Spain ends state monopoly of radio news broadcasts

From Harry Debelius
Madrid, Oct 2

The state monopoly of radio news broadcasts will end here tomorrow, according to reports published in Madrid this weekend.

For the first time since the Civil War, Spanish radio networks and stations will no longer be obliged to link up with the state-run Radio Nacional twice a day to transmit news broadcasts prepared by the state corporation.

In General Franco's day, those were the only news broadcasts which could be heard in this country apart from programs originating outside Spain. Since the general's death, the Government has become more tolerant about the broadcasting of news material prepared by local stations or private networks. However, the decree granting the news monopoly to the state are still on the statute books.

One of the military factions of the Basque separatist movement ETA has given up armed struggle and renounced the practice of collecting "revolutionary taxes" from businessmen in the region, a Basque newspaper reported today.

The newspaper Egin, published in Bilbao, carried an interview today with leaders of one of the three armed factions of the guerrilla movement. They were reported to have said: "The Basque revolution, and the working class, need a party which will be in the vanguard and which will be identified in a clear way and which can consequently blaze the trail for the policy to be followed at all levels.

The ETA spokesmen added that, as a result, they would no longer engage in violent activities, but would instead attack on the political front: "in support of the class struggle."

The spokesmen were quoted as saying that they had given up extortion for two reasons.

One was that the divisions within ETA made it impossible to control the "tax collection" programme. Even the police used this method to increase confusion. The ETA leaders said, as well as some private individuals not connected with ETA who were simply making money.

The other reason, according to the ETA spokesman was that: "when the oligarchy refuses because it can afford to take necessary security precautions, then the tax is levied on middle management—on people who often consider themselves abertzale (Basque patriarchs)."

The tax has become something to be levied on only a few representatives of the small and medium level of the Basque bourgeoisie." The statement means only that the practice of extracting "taxes" from wealthy people in the Basque country is denounced by one of the at least three branches of ETA.

Catalan triumph, page 6

New Bill to entitle Spaniards to legal aid

From Our Own Correspondent
Madrid, Oct 3

The Spanish Government today introduced a Bill to give Spaniards the right to demand the presence of a lawyer as soon as they are arrested by the police and before they are charged.

At the same time the Government submitted to the Cortes its proposal for a new law on amnesty. The amnesty question is linked to attempts by the Centre Democratic Union (UCD), the party of Mayor Suárez, the Prime Minister, to win the support of the Basque and Catalan home-rule block in Parliament on other issues.

In view of the divisions within his own party, Mayor Suárez is thought to be eager to bring one or more Basque or Catalan ministers into his Government to form a coalition with enough votes in the Cortes to ensure a majority of some of the UCD factions break away.

Señor Antonio Fontain, president of the Senate, criticized in Seville on Sunday the proposal of Señor Santiago Carrillo, the Spanish Communist Party leader, for the formation of a "government of conciliation," or coalition government, incorporating the Communists.

"A political system can only be consolidated when it offers alternatives. Furthermore it is not possible because neither the UCD nor the PSOE (Spanish Socialist Workers' Party, the principal parliamentary opposition) wants it."
Fresh start for Catalan region

Struggle looming over Generalitat powers

From William Chislett
Madrid, Oct 2

Thirty-seven years ago this month (October 15, 1940) Señor Luis Companys, President of the Generalitat, the Catalan autonomous government, was shot after the Gestapo handed him over to General Franco.

Four days ago the Generalitat, under the presidency of Señor Josep Tarradellas, fled Barcelona with Señor Companys in 1939 at the end of the civil war to exile in France, was reestablished by royal decree.

Phrases like "Viva Catalunya" (Catalan for "Long live Catalonia") were liable to bring imprisonment in France's day. Catalan culture and language were suppressed and those favouring autonomy treated like criminals.

Now Señor Suárez, the Spanish Prime Minister, has treated another of the sacred cows of the former regime.

The Generalitat dates from 1359, before Spain was a unified country and regions like Catalonia enjoyed their own rights. It was destroyed in 1714 by the troops of Philip V in the war of the Spanish Succession, and lay dormant until the establishment of the Second Republic in 1931. It then lasted until the end of the civil war.

The Generalitat has always been an emotive issue for Catalans. When Catalonia, which comprises four provinces, celebrated its Diada (national day) last September 11, more than a million people paraded through Barcelona waving the red and yellow Catalan flag and shouting, to the rhythm of beeping car horns, "Liberdà, Amnistìa i Estatut d'Autonomia" (freedom, amnesty and statute of autonomy).

Catalans, the most European-minded of Spaniards, now have back some of their freedom. There might be another amnesty and autonomy statute, which will detail the exact functions of the new Generalitat, will be worked out with the new constitution.

The 1932 Catalan autonomy statute specified the Generalitat's powers including control over law and order, education, public health, transport and justice. It had its own Parliament and certain legislative powers. Many Catalans would like to see the new statute embracing similar powers and this will be a contentious issue.

Señor Tarradellas, now aged 75, will now return in triumph to preside over the new Generalitat and form a government, which will have little more than symbolic powers until full details are worked out. Señor Tarradellas was prime minister of the Generalitat for part of the civil war and was then appointed President-in-exile in 1954. It is with his return that the problems will start.

Señor Suárez skillfully manoeuvred the negotiations for the Generalitat's return by initially going over the heads of the Catalan politicians elected in the June 15 general election in Catalonia and form a government, which will have little more than symbolic powers until full details are worked out. Señor Tarradellas was prime minister of the Generalitat for part of the civil war and was then appointed President-in-exile in 1954. It is with his return that the problems will start.

Señor Tarradellas used his position, some say in an authoritarian way, to act as the intermediary between the Government and the Catalan parties.

Socialists and Communists, who for the time being are shelving the republican issue, will now start, as the victors of the June 15 election in Catalonia, to try to control the Generalitat. Señor Suárez's ruling Democratic Centre Union did badly in Catalonia and it remains to be seen to what extent Señor Tarradellas is his man.

Señor Tarradellas, a convinced republican, has avoided the issue in negotiations. Barcelona, however, is still a republican stronghold.

Municipal elections are planned for later this year or early next year and the outcome in Catalonia will greatly influence the membership of the Generalitat. Meanwhile, Spain's conservative military hierarchy still fears autonomy as "breaking up Spain". This was probably why one of the decrees stipulates that the Madrid Government can for "security reasons" abolish the Generalitat if it finds that necessary.
Hopes dashed for end to Basque violence

From Our Correspondent  Madrid, Oct 4

Hopes that the Basque separatist organization ETA might give up violence were dashed in Bilbao today when the underground movement claimed responsibility for a bomb attack last Saturday at the construction site of a nuclear power centre at Lasmanis.

A spokesman for one ETA faction said in a newspaper interview on Sunday that his group would stop collecting "revolutionary taxes" from businessmen and would relegate the armed struggle to a secondary position in order to offer active political support to leftists parties. However, it is now plain that this decision does not affect the other factions of the much-divided extremist organization.

The ETA—or part of it—informed the Basque nationalist newspaper Deia in Bilbao today that it had placed the "bomb "in solidarity with popular demonstrations against the nuclear station."

The bomb damaged an electrical transformer and the small building housing it, next to a canteen for construction workers. No one was hurt.

In other violence in the Basque country, an organization calling itself the International Anti-Communist Group claimed responsibility for a petrol bomb attack on the San Sebastian headquarters of the Basque Communist Party. It threatened "new actions tomorrow."

Basque political parties and trade unions are planning big demonstrations in northern Spanish cities on Friday, the 41st anniversary of the founding of the autonomous Basque government. Friday is also the day on which a proposed law on amnesty is to be debated in the Parliament in Madrid.

New Basque killing as amnesty is agreed

From Our Correspondent  Madrid, Oct 7

Another suspected political killing occurred in the Basque region just as final agreement was reached here on a new draft law on amnesty for political offenders.

The body of a taxi driver, believed to be a regular police informer, was found with two bullet wounds today outside Hernani, near San Sebastian. The Basque separatist organization ETA was suspected of having perpetrated the murder.

In Madrid last night a multiparty parliamentary committee approved the text of a draft law on amnesty for political offenders but would not let ousted military men back into the armed forces.

The compromise Bill, worked out between representatives of the ruling Centre Democratic Union and the opposition, would also exclude members of the mysterious terrorist organization Grapo. Although some debate is expected, the passage of the amnesty proposal is a foregone conclusion.

It will probably come up before the Congress within two weeks, and the only party which opposes it is the right-wing Popular Alliance, headed by Senator Manuel Fraga Iribarne, the former Interior Minister.

The exclusions from the benefits of the amnesty, written into the text of the draft, were the result of "trading" between the Centre Democratic Union and left-wing parties.

The ruling party insisted that the military establishment would not stand for a law obliging it to take back ousted officers and soldiers. As a compensation, the leftists suggested other exclusions.
Opposition joins Señor Suárez in drafting anti-terrorism law as three die in Basque outrage

From William Chislett
Madrid, Oct 9
Spanish Government and Opposition leaders, shocked by the assassination of a provincial administrator and his two police bodyguards in the Basque country, have agreed to cooperate in drafting urgent legislation for "the defence of democracy against terrorism".

Señor Suárez, the Prime Minister, was meeting representatives of opposition parties when news arrived yesterday from Guernica of the death of Señor Augusto Unceta Barrenechea, president of the provincial delegation of Vizcaya, in a sub-machine gun attack on his car.

Basque representatives attending the meeting returned hurriedly to Bilbao. The rest of the participants drew up a joint communiqué condemning "this most barbaric destabilization of the Spanish democratic process".

The Communist, Socialist and Catalan parties, the neo-Francoist Popular Alliance and the ruling Democratic Centre Union promised to "support the defence of democracy against terrorism".

This declaration shows the considerable change since Franco's death in opposition attitudes to political violence.

The military wing of the Basque separatist movement, ETA later accepted responsibility for the Guernica murders. Señor Unceta Barrenechea was on an ETA death list. Just over a year ago Señor Juan Maria de Araluce, president of the Basque provincial delegation of Guipúzcoa, was assassinated in San Sebastián, and ETA announced that it intended to kill all "presidents of the Francoist delegations".

Only on Friday the military wing of ETA announced in Bilbao that it had not given up its "armed struggle" as previously reported, because it did not consider the amnesty agreed between the Government and the Opposition sufficient, and because several extreme left parties had still not been legalized.

On the same day Señor Miguel Angel Apalategui ("Apala"), who is reputed to be a leading ETA member, failed to report to the Mar­seilles police as he is required to do twice a week. He has been on provisional liberty in France since the past month in connexion with the kidnapping and murder of a Basque industrialist.

The Guernica outrage was the worst since January when five Communist lawyers were murdered and gunned to death in their Madrid office.

Señor Suárez was continuing the inter-party discussions today. The new amnesty agreed last Thursday, which is almost certain to mount to a total amnesty, will go before the Cortes shortly and when passed would benefit all Basque prisoners.

Each fresh act of political violence makes it more and more difficult for the Government to bring the amnesty into force. No details have been released of what kind of anti-terrorism law might be introduced, but the Government is wary of producing anything similar to the draconian decree laws which Franco introduced every time law and order was disturbed and which only made matters worse.

Faced by problems on all sides Señor Suárez called the inter-party meeting to try to achieve basic agreement with the Opposition before submitting his economic and political programme to the Cortes later this month.

Economic measures are reported to include a fund of 100,000m pesetas (£60m) to relieve unemployment and a wage ceiling of 22 per cent. Inflation at the present rate will reach 30 per cent by the end of this year.

Commentators have spoken of the meeting as a "historic compromise". While a coalition government is not in prospect, Señor Suárez nevertheless wishes to obtain tacit consent for his programme in order for it to be as effective as possible.

All the Opposition is aware that the consolidation of the democratic process has a long way to go and in this respect are holding their collective breath. Socialists and Communists termed yesterday's talks as "positive" and Señor Fernando Abril Martorell, the Government's spokesman, said the atmosphere was "cordial".

Tension in Spanish armed forces

From Our Correspondent
Madrid, Oct 10
Señor Suárez, the Prime Minister, held an unscheduled meeting here today with members of his Cabinet concerned with military, political and security affairs after right-wing extremists tried to turn the funeral of an assassinated Government official into a political rally.

They were believed to have discussed the steps the Government should take in the face of continuing terrorist attacks and growing gdscontent among some members of the armed forces and police.

Outside the church in the Basque town of Guernica, where the funeral was held of the murdered official and his police escort, right-wing activ­ists tried to overturn the car of Señor Eduardo Navarro, the Deputy Secretary of the In­formation, and when immobilized...

WEST EUROPE

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Austerity programme wins support of Spanish union leaders

From Harry Debelius

Madrid, Oct 12

Spain's biggest trade union, the Communist-led Workers' Commissions, announced today that it would go along with the economic programme accepted by the main political parties last weekend.

At a press conference in Madrid, Señor Marcellino Camacho, a member of the Communist Party, and other Workers' Commissions leaders called the two-year austerity programme "a valid solution". The trade union representatives expressed some minor reservations, particularly with regard to wage ceilings and the lifting of restrictions on dismissals of staff under certain conditions. But their reaction was encouraging, for without the cooperation of labour, Spain would be unable to pull out of its economic crisis, in the opinion of most economic experts.

The approval of the Workers' Commissions paves the way for the next round of talks to be held tomorrow when party representatives meet again at the Prime Minister's Moncloa Palace.

It may be even harder tomorrow to achieve a consensus of opinion than it was last Saturday and Sunday, since the main issue to be discussed is public order, with a proposal that laws affecting human rights should be revised provisionally by decree. Leaders of the Workers' Commissions said that Spain would need "austerity at the top and moderation at the bottom" in order to survive the economic recession. At the same time, they insisted that the purchasing power of the working class should not diminish. Señor Camacho claimed that the Workers' Commissions had one and a half million members—almost a tenth of the labour force. He expressed the opinion that Señor Suárez, the Prime Minister, had called for a "Moncloa pact" because the future of the Government was in jeopardy. But Señor Camacho believed that any other government might take its place faced the threat of being replaced by "the next Pinochet".

Amnesty for political activists passed by Spanish Parliament

From Harry Debelius

Madrid, Oct 14

The Spanish Parliament passed a law granting amnesty to most political activists today against a background of continued terrorism and signs of military unrest.

Bowing to real or feared pressure from the military establishment, the framers of the law excluded the possibility of reinstatement in the armed forces of those ousted because of membership of the Democratic Military Union, which the military hierarchy considers a threat to discipline.

The law also avoids any specific mention of conscientious objectors although by apparent tacit agreement with the Government, the military began freeing conscientious objectors from prison last week.

Also expected to be excluded from the benefits of the amnesty are members of the mysterious Grupo "Misterio" (First of October Anti-fascist Revolutionary Groups). The law also fails to oblige employers to take back self-dismissed for political reasons.

The text had been agreed beforehand by the Centre Democratic Union of Señor Suarez, the Prime Minister, and the main parliamentary opposition, the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party. It was overwhelmingly approved in the Lower House. Señor Manuel Fraga Ibarro, the head of the right-wing Popular Alliance, expressed the hope that it would be "the last amnesty before we get down to the business of public order".

Members of the Popular Alliance abstained from voting on the amnesty Bill.

Madrid newspapers reported today that the separatist Basque organization Euskadi Ta Askatasuna acknowledged responsibility for seven bombings which went off on Wednesday and yesterday.

King Juan Carlos has appealed to the military to show "calm and realism" in a speech delivered yesterday to Foreign Legion troops on the Canary island of Fuerteventura, the King said: "The high and noble function of the armed forces is to distinguish between what is permanent and what is changeable, to know that there are things which we all must conserve intact, in the face of fair and necessary changes, because those things constitute the essence of Spain and we promised to defend them".

He asked them "to look upon the present with calmness and realism which characterize a good soldier. To contemplate the future with hope and optimism, because I am sure that we are giving birth to a new era in our history, in which the greatness of our nation will shine forth."

The King's speech was significant in view of indications of increasing discontent among some sectors of the Army and the police with the course of events among such indications was the homage paid on Wednesday by Civil Guard troops in Malaga to their commander, a colonel who had been relieved of his post and placed under house arrest for ordering his men to break up a youth demonstration authorized by the Government.

In another incident, a general staff officer was booed and insulted in Civil Guard barracks in the Basque country.

There was also a secret meeting between a number of senior army, police and naval officers in Javea, near Valencia, last week.
WEST EUROPE

Cars blaze as extremists battle with police on anniversary of Catalan leader’s execution

From Harry Debelius Madrid, Oct 16

Extremists threw about 100 petrol bombs in Barcelona, setting several parked cars on fire and injuring seven policemen, according to an official statement today.

Hundreds of demonstrators belonging to the International Spanish Communist Party (PCE), which is to the left of the main Spanish Communist Party (PCEI), battled with riot police for several hours on Saturday night in the city centre.

Hit by metal pellets fired from slingshots as well as by firebombs, police fought back with rubber bullets and smoke grenades. The leftists staged their demonstration in favour of Catalan separatism on the thirty-seventh anniversary of the execution of President Luis Companys of the Generalitat, the autonomous Catalan government.

Police have taken out a warrant for the arrest of Señor Alberto Royuela, a fascist activist and president of the Franco’s Guard.

Meanwhile Madrid police have named the chief suspect in the killing of a police captain. Señor Miguel Gomez Benet, a 25-year-old welder, was arrested last Sunday along with 17 other members of Grapo. Police are still looking for an accomplice.

Two “safe houses” used by Grapo were discovered in the capital last Wednesday. They contained arms and propaganda, stolen military uniforms and other items.

Near the Basque city of San Sebastian, police defused a bomb at the mountaintop site of a television mast. Police suspect the device was planted by the separatist ETA (Basque Homeland and Liberty), whose members blew up three other serials in the Basque country last Wednesday.

In a political rally of the right-wing National Alliance, Señor Manuel Fraga Iribarne, leader of the party and a former ambassador to London, said: “Public order is rapidly disappearing. And indeed saying that this state of affairs must cease, they give one amnesty after another”.

Spanish party leaders meet again as violence goes on

From Our Correspondent Madrid, Oct 18

In a climate of continuing political violence, the leaders of Spain’s principal parties gathered again today at the residence of Señor Suarez, the Prime Minister, for another session of “Moncloa pact” talks.

In a San Sebastian hospital, doctors were struggling to save the life of a Civil Guard seriously wounded by a shotgun blast fired from a passing car in the resort town of Lasarte last night.

The party leaders were meeting at Moncloa Palace to seek agreement on urgent measures to solve Spain’s economic crisis and possible decree-laws on public order and respect for human rights.

In Barcelona a fascist leader, sought by police in connexion with the bombing which killed two people at offices of a satirical magazine there said he had nothing to do with the blast.

At a clandestine news conference Señor Albert Royuela also denied the existence of the right-wing terrorist organisation Triple-A (Apostolic Anti-Communist Alliance).

All-party group to control Spanish television

From Our Correspondent Madrid, Oct 19

The Spanish Government and opposition parties are to set up a joint committee to control television until the new television statute is drafted and approved by the Cortes.

The agreement was reached yesterday and was the first political one to come out of the recent meetings between the Government and the opposition parties. It will come into effect next Monday.

Radio Televisión Española (RTVE) was controlled during the three-week election campaign this summer by a committee made up of the different parties, but after the election general control returned to the Government.

The President of RTVE said that the Spanish Workers’ Communist Party has been particularly adamant that control of it should be taken out of the hands of the Government. The position of head of RTVE is a political appointment and there is widespread criticism that in freedom of expression has lagged behind the press since Franco’s death.

Government members will make up half of the joint committee and the other half will be divided among the opposition parties according to their representation in the Cortes.

Politicians also agreed at yesterday’s meeting to set up a committee to study the future of the news agency, newspapers and radio stations belonging to the National Movement, the only legal political organization under Franco.

The movement no longer exists but its newspapers and radio stations are still controlled by the Government.

No agreement was reached on other political issues, including the reorganization of the police forces and the proposed Law for the Defence of Democracy. Socialists and Communists are wary of an antiterrorist law that would be too restrictive at a time when Spaniards are still accustomed to committing themselves to meeting and demonstrating more freely. These issues will be discussed at Friday’s meeting.
Spanish workers and employers cool towards austerity pact

From William Chislett
Madrid, Oct 24

Government ministers, trade union leaders and employers met today to discuss an economic pact which is to be signed tomorrow by the ruling Democratic Centre and opposition parties.

Political parties have temporarily buried their differences and agreed on an austerity programme, but trade unions and particularly employers are far from happy.

Today's meeting in the Moncloa Palace, presided over by Señor Felipe Marroquín, the Deputy Prime Minister for political affairs, was attended by leaders of the Socialist General Union of Workers, the Communist-dominated Workers' Commissions and representatives of the main employers' organisations.

While the Socialist and Communist parties, especially the latter, have gone out of their way to cooperate with the Government as much as they can without jeopardising their own programmes, their respective trade unions have reservations.

The controversial measures in the pact include a ceiling on wage increases for 1978 for 22 per cent and the employers are required to reduce their staff by 5 per cent. The wage ceiling is too low for the unions as inflation is running at 20 per cent and far too high for the employers, who want no firm restrictions on staff reductions.

The employers feel that they have not been consulted enough and are putting up the trade unions in a revolt against their leadership. The fact that the Democratic Centre is considered as favourable to their interests has already begun implying that the pact is doomed to failure unless employers consent.

The trade union leaders fear that the rank and file may revolt against their leadership. Señor Marcelino Camacho, the national secretary general of the Workers' Commissions, reiterated over the weekend at a meeting in the mining area of Asturias that the pact was not a social contract. The fact is that the pact amounts to that, but party and trade union leaders are afraid to use the word.

Señor Camacho said that time had shown everyone for making sacrifices. Banners critical of the pact were displayed at the meeting.

On the employers' part, with hundreds of firms in bad shape and threatened with bankruptcy, their resistance could lead to divisions within the Democratic Centre, splitting it up into vaguely defined right and left wings.

Reports are increasing that Professor Enrique Fuentes Quintana, the Deputy Prime Minister for economic affairs, who has lost more sleep than anyone else in drawing up the main lines of the pact, and Señor Francisco Fernandez Ordonez, the 'Minister of Finance and a Social Democrat, could lose their posts in a government reshuffle.

Barcelona: Señor Josep Tarradellas today took the oath as President of the Catalan Regional Government which has been re-established after 38 years. He called his investiture "the end of a long historical parenthesis". The ceremony was attended by Señor Suarez, the Spanish Prime Minister.

From William Chislett
Madrid, Oct 25

The Spanish Government and the opposition parties signed an economic pact today which introduces strict austerity measures for two years. Politicians were expected to sign a political pact at the same time but at the last moment the Spanish Workers' Socialist Party withdrew its support.

The signing of the economic pact was televised from the residence of Señor Suarez, the Prime Minister. The document was first signed by Señor Suarez and then passed round the large, recellular table starting with Señor Felipe Gonzalez, the Social leader, and ending with Señor Santiago Carrillo, the Communist leader, who delayed a visit to Paris in order to attend the signing.

Señor Suarez said that the pact would "benefit all". Later in a statement to reporters he said that he hoped the pact would be successful because of the "high sense of responsibility showed by the political forces". Sacrifices would be needed by everyone.

The programme which includes a 22 per cent ceiling on wage increases in 1978 and an attempt to keep price increases below that figure will be presented to the Lower House of the Cortes on Thursday by Señor Suarez.

Trade union leaders and employers were due to meet government ministers tonight to discuss their views. At a meeting yesterday the trade unions expressed reservations over the wage limit.

Employees, who feel that they have been left out of the negotiations, more than anyone else, were not as critical of the pact as expected.

The political pact, which was to have been signed today, provides for changes in various articles of the penal code including those banning conscientious and penalising adult workers. It grants greater freedom to hold meetings and demonstrations and provides for a reorganisation of the police. The reason for the Socialists' change of mind appears only minutes before the signing was due was not immediately clear. They were believed to have reservations over several points.

A new anti-terrorist law is expected to be included in another political pact as politicians differ widely over its form.

Changes on the way in Spanish Cabinet

From Our Correspondent
Madrid, Oct 26

Señor Suarez, the Spanish Prime Minister, intends to reshuffle his Cabinet according to remarks made today by a spokesman for the ruling Democratic Centre Union.

Señor Guillermo Medina, the information secretary of the Ministry of the Interior, said that there will be a readjustment some time in the next three months, with the right wing of the Liberal Party being the most affected by the readjustment of a government is something normal, but when a man like Señor Suarez, who understands the political life, will be done. In any case it will not affect the internal coherence of the centre nor of the government. Only Señor Suarez has all the facts and he has the support of the centre.

The signing of the economic pact yesterday with all the opposition parties, including Señor Suarez rather unpopular with the right wing of the Liberal Party, was a strong sign that the Government does not represent the centre's economic programme. Señor Suarez has had to make more concessions to the left than to the right in order to represent the centre.

The replacement of Professor Enrique Fuentes Quintana, the economics expert and Señor Francisco Fernandez Ordonez, the Finance Minister, is not ruled out.
Party pact on reform of Spanish police

From William Christie
Madrid, Oct 27

The remarkable cooperation agreement between the Popular Alliance and opposition parties was carried one step further today with the signing of a pact between the two parties that will be effective between the Popular Alliance and the Popular Alliance. The pact, which was signed by Manuel Fraga, the leader of the Popular Alliance, and Señor Santiago Carrillo, the leader of the Spanish Communist Party, has recently been a focus of attention in the Spanish political landscape.

Under the agreement the remaining resources of the Popular Alliance will be removed and the police and the paramilitary Civil Guard forces will be reorganized. The pact is designed to control those newspapers and radio stations which belonged to the Francoist regime and which were still under the control of the government and opposition parties. The police reform, as Señor Rodolfo Martín Vila, the Interior Minister, put it, is "a parallel between his own background and that of his guest. He himself was the son of a poor Galician farmer, but by dint of hard work was able to educate his 12 children; Señor Carrillo's father was a poor Asturian worker who rose to be a deputy minister in the Republican Government." Carrillo fought with the terrorists in the 40s and 50s in France and I was Information Minister in the 60s and Interior Minister in the 70s, proposing reforms and not revolution", he said.

"Now we are in October 1977. Spain is confronted with extremely grave problems, and I think we have to accept some ideas, whether we like them or not. The first is that it is useless to look back. We all have our histories..."

Señor Fraga's invitation, however, has led to the desertion of one of the parties in his Popular Alliance, and the resignation of a number of members of the club. It is only in the last few months that the Popular Alliance has been able to consolidate its position in the Cortes. The Communists, who have long opposed the Francoist regime, are now calling for a socialist transformation of society, democratically.

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"In his address, Señor Carrillo argued that Eurocommunism was not simply a tactical move by the party but a way to transform society democratically." We are aware that, on June 15, the country did not vote for a socialist transformation, but simply for democratic change," he said. His party respected this.

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Carlist claimant back in Spain

From William Chislett
Madrid, Oct 30

The Carlist party held its first authorized congress since the death of General Franco here today in the presence of its leader, Prince Carlos Hugo de Borbón, Parma, claimant to the Spanish throne.

Prince Carlos Hugo, who has just returned after nine years in exile, stated that he had not come back to "plant any dynastic problem but as a politician to fight for democracy in Spain". He and other members of his family were expelled in December, 1968, seven months before General Franco named Juan Carlos, a very distant cousin of Carlos Hugo, as his successor.

The prince's claim to the throne arises from the dispute over the succession to Ferdinand VII on his death in 1833. Ferdinand's brother Carlos (from whom Prince Carlos Hugo descends) claimed the throne, but the crown passed to Ferdinand's daughter, Isabella. They were fanatical Roman Catholics and fierce fighters. They hoped that when the war was over Franco would restore the monarchy, abolished in 1931, with a Carlist.

Nothing happened and later the Carlist movement split into two factions, a majority left-wing section under Prince Carlos Hugo which believes in a socialist society with "autogestion" (a form of workers' control), and a small extreme right-wing section led by Carlos Hugo's younger brother Prince Sixto.

Every May Carlists swarm up Montejurra, a mountain near Pamplona, for their annual religious and political pilgrimage. Last year right-wing gunmen killed two members of the Carlist Hugo section, and Prince Sixto, present at Montejurra, was expelled from Spain again.

Prince Carlos Hugo told me that he has no relationship whatsoever with his younger brother and did not know when he would also return to Spain. The prince posed for cameras wearing the traditional red beret of the Carlist party, slapping young members of his family on the back, some of whom were wearing badges showing the prince's face.

The prince, who is married to Princess Irene of Holland, said his party had four times as many activists as the ruling Democratic Centre Union. The Carlists claim to have 25,000 activists and 150,000 members. Their stronghold is in Navarra and there were delegates from as far afield as the Canary and Balearic Islands.

The prince, who is president of the party and "king of the Carlists", said he was prepared to work with other parties, not just of the left, in order to "avoid polarisation into left and right".