From Harry Debelius

**Four policemen killed on day of Franco rally**

Madrid, Oct 5

General, who led four uniformed policemen in Madrid today, just a few hours before an estimated 100,000 people assembled to express support for the regime, was unaware of the large numbers they said to have gathered at the university, .

The shootings, which took place almost simultaneously in four different areas of Madrid, resulted in the deaths of four policemen and five political extremists last week. .

The great majority of the crowd, which included a large number of young people, was angry, anti-Franco, and anti-Francoist, and carried dozens of banners praising General Franco and attacking the government's policies.

**Basque guerrillas kill three policemen in reprisal bombing**

From Harry Debelius

**Spanish Cabinet officially defies foreign criticism as more countries attack Franco regime**

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**Spanish Cabinet officially defies foreign criticism as more countries attack Franco regime**

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**Spanish Cabinet officially defies foreign criticism as more countries attack Franco regime**

General Franco, with Prince Juan Carlos at his side, acknowledged the cheers of his supporters at the huge demonstration in Madrid yesterday.

The government was unrelenting in its denunciation of the Spanish government's attempt to confuse liberalisation with détente and to undermine the Franco regime. The government has already taken steps to strengthen the official antifascist study group being used as a political weapon by the regime.

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Three more Spanish army officers arrested for sedition

From Harry Dejols
Madrid, Oct 5

Three more Spanish army officers have been arrested for fomenting subversion.

This morning, the National Police arrested three army officers in Madrid. Two of them were officers from the General Francisco Franco Headquarters, while the third was a captain from the Army's General Staff.

The officers were detained during a search operation at their homes and offices. They are believed to have been involved in activities related to the ongoing political unrest in Spain.

The arrests come after a series of anti-Franco protests and demonstrations across the country, calling for democracy and an end to authoritarian rule.

The Spanish government has repeatedly condemned such activities, describing them as acts of sedition.

The news has sparked outrage among some segments of the population, who see it as a violation of their rights to free expression and assembly.

Meanwhile, the situation remains tense as the country grapples with the legacy of Francisco Franco's dictatorship and the struggle for a democratic future.

Minister pledges 'free all' from William Chisslet

Spanish

MADRID

Senior Crust Martinez, Education Minister, has pledged to work for the release of all political prisoners. "We cannot accept the situation where our citizens are held captive for political reasons," Martinez said.

The pledge comes amid growing pressure on the government to release political prisoners, who are being held in prison for their participation in anti-Franco protests and demonstrations.

The minister also announced that the government would work to improve the conditions of political prisoners in custody.

Martinez's statement was welcomed by human rights organizations and opposition politicians, who have long been calling for the release of all political prisoners.

Meanwhile, the situation remains tense as the country grapples with the legacy of Francisco Franco's dictatorship and the struggle for a democratic future.
Barcelona gun battle leaves five dead

From Harry Debbs
Madrid, Oct 7

Spanish political refugees, nine of them shot dead, and 10 injured, have been killed in a battle at two police installations in the southern city of Barcelona. A number of police officers were wounded in the attack, which began at about 3 a.m. today.

The police installations, which were attacked by armed men, were located in the outskirts of Barcelona, near the Spanish border. The attackers were believed to be members of the Basque separatist organization ETA (Euskadi Ta Askatasuna).

Dutch tourists beat up Gen Franco’s son-in-law in quarrel

From Harry Debbs
Madrid, Oct 7

Dutch tourists beat up Gen Franco’s son-in-law in an argument over official Spanish policy, according to reports published today.

The Marques of Villaviciosa, 53, married to General Franco’s daughter, Carmen, got into a heated discussion with the Dutchmen at a restaurant in Villaviciosa de Odón, near Madrid, yesterday, when they allegedly made remarks about the regime in comparison with the recent execution of five political exiles.

The marquess was treated for black eyes and a suspected broken nose. A Dutch tourist, who was prevented by the police from calling the marquess a “killer”. The marquess is a member of the Dutch Royal Family.

Ex-bullfighter in coma after charge by cow

From Our Correspondent
Madrid, Oct 7

Antonio Bienvenida, a former bullfighter, was in a coma today after being charged by a cow. Doctors today put him on life support after he was injured by a bull during a performance.

A bullfighter’s bull, known as “La Malaga”, charged at Bienvenida, who is 53, during a bullfight at the Las Ventas bullring in Madrid.

The bullfighter, who was hospitalised, had his left arm injured.

Spain

Headaches as classes return

from William Chislett

At least 25% of Spain’s 10 million schoolchildren have returned to class today, according to the “new” plan of general basic education, which is to be introduced across the country. An additional 200,000 students who were enrolled in the previous system of education are now being educated under this new system.

The government is committed to providing a free education system, but the new plan is facing criticism from many parents and teachers.

According to the new plan, students will be divided into three groups: primary, secondary, and university. The plan is being implemented gradually, with schools in rural areas adopting the new system first.

The new plan has been met with resistance from some teachers, who say it will lead to a decrease in the quality of education. However, the government is determined to see the plan through, believing it will provide a better education for all children.

The new plan includes a reduction in class sizes, with an aim to reduce the number of students per teacher from 25 to 15. It also introduces a new curriculum, with more emphasis on practical skills and creativity.

The new plan has been welcomed by many parents, who say it will provide a better education for their children. However, some parents have expressed concerns about the lack of support for their children, who are now being taught in small classes.

The new plan has been welcomed by many teachers, who say it will provide a better education for their students. However, some teachers have expressed concerns about the lack of support for their students, who are now being taught in small classes.

The new plan has been welcomed by many students, who say it will provide a better education for their future. However, some students have expressed concerns about the lack of support for their future, who are now being taught in small classes.

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Spain seeks arrest of air force officer
From Harry Debelius
Madrid, Oct 29

A report today in a Spanish newspaper said that Colonel Ignacio Echevarria Martin, a Spanish Air Force general, was arrested last night in Madrid on suspicion of attempting a coup against General Francisco Franco.

The report, published in the Spanish newspaper La Vanguardia, said that Echevarria was arrested along with several other officers on charges of treason and叛乱.

According to the newspaper, Echevarria and his accomplices were planning to march into the palace of Madrid and seize power.

The Spanish government denied the report, saying that the general was in fact under arrest on charges of corruption and misuse of funds.

The arrest came after a series of anti-government protests in Spain, including a large demonstration in Madrid on Saturday calling for the resignation of General Franco.

The Spanish government has been under increasing pressure to address the demands of the protesters, who are calling for democratic reforms and an end to corruption.

The government has so far refused to make any changes to its policies, and has instead ordered a crackdown on the protesters, including the arrest of several leaders.

The situation in Spain is highly sensitive, as the country is a member of the European Union and has been under increasing pressure from the EU to address its economic and political problems.

The arrest of Echevarria could be seen as a sign of the growing unrest in Spain, and could lead to further protests and unrest in the country.

The Spanish government is expected to make a statement on the matter later today.

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**Danger of mines for Sahara protesters**

From Our Correspondent
20 OCT 1975

A report today in a Spanish newspaper said that several hundred protesters in the Western Sahara are facing a dangerous situation due to the presence of mines.

According to the report, the protesters, who are demanding independence for the Western Sahara, are facing the risk of injury or death from mines left over from the Moroccan occupation.

The protesters, who are now camped out in the area, are demanding the withdrawal of Moroccan troops and the establishment of a democratic government in the region.

The Moroccan government has so far refused to withdraw its forces from the Western Sahara, and has instead accused the protesters of using violence and terrorism.

The situation in the Western Sahara is highly sensitive, as the region is a source of conflict between Morocco and Spain, and is also a hotspot for Islamist terrorism.

The Spanish government has so far taken a cautious approach to the situation, and has refused to recognize the independence demands of the protesters.

The government is expected to make a statement on the matter later today.
Spanish opposition leader explains the working of a ‘league table of tolerance’.

Madrid tacitly accepts democrats

From our Correspondent

There are signs that General Franco is becoming increasingly tolerant of some opposition groups. In a meeting last week, the National Movement of Education, a group of centre Christian Democratic politicians, was present.

Professor Joaquín Ruiz Jiménez, the leader of the group, was reported to have told the movement that the government tolerates opposition groups.

But Professor Ruiz Jiménez was quick to add that the government's tolerance was not unlimited.

"I would not say that we are friends," he said, "but we are not enemies."

The government's tolerance was limited, he said, because it was "impossible to describe the regime as a tolerant one." He added that the government's tolerance was not unlimited.

"I think it is important to recognize the government's tolerance," he said, "but we must also recognize its limitations."
Prince seeks takeover as Gen Franco gets better

Spain

Fresh clamp on campus ‘militants’

General Franco in a critical condition

Cabinet minister gives hint that General Franco should resign

Man shot in Basque police chase
Men who hold key to Spain's future

From Harry Debelis: \(27 \text{ Oct 1975}\)

The task facing Prince Juan Carlos, General Franco's designated heir, is not an easy one. The King, who has supported the government of Benito Mussolini in the past, must now decide whether he will continue to support it. If he does, he will need the advice of his minister. If he does not, he will need the support of the armed forces.

If Senor Carolina hands over to his minister a signed copy of powers, it is feared that it should immediately after the death of Senor Arias, who was observed yesterday to show improvement. The explanation was that the general's 'march of reprieve' had already taken place yesterday. In fact, Senor Arias is expected to die in the next three hours, although he is expected to die in the next three hours without the specific consent of the doctor. As the result of his own direct appointees, which were observed yesterday showed improvement. The event was not made known, since he left the hospital last week. "Unfortunately, the evolution of his heart was still to be decided."

Lieutenant-General Manuel de la Roca, an aristocratic Army officer, was dismissed last year as Chief of the Juntas del Chacón, a taskboard, apparently because General Franco considered him too liberal. General de la Roca has been considered a potential candidate for the position of prime minister. He has been actively campaigning with an eye to the future for some time.

It is believed that he has been made chief of state for the Armed Forces, and has been appointed national commander of the Civil Guard.

From Harry Debelis: \(28 \text{ Oct 1975}\)

The regular Friday Cabinet meeting did not take place today. The explanation was that General Franco's regular meeting would not take place today. Nevertheless, the ministers were expected to be present at the Thursday meeting. It was expected that the Thursday meeting would be a routine meeting of the cabinet meeting, during which ministers are prepared for presentation to General Franco every Friday.

Lieu-tenant-Colonel Antonio Pérez de las Casas, president of the national committee, said: "It is necessary that the country, and this is the case, not be disturbed. It is necessary that the future, and the country, and this is the case, not be disturbed. It is necessary that the future, and the country, and this is the case, not be disturbed."
Spain

Education gets 14% of Budget from William Chislett

MADRID

More than 1,000,000 students will receive no education next year according to figures published today. Most of the money will go to state education, but 12.5% will be granted to private schools. The education spending represents a 14 per cent cut since last year.

At the same time as the government announced the budget, the Spanish government today approved a 15 per cent increase.

Many of the state institutes closed at the end of this year because of the lack of funds. There will be a new round of closures at the end of these years. The government has been left with a 15.5 per cent cut since last year.

Most teachers are contracted and do not have the right to strike. They are required to spend their time in the classroom, which gives them a core status.

Spain sets deadline for leaving Portugal Oct 1756

From Our Correspondent

Spain will pull out its troops from Portugal, with or without an agreement, at a date which has been fixed by the government. The deadline is 1756.

The government has already made public its decision to withdraw from the country after the Portuguese government has agreed to pay a lump sum of 1,000,000,000 pesetas.

Spain

Overspill campus opens

MADRID

Madrid’s overcrowded Complutense University has opened new campuses in the towns of Alcala de Henares, 20 miles from the city.

The university is the result of a 20-year struggle of the university and its students for better facilities. They are located in the towns of Alcala de Henares, 20 miles from the city.

Complutense University's medical faculty has an estimated 12,000 students this fall, although it can only officially cater for about 10,000.

General Franco's condition deteriorates after new thrombosis during evening

From Our Correspondent

General Franco was in a "serious crisis" today after suffering a new thrombosis during the evening.

The prime minister's condition was "serious" and he was in a "small" hospital. He was in a "serious" condition since the news of the head of state's illness.

A statement issued on his behalf described the condition as "serious" and added that he was in a "small" hospital.

General Franco's wife, Carmen, and his daughter, Zita, were also present at the hospital. The Archduke, who is in charge of the military, is in a "small" hospital. The Archduke has a "small" hospital.

The statement added that the prime minister was in a "small" hospital and that he was in a "small" hospital.

The statement was issued on his behalf by the Archduke, who is in charge of the military. The Archduke has a "small" hospital.

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The prime minister's condition was "serious" and he was in a "small" hospital. He was in a "serious" condition since the news of the head of state's illness. 
**Where will Prince Juan Carlos lead Spain?**

As far as most Spaniards are concerned, the most characteristic of Prince Juan Carlos, General Franco's designated political heir, who again took "temporary" power this week and held a cabinet meeting yesterday, is that he resembles his father. When he intends to do, as well as the more important question of what he will be able to do, is likely to be among "the Prince of July," meaning that he is totally identified with the regime that came out of the military uprising of July 18, 1936. Others see him as a man for liberation. Probably the majority opinion concerns the phrase, "Juan Carlos the same as Franco.

While most of the statements made by the 37-year-old prince are vague, two aspects are by force of habit: both factions to prince Sophia, in Spain, he claimed numerous followers in the Spanish Parliament (only 17 per cent of whom cast an univocal ballots): he is always ready to act in a legitimate and binding manner. Nevertheless, there are true representatives in the Spanish Cortes (Parliament). Educated in the Spanish schools, a man of the old school, who has been used to step by step the importance of his own words and actions, has been achieved under the matter of the generalissimo's nomination. For me, this is an indication of his total commitment.

Prince Juan Carlos, who was told in delegation of the Valentia Bar Association, on November 1, 1976, less than seven months after he was born, that the development of Spain Orienta towards making the Spanish nation his own, so that the tranquility and unity of the Spanish nation might be born of the righteous application of justice, in the knowledge that his true freedom cannot be preserved by an act of his own will.

Both these views may be right and both may be wrong, as this is an unknown fact, which is the core of the Spanish problem. The real truth is that, as a boy, when his father, Don Juan Carlos, the generalissimo, made a deal with Spain's autocratic government to be educated in Spain. Thus Don Juan Carlos asked for the continuation of the Franco regime and for the recognition of the Spanish Championship in Portugal, offered France his father.

Young Juan Carlos was a "political agent" of the Franco government, a position that was commissioned at different stages of the Spanish civil war. Young Juan Carlos, who received a well-rounded education, including political science, and turned out to be a good linguist and a good soldier. Today he is a regular man with a beard. He has been invited to speak in his Greek, with Prince Charles, and in French, in his own country, in their most convenient language. As a boy, he spent most of his time with his father's political friends, and his father's personal friends. At any rate, young Juan Carlos, who was born in Madrid, was brought up in Madrid and France, and Franco addressed him as "Juan Carlos, my son."

When the time finally came for the old general to lead the prince, the letter to the newspaper was signed by the generalissimo, and the letter was reprinted in the newspapers. During the first few months of the Franco government, the Prince Juan Carlos, the former Foreign Minister, who was then called the "Prince of July," the son of the generalissimo, said that the prince was only a "figurehead." The Prince Juan Carlos, who was then called the "Prince of July," the son of the generalissimo, said that the prince was only a "figurehead." The Prince Juan Carlos, who was then called the "Prince of July," the son of the generalissimo, said that the prince was only a "figurehead." The Prince Juan Carlos, who was then called the "Prince of July," the son of the generalissimo, said that the prince was only a "figurehead." The Prince Juan Carlos, who was then called the "Prince of July," the son of the generalissimo, said that the prince was only a "figurehead."

**General Franco is said to be "much worse."**

From Harry Debelius, Madrid, Oct. 30

General Franco is in critical condition, the doctors operating on General Franco said today. The doctors operated on General Franco said today.

The latest complication came after medical reports earlier in the week indicated that General Franco was showing slight improvement in General Franco. The latest complication came after medical reports earlier in the week indicated that General Franco was showing slight improvement in General Franco. The latest complication came after medical reports earlier in the week indicated that General Franco was showing slight improvement in General Franco. The latest complication came after medical reports earlier in the week indicated that General Franco was showing slight improvement in General Franco. The latest complication came after medical reports earlier in the week indicated that General Franco was showing slight improvement in General Franco.

**General Franco survives an operation.**

From Harry Debelius, Madrid, Nov. 7

The doctors operated on General Franco are said to have been successful in continuing to improve General Franco's condition. The doctors operated on General Franco are said to have been successful in continuing to improve General Franco's condition.

**General Franco suffers new complications.**

From Our Correspondent, Madrid, Nov. 7


**Sahara talks break blamed on Algerian presence.**

From Harry Debelius, Tarfaya, Nov. 7

The talks held in the Algerian city of Tarfaya, where King Hassan II of Morocco is holding talks with his French opposite number, have been broken down. The talks held in the Algerian city of Tarfaya, where King Hassan II of Morocco is holding talks with his French opposite number, have been broken down.

**Our Madrid Correspondent writes:** Spanish troops remain in the northern territories of the Sahara, where they are engaged in fighting against the Mauritanian forces. More than 50,000 Algerian troops have been deployed in the past three days, according to sources quoted by the British newspaper "The Times." However, sources quoted by the British newspaper "The Times" said that the Mauritanian forces have been able to advance into the Spanish territories only because of the lack of coordination between the Algerian and the Mauritanian forces.

**General Franco, if they said that the country is in a political and economic crisis, is the same as before.**

Between the Moroccan and the Algerian delegations there has been no agreement. The Moroccan and the Algerian delegations there has been no agreement.

**The latest complication came after medical reports earlier in the week indicated that General Franco was showing slight improvement in General Franco.** The latest complication came after medical reports earlier in the week indicated that General Franco was showing slight improvement in General Franco. The latest complication came after medical reports earlier in the week indicated that General Franco was showing slight improvement in General Franco. The latest complication came after medical reports earlier in the week indicated that General Franco was showing slight improvement in General Franco. The latest complication came after medical reports earlier in the week indicated that General Franco was showing slight improvement in General Franco. The latest complication came after medical reports earlier in the week indicated that General Franco was showing slight improvement in General Franco. The latest complication came after medical reports earlier in the week indicated that General Franco was showing slight improvement in General Franco. The latest complication came after medical reports earlier in the week indicated that General Franco was showing slight improvement in General Franco. The latest complication came after medical reports earlier in the week indicated that General Franco was showing slight improvement in General Franco. The latest complication came after medical reports earlier in the week indicated that General Franco was showing slight improvement in General Franco. The latest complication came after medical reports earlier in the week indicated that General Franco was showing slight improvement in General Franco. The latest complication came after medical reports earlier in the week indicated that General Franco was showing slight improvement in General Franco. The latest complication came after medical reports earlier in the week indicated that General Franco was showing slight improvement in General Franco.
Sahara talks break blamed on Algerian presence

From Harry Debiblos Madrid, Oct 31

Talks over the future of the Spanish Sahara broke down yesterday, after the delegation was refused a meeting with a representative of the Algerian government. The sources handed the resignation of the High-Level Negotiator, who is expected to arrive in Madrid within a few days. Before the final session, Mr. Laraki told reporters: "I am sure that the discussions have degenerated into polemics between the representatives of the two delegations, and we do not accept the participation of the Algerian representatives in these negotiations."

Franco powers pass to Prince Juan Carlos

From Harry Debiblos Madrid, Oct 31

The transfer of power was carried out under the watchful eye of General Franco, who is said to have handed over the reins of power to the new leader. The General's illness was first evident when he died from phlebitis and interstitial pneumonia. The General's present illness has been confirmed by several months of treatment at the San Carlos hospital. According to police, the three-man High-Level Negotiator, Mr. Ahmed Abdel Ghani, the President of the Republic of Mauritania, died yesterday.

Franco worse as Prince takes over

General Franco worse as Prince takes over

From Harry Debiblos Madrid, Oct 31

As Prince Juan Carlos prepares to take over today following the death of General Franco, the Spanish Government has ordered a nationwide radio broadcast to inform the public of the new government. The Cabinet meeting was held at the Zarzuela Palace, rather than at El Pardo. But it was the third under the Prince's leadership. He has been groomed for power since 1969, when he joined the Spanish monarchy, Alfonso XI. However, his illness and the many absences of the General have made it difficult for him to decide whether he will be able to return to work. For the moment, the new attitude has emerged from the failure of the talks between representatives of Morocco, Spain, and Mauritania.

Madrid puts off Sahara withdrawal

From Our Correspondent

Spain has delayed its plans to evacuate civilians from the Spanish Sahara, according to reliable newspapers. It is also believed that Spanish troops are expected to arrive in the territory within a few weeks. The reason for the breakdown of the talks between representatives of Spain, Morocco, and Mauritania in Madrid yesterday is the participation of Algeria in the negotiations.

Prince takes over

Franco powers

Continued from page 1

power. The article under which he signed is the one under which the Prince, who is 37, took over from his father in 1969 when General Franco nearly died from phlebitis and interstitial pneumonia. According to police, General Franco was ordered to stay on perhaps for several months, or order to police headquarters in Santa Barbara. According to police, the three-man High-Level Negotiator, Mr. Ahmed Abdel Ghani, the President of the Republic of Mauritania, died yesterday.

Condition of General Franco worsens as Prince Juan Carlos takes over

From Harry Debiblos

As Prince Juan Carlos prepares to take over today following the death of General Franco, the Spanish Government has ordered a nationwide radio broadcast to inform the public of the new government. The Cabinet meeting was held at the Zarzuela Palace, rather than at El Pardo. But it was the third under the Prince's leadership. He has been groomed for power since 1969, when he joined the Spanish monarchy, Alfonso XI. However, his illness and the many absences of the General have made it difficult for him to decide whether he will be able to return to work. For the moment, the new attitude has emerged from the failure of the talks between representatives of Morocco, Spain, and Mauritania.
Deaths of 5 terrorists deeper split in Spain

By WILLIAM CHISLETT Special to The Star

MADRID

Spain now must face the question: Will five salvos fired by police execution squads on a sunny morning last weekend trigger a chain reaction that could topple Generalissimo Francisco Franco from power?

The executions of five urban guerrillas convicted of killing policemen have sparked Spain's worst street rioting in years, prompted at least 12 nations to pull their diplomats out of Madrid in protest and deepened the division of the Spanish people.

What now?

Stunned by the foreign reaction, Premier Carlos Arias Navarro urged Spaisforia to show the 82-year-old Carrillo "your testimony of unforgetting gratitude and respect for his work."

It quickly became obvious that all of Spain did not agree. Bands of terrorists disrupted the 30th anniversary of Franco's rebellion against democracy by gunning down three policemen in the streets of Madrid. Behind the unprecedented foreign and domestic protests lie two factors:

- Franco's reprisals against left-wing terrorists under a tough new law that has resulted in more than 300 arrests and 11 death sentences since it was introduced last month;
- The simple fact that Franco insists on clinging to power when increasing numbers of his countrymen believe it's time for him to go.

More explosive

It has been clear for some time that the longer Franco retains power the more explosive will be the situation that his successors will have to deal with. His insistence at nearly 83 on remaining at the helm "as long as God gives me the strength" and his refusal to bow to pressures for democratic reforms have led to a radicalization and polarization of politics in Spain.

He is said to have told a recent visitor: "Granting democracy to Spaniards is like giving liquor to a reformed alcoholic."

Yet even before last weekend's executions there were signs that the opposition groups were becoming increasingly impatient with the Old Guard's determination to keep things as they are.

- Item: The Reforma Social Española, a political association formed with government approval to prepare for the post-Franco era, has called for the urgent succession of the general by his designated heir, Prince Juan Carlos, who many believe will introduce a liberal democracy.

- Item: 80 prominent Spaniards, including businessmen, intellectuals and entertainers, wrote to Franco urging creation of a "political climate which will allow the problems that confront us to be freely and peacefully discussed."

Dogs yapping

In July Franco told an audience of civil war veterans at his Pardo Palace: "I believe you give too much importance to the dogs who are yapping. In reality there are tiny minorities who show up our vitality and prove the strength and capacity of resistance of our fatherland..."

Few politically aware Spaniards would agree with that now.

Even once-loyal supporters of the regime, including two former cabinet ministers, have clubbed together to demand reforms. Because all political parties are banned except the National Movement, they took the unusual step of forming a limited company, Federation of Independent Studies Ltd.

The federation is under attack from the National Movement, whose staunchest members are grouping themselves around Franco in a stronghold, popularly known as "the bunker."

More significant is the fact that the anti-terrorist law has brought together the two main warring factions of Spain's outlawed opposition — the Socialist-dominated Democratic Platform and the Communist-led Democratic Junta — which hitherto had distrusted each other as much as they had opposed Franco.

The Spanish Communist party is led from Paris by its secretary-general, Santiago Carrillo. Estimates of the party's strength vary but it is said to have between 20,000 and 25,000 card-carrying members in Spain.

The Communist-led power struggle in Portugal is momentous not helping the image of the party and Carrillo has dissociated himself from his Portuguese comrades in an effort to win more support in Spain.

When Franco entered hospital last July, Carrillo launched the Democratic Junta in an attempt to unify the suppressed opposition. It includes liberal monarchists, some Socialists, the underground trade union movement.

Some opposition groups are suspending the Junta because they think it is too Communist-dominated. This July the Democratic Platform was formed and is more flexible than the Junta. It would, for example, probably support Juan Carlos if he introduced an authentic democracy. The Junta rejects him as a creature of Franco.

The Democratic Platform was mainly formed by the Spanish Socialist Party, which only has about 7,000 party members in Spain but is led by a young and energetic Sevillian lawyer, Felipe Gonzalez, who has ties with French and West German Socialists.

More groups — left, right and centre — are beginning to come out of the woodwork, raising the spectre of another Portugal. On the right there are Fascist-style organizations like the Guerrillas of Christ the King, who have attacked cinemas and bookshops.

Regional parties

And, since Spain is just as separatist as it was before the civil war, there are many regional parties: the Basque Nationalist Party, the Union of the Gallego People, the Democratic Union of Catalonia and the Andalusian Socialist Alliance.

Two groups that are hardly ever out of the news in Spain because of their terrorist activities are the Basque separatist organization ETA — standing for Basque land and liberty — and the M A O (a t Anti-Fascist Revolutionary Patriotic Front (FRAP). These organizations between them have claimed responsibility for killing 22 policemen in 20 months.

The army has so far stayed out of politics, but there are rumblings from within the ranks. Nine officers, for example, have been arrested for sedition in recent months.

It was the army which intervened in 1956 to sort out the political chaos and many observers in Madrid will have to do the same again when the parties start jostling openly for power.