by a bomb which exploded near him and three other officers. The crowd ran from the scene and the fenced in of one of them, were returning from a dance to their barracks at Monteagudo de 3 am.

The stockade, who appeared to be waiting for the policemen, stepped out from another vehicle. A police car was returning to the police, who had blocked at a hotel. Apart from Señor Gomes, two policemen at the scene were injured seriously.

When the gunner's ear was later found, his owner was disoriented. Great efforts to find his host. He told police he was forced into the hotel after the shooting.

The crowds are believed to be members of ETA (Euskadi Ta Askatasuna, or Basque Nationalist Left), taking revenge for the shooting of an ETA member, Señor Martul, in favour of Señor Toribio in Navarre.

**Laguna, Tenerife, March 15**

The Tenerife rioters burned cars and offices and tear-gas was thrown by the riot police.

The immediate cause of the riot was the death of a civil servant, in conjunction with a broad expropriation of property, taking revenge for the killing of other people in the Basque protest.

The immediate cause of the rioting was not clear. According to some reports it started after police entered the church of San Benito in Tenerife, to dislodge demonstrators who had been staging a sit-in for political prisoners.

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## Cabinet sets out rules for Spanish election

**From William Chisholm**

**Madrid, March 15**

Fierce confrontations between demonstrators and riot police continued until shortly before dawn today in La Laguna, Tenerife, leaving several people injured. The immediate cause of the rioting was the death of a civil servant, in conjunction with a broad expropriation of property, taking revenge for the killing of other people in the Basque protest.

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**4,000 sieve stadium in Basque protest**

From Harry Debelius

Madrid, March 13

The demand for a total amnesty. A total amnesty was the central demand of the Basque country. In San Sebastian, 4,000 demonstrators took over a sports stadium during an international competition.

The policeman, Severo Conejo González Barcia, was killed when two men opened fire with shotguns on a car in which he and three other police officers were sitting. The mayor of San Sebastian, Jose Luis Gabilondo, who was shot, died later at a hospital. Another policeman was wounded in the incident.

A total amnesty was the central demand of the Basque country. In San Sebastian, 4,000 demonstrators took over a sports stadium during an international competition.

The police, who were outnumbered, began to withdraw after the shootings. But the demonstrators continued to confront the police for hours, including relatives of some of the dead and傷害 people. After a night of violence, the police finally cleared the stadium and arrested several demonstrators.

**Basque marcher hit by police rubber bullet dies**

From Our Correspondent

Madrid, March 14

The death in San Sebastian of a 17-year-old demonstrator whose face was crushed by a rubber bullet fired by police at yesterday's protest. The demonstration was organized by the extreme right-wing Basque Nationalist Party. The police have been rubber bulleting demonstrators and have used all types of force against them.

**Tenerife rioters burn offices and cars**

From William Chislett

Madrid, March 15

Fierce confrontation between demonstrators and riot police continued until morning, before dawn today in La Laguna, Tenerife, leaving cars and offices burnt out, shops broken and dozens of people injured.

The immediate cause of the rioting was not clear. According to some reports, a fire bomb was thrown at the police station in one of the Basque towns. Other reports said that 15 workers had entered the church and killed two priests.

The demonstrators, numbering in the thousands, set fire to several buildings, including a police station and a government building. The police, who were outnumbered, began to retreat after a short struggle. About 150 people were injured, including several police officers.

**Cabinet sets out rules for Spanish election**

From William Chislett

Madrid, March 16

The Spanish Government announced tonight that the ministry of the Interior would issue guidelines for the upcoming election. The guidelines, issued after several days of violence, were intended to ensure fair and free elections.

The minimum number of deputies to each province for the lower house of the Cortes (parliament) will be three. The maximum number of deputies will be four, and the maximum number of deputies will be five for the Congress of Deputies (lower house).

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MADRID, March 16 - Opposition leaders reacted favourably today to the Government's electoral law, which paves the way for the first general elections in Spain for more than 40 years.

The Opposition's main worry still centres on the undecided issue of whether the National Movement, which was the only legal political organization under General Franco, will be "neutralized." No specific mention was made in the Government's statement.

In response to criticism raised in the talks between the parties, Members of the Spanish Communist Party, the Movement, said that this was the only way to ensure that the Government's electoral law, which was the only legal political organization under General Franco, will be "neutralized." No specific mention was made in the Government's statement.

The General Election in Spain for the first time in 40 years will be very happy the day that Spain becomes a democracy.

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The General Election in Spain for the first time in 40 years will be very happy the day that Spain becomes a democracy.
Father Xirinacs keeps vigil despite amnesty

From William Chadlet
Barcelona, March 20

"I am tired, my nerves are fragile, and I am trying to take a holiday," said Father Luis Maria Xirinacs in front of Barcelona's Model Prison, where he has been mounting a daily 12-hour vigil for the past 15 months in favour of a total amnesty.

He says the Suarez government's recently announced extension of the amnesty is insufficient and will not give up his vigil until the dictatorship is over.

Father Xirinacs, a 44-year-old priest, began his vigil month after the death of General Franco. At first police and others joined him, and a few against the wall facing the prison were greeted. From the Model Prison, where he has been mounting a daily 12-hour vigil for the past 15 months in favor of a total amnesty, including those recently announced. He was arrested on November 4, 1975, in the Basque country and was released.

Next month he will leave his vigil for 20 minutes every day for lunch in a bar near the prison. He decided to let me buy him a drink, adding that he had lunch only because his doctor says he must. Father Xirinacs has been underujestion since he first started, the longest one for 42 days in 1974, and he is determined not to give up until "the dictatorship is over.

"He said, "The government believes that the dictatorship will end with the December referendum. But it has not, and we will not do so, until we have a real amnesty.""
**Socialist leader warns the Spanish monarchy to resign**

From Our Correspondent Madrid, March 25

The Spanish monarchy will be endangered, said Severo Ambriz, the Prime Minister, if it fails to form a stable government within weeks. This would consolidate the present government, and allow an organization towards a statute of autonomy towards a statute of autonomy was recently established. But Mr. Ambriz realizes that the political forces after the elections were not fair, said that if the political options were to serve the present political power for the attorney-general, then this was short-sighted and would probably lead to a radicalization of political forces after the elections were over.

"An operation by an 'institutional party' to create confusion among the emerging political forces is not the function the organizers but the people," said Mr. Ambriz.

The Opposition is divided over the issue. While the Prime Minister running in the elections, Señor Santiago Carrillo, secretary-general of the Spanish Communist Party, has made it known that he is not against the idea, his support is almost certainly tactical, particularly as he is awaiting a decision to base whether the Leftist party will form a new one.

The Catholic Church is expected to allow greater freedom for the clergy, and the Catholic League, which has been requested in demand for an elections. According to the Justices Ministry, the elections have been registered under the name of the Government's next election.

**Surprise at Arreilza decision to resign**

From Our Own Correspondent Madrid, March 25

Señor Juan Carlos, editor of El País, has been charged with publishing political information on a "secret basis." The newspaper has been running a "shocking story" that was published earlier in the "Daily Express." Señor Gil Robles, for example, takes a rough position if six members of the "Naval" and a line of ten of the 1980s. What he said has been considered to have good electoral advantage.

The resurrection was apparently brought on by growing conflicts within the Popular Party and strained relations between Señor Sánchez, the Prime Minister, and Señor Arreilza. But Señor Arreilza made no mention of this in his letter of resignation, saying he was not acting against anyone or anything.

Señor Arreilza and Señor Pío Caballero, the party's president, a former Information Minister, also the Prime Minister, and Señor Arreilza, the resignation of Mr. Arreilza is expected to be made known to the Prime Minister on whether to fight the elections and, if so, under what banner.

The exact political colouring of the Prime Minister is still a mystery; he has been cleverly directed towards a radicalization of political forces after the elections were over.

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**Some form of self-government wished before elections**

Catalonians united in quest for autonomy

From William Chlister, The Sunday Times, March 25

While nationally the Spanish political map may become more and more confusing with the general election less than 50 days away, in Catalonia politics are comparatively straightforward. Agreement in at least one fundamental issue autonomy — has been reached. The Catalan politician who is in the Catalan Democratic representative of the Opposition's negotiating committee with the Government, hopefully sees future elections as a realistic way to bring autonomy.

"We feel in the elections in Catalonia having achieved this then the elections should be less aggressive," he said in an interview. Otherwise most of the Catalan political parties will decide to campaign much more intensely on the pro-autonomy ticket and make it an electoral issue.

Ideally, Catalonia would like to see a recognition of the statute of 1932 which General Franco suppressed after the civil war. He said. This gave parties in Catalonia autonomy and its right to have clean elections without having to resign, whereas all other senior office holders must give up their posts. Señor Sánchez's mandate does not expire until 1981 and he could continue as Prime Minister without taking part in the elections. Señor Sánchez has not yet said what he will do.

Señor González, who has threatened that his party will boycott the elections, is not sure, said that if the political options were to serve the present political power for the elections then this was short-sighted and would probably lead to a radicalization of political forces after the elections were over.

"An operation by an 'institutional party' to create confusion among the emerging political forces is not the function of the organizers but the people," said Mr. Ambriz.

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Anarchist unionists rally outside Madrid

From William Chislett • San Sebastian de los Reyes, March 27

The long-dormant Spanish anarchist trade union movement, the National Confederation of Workers (CNT) sprang to life in San Sebastian de los Reyes, 10 miles outside Madrid today, when about 8,000 people packed the bullring here for the first authorized meeting since the end of the civil war.

Waving the red and black flag and chanting: "Anarchy and freedom," people arrived from all over Spain by car, bus and even racing bicycle.

Founded in 1911, the CNT had an estimated two million members by the time the civil war started in 1936. After the civil war the government went into exile and a number of those who stayed behind faced imprisonment or execution.

Since the death of General Franco, the CNT has been trying to reorganize itself. Today it showed that it had a nucleus of members—although it was hard to tell who won there as a convinced sympathizer or just on an outing. After all, singing rallies are still a novelty in Spain. There was not a single uniformed policeman in sight.

The overwhelming majority of people in the bullring were students, many of them bearded and long-haired. But there were also some old people, some of whom had fought in the defense of Madrid until the end of the civil war.

Señora Federica Montseny, the previous head of the CNT, was unable to attend as she is still not allowed to return from exile in France.

The organization of the meeting was true to the spirit of anarchism. There were no seating arrangements, no program and no speaking arrangements, although there were pictures all over the place and the organizers related through loudspeakers. Vice-president Señor Juan Gomez Casas, the secretary general of the CNT, who spent 14 years in prison, told the euphoric crowd that the libertarian movement in Spain was not dead and that the CNT was in the throes of reorganization.

He called for a minute's silence for all those who "had fallen for liberty." The silence was quickly broken by some one at the back of the ring shouting an insult. This was almost immediately drowned by shouts of: "Long live freedom."

Señor Luis Edo, the Catalan delegate, told the crowd that the CNT there was no difference between ordinary and political prisoners and all should be released. Eighteen of its members are still in prison. The CNT believes in a basically communal form of society with everyone controlling and taking part in the means of production.

When I asked an old anarchist at my side what was the difference between anarchism and communism, he replied: "We believe in a free society without the "communist one is brutal totalitarianism; another form of fascism." Both his sons are CNT members. The organization will not take part in the general election as it does not believe in elections.

The Popular Socialist Party of Professor Enrique Tierno Galván held a meeting in a Madrid bullring last night, attended by an estimated 25,000 people. Speakers called for a united socialist platform for the general election. "Spain tomorrow will be republican," was a popular slogan.
Membership may prove mixed blessing to the Canaries

by William Chislett

Although the Canary Islands are only 70 miles off the coast of West Africa, they have always looked to West Europe for their culture, their thinking and general sense.

Apart from a small break-away movement—the Movement for Autonomy, Unification and Independence of the Canary Islands, led from Algiers—the islanders feel themselves part of Spain, although they are 1,000 kilometres from the mainland.

The movement is not regarded very seriously by islanders or by the Government, particularly as the police claimed in February to have almost broken up the organization. Nevertheless, the idea of some degree of autonomy is strong in the minds of islanders, including the most conservative ones. There is a widespread fear of being neglected by Madrid, its administrative matters the fair-skinned islanders feel the distance from the mainland.

EEC membership would benefit the booming tourism and banana growing industries in the Canaries. Membership would mean that the Canaries would have the same tariffs as other EEC countries against Spain, which is a large market for Spanish shoes. The islands would enjoy the Community's market for Spanish goods, in addition to their own market for Spanish shoes. The Canaries would be able to compete with the Balearics and Canary Islands.

The Canaries were once again considering adopting the Guinea quail, Spain's leading area for quails, in order to increase the number of tourists coming to the islands. The Spanish Government is most unlikely to face a problem in the Balearic and Canary Islands, and whether Spain is in or out of the EEC membership, particularly as a high proportion of the population of these islands are themselves EEC members, enjoying a quiet or a retired life.

A place out of the sun at Palma de Majorca. Right: caves on Grand Canary like those in which the Guanches, the original inhabitants of the islands, lived.

The Canaries have a considerable drop in trade for their bananas and also one of the chief tomato growing areas, will feel the pinch a little later. July under Britain's tomatoes come into line with the rest of the EEC.

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Spanish opposition worry at delay in Communist ruling

From Our Correspondent
Madrid, April 1

The Cabinet has decided to scrap Franco's Movement.

From William Cadbury
Madrid, April 1

The Supreme Court has decided to return the case of the call for the legalisation of the Spanish Communist Party to the Government. According to a front-page report in the Madrid evening newspaper, El Progreso, official confirmation of this could not be obtained. The Court will take the case of the Spanish Communist Party in a report published here today.

Spain to scrap Franco's Movement

From Our Correspondent
Madrid, April 1

The Spanish Government decided today to do away with the Francoist part of the National Movement, and so the party will cease to exist. The Government today said it would never be shown in public power again.

Judges put Señor Suárez on spot

From Our Correspondent
Madrid, April 1

The Supreme Court declared yesterday that there would be no decision on the case of the Spanish Communist Party by the end of March, and so the Government will have to take such a decision as to whether to legalize the Party. It is also decided not to legalize the Communist Party by decree, but by a change of law. The Government today announced that it would make its decision public within 19 days.

Gernica people petition for Picasso painting

From Our Correspondent
Madrid, April 1

The people of Gernica have petitioned the Government to restore the painting immortalized by the bombing.