Spanish Communists, most united of the opposition groups, still hope for 'national reconciliation'

Plea for La Pasionaria's return

From William Chilcott in Madrid, Sept 6

Spain will not be a "reconciled" country until Señor Santiago Carrillo, the secretary general of the Spanish Communist Party, and Señora Dolores Ibarruri, its president, are allowed to return, Señor Manuel Fraga, the interior minister, told a Co-ordination meeting yesterday. It is ridiculous to say that there is a "national reconciliation" when in fact it is the government that is seeking it. The most important question is when those who have committed war crimes will be punished. The Spanish government is not seeking reconciliation, it is merely seeking the return of those who have committed war crimes.

It was no problem for Señor Carrillo to get into Spain after he used to live in opposition. The Spanish government's contacts with an opposition group like the Workers' Revolutionary Organization, the Workers' Party, and the Communist Movement: There is no agreement over how to bring democratisation to the country, and the party's determination to draw up a programme to be negotiated with the government, for a transitional period based on complete democratic freedom for all parties and trade unions, total amnesty and recognition of regional rights.

During that period, perhaps under a national coalition government, a new constitution would be drawn up for a democratic Spain. Earlier Prime Minister Ruíz Giménez said that the present political system was in crisis. "The Suarez Government has shown some positive acts, among them the incomparable amnesty, and the opening of a dialogue with some of the opposition forces."

The dialogue, however, must be extended to all the opposition. Democratic Co-ordination, until now the largest opposition grouping, will be broadened to include all the parties but there are still many obstacles before it can speak with one voice. Proof of this was the meeting by the Catalan-Coast Basin Co-ordination with an important opposition group. The co-ordination's support for a transitional unity and the insistence on a comprehensive transitional period are unlikely to move the government. The people's determination to draw up a programme for approval by the Cortes.
Suarez plan to begin talks with opposition

From Our Correspondent

Madrid, Sept 7

The Spanish Government, which is under increasing pressure after the agreement reached by the opposition over the weekend to form a united Francoist government, appears to be taking the initiative in establishing grounds for negotiations.

It was learnt today that Señor Sánchez, the Prime Minister, had met SeñorTickCount Nick of the Popular Socialist Party, on Sunday in a private house, and discussed the economic and political situation.

A statement issued by that party today said: "There are sufficient reasons to believe that the Prime Minister is prepared to hold joint conferences, although informal, with a group representing the opposition in order to establish the democratic opposition to form a united Francoist government, and to some extent to the church, but there is no doubt of its collective loyalty to the Church and other associations.

Professor Tiesol Galaran had earlier this year proposed the setting up of a government of national coalition. The Prime Minister is expected to make a televised speech later this week outlining his political programme in more concrete terms than before.

Sur Seba, Sept 6—A policeman being beaten by a crowd of about 250 Basque nationalist demonstrators fired a shot and wounded a woman in the leg here, the civil governor's office said today.

It added that at least three other policemen were injured as car and buses and some 1,500 demonstrators clashed yesterday, when thousands of people gathered in Plaza de Oriente to hear General Franco's last public address.

From Our Correspondent

Madrid, Sept 7

Señor Suarez, the Prime Minister, today discussed his plans for constitutional reforms with military leaders.

The three ministers of the armed forces, the Carrillo general of the military college, and the director general of the Armed Forces, Spanish and members of the Government, met in the office of the Prime Minister's office.

The meeting was the first of its kind where the military leaders have been present.

Under the constitution, the military leaders are responsible for maintaining the unity and independence of the constitution, national security, defense of the territorial order.

The Spanish military, which has been maintaining order with the moderate forces and with supporters of the Franco regime.

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Spanish Premier consults military on reforms

From Our Correspondent

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From William Chadlett

Madrid, Sept 7

This is the opposition which is leading the meeting on the front of the exit of the Franco regime.

The cover story of the latest issue of the extreme right-wing magazine Fuerza Nueva.

Thousands of people gathered in Plaza de Oriente to hear General Franco's last public address.

The headline is opposite for the cover story of the exit of the Franco regime.

Fuerza Nueva is run by Señor Pizar, a Madrid lawyer and a member of the Cabinet, by direct appointment of General Franco. In its leading article, the magazine said:

"We are the opposition and by this we mean those who continue to be faithful to the ideals of July 18, those who have not given up their demands and those who have not given up Spain more than anything else after God."

July 18, 1936 marked the beginning of the civil war and it is a date etched in the memories of the dictator's supporters. Intense nationalism and fervent Catholicism are their hallmarks and their ideology is still rooted in the war.

In the increasingly outspoken the dictators have become collectively known as the "Bunker", an allusion to Hitler's last-ditch stand at Señor Pizar and Señor José Antonio Girao are seen as most vociferous spokesmen.

Señor Girao, also as BIR, by direct appointment and a member of the Council of the Realm, stated his unequivocal opposition to reforms at the end of August when he said: "Whatever else we want to do, we are not going to make life easy for the traitors."

The Government that the Bunker will not allow 60 years of monopoly rule under the National Movement and the state's trade unions to disappear without a struggle.

It is possible to calculate the numerical forces of the Bunker, which takes many in the armed forces and Government, and to some degree the church, but there is no doubt of its collective loyalty.

Fuerza Nueva has rejected the idea of a united Francoist government, and to some extent to the church, but there is no doubt of its collective loyalty.

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Violence returns to Basque region

From Our Correspondent  
Madrid, Sept 9

Political violence returned to the Basque country when a young worker was shot dead by Civil Guard during a demonstration in Fuenterrabia last night. The man, aged 22, took refuge in a house with other demonstrators. When a Civil Guard entered he was hit with a chair. The Civil Guard was "obliged" to open fire and Señor Zabalza Erasun died with two bullets in his chest.

His death brings the total to 12 people killed as the result of political violence since General Franco died last November to 30. The last person to die was a student shot dead in August in America by a Civil Guard who was seen pulling a shotgun out of his car.

Police say the Fuenterrabia demonstration was illegal and that subversive slogans were shouted about the kidnapings of Señor Eduardo Moreno Bargehoyo, a leading member of the Basque separatist organization ETA, who claims he was taken by right-wing extremists.

Rubber bullets were fired at demonstrators in the streets of Fuenterrabia and several people, including Civil Guards, were injured.

There is considerable speculation over yesterday's two-hour meeting between Señor Adolfo Suarez, the Prime Minister, and the armed forces hierarchy. According to informed sources, the military have made many suggestions to the Prime Minister about his plans for constitutional reforms.

Señor Suarez explained his intention to create a bicameral system and to submit the idea to the people in a referendum after it has obtained the necessary two-thirds majority in the Cortes (Parliament). The proposed reform is believed to be not much different to those drawn up by the previous Government of Senor Carlota Arana.

The run of the reforms will be discussed at tomorrow's Cabinet meeting.

The Prime Minister is continuing his series of talks with opposition members and Government officials tonight. Last night he saw, among others, Señor Ybarra, the Interior Minister and Señor Zabalza Erasun, sitting on the same bench in the Cortes, who had been sitting in the gallery yesterday. Señor Ybarra has maintained a discreet silence since the fall of the last Government on July 1.

He has recently been saying other liberal leaders like Señor Jose Maria Arriola, the former Foreign Minister and Señor Pio Cabanillas, the Information Minister, dismissed by General Franco in the autumn of 1975, for allowing too much press freedom.

Señor Praga is the head of Democratic Reform, a conservative political group, which so far has not taken advantage of the official procedure to convert itself into a legal political party.

Ban lifted on Catalan national day

From William Chisholm  
Madrid, Sept 10

The Spanish authorities have agreed to recognize the Catalans that they be allowed to communicate their national day tomorrow.

The commemoration was previously banned, but now the authorities say it can be held at San Basilio de Olesa, six miles from Barcelona. Riot police will be on alert to deal with any demonstrations.

In Madrid the Cabinet met today to put the finishing touches to its long-awaited programme of constitutional reforms, while unrest mounted in the north over the facing shooting of a young worker by a Civil Guard.

Police clashed with demonstrators in Fuenterrabia and other towns in the Basque country for the second day running. Thousands of Basques stopped work to protest at the shooting on Wednesday night of Señor Jesus Maria Zabalza Erasun.

Demonstrators put flowers and Basque national flags on the spot where Señor Zabalza Erasun died and continued to visit the place during the day. As a member of the bitter underground trade union movement, Mr. Zabalza Erasun was killed for all allowing too much press freedom.

Señor Suarez, the Prime Minister and Señor Adolfo Suarez, the former Prime Minister, made several speeches later this evening saying that the Army would not create a bicameral Parliament. The reason, they said, was that the support of the armed forces for the proposed reform is based on the underground trade union movement, which is insisting on direct consultations with the Government.

A funeral service was due to be held later this evening near the site of the shooting and police reinforcements have been brought in from San Sebastian in case of further confrontations.

Señor Adolfo Suarez, the Prime Minister, delivered a televised speech later this evening. He said that the reforms would be the responsibility of the Opposition, which still has not taken advantage of the official procedure to convert itself into a legal political party.

Señor Ybarra is the head of Democratic Reform, a conservative political group, which so far has not taken advantage of the official procedure to convert itself into a legal political party.

Señor Suarez said that the reforms would be discussed at tomorrow's Cabinet meeting.

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**WEST EUROPE**

**Referendum threat by Señor Suárez if Cortes stops reforms**

From William Chislett

Madrid, Sept 13

The text of the Spanish Government's programme for the Cortes, published today has raised the hopes of political sympathisers that the Franco dictatorship will finally be dismantled and democracy installed.

On Friday night, the speech given by Señor Adolfo Suárez, the Prime Minister, had left many questions unanswered; but publication of the text has removed some of the doubts and brought a more favourable reaction.

The Government is doubtless determined to make sure that its reforms are implemented. Preparing for the possible resistance from the Cortes (Parliament) the Government has made it clear that if it does not approve them King Juan Carlos will submit the reforms to the people in a referendum.

Article 5 of the Government's programme specifically says that in the event of the Cortes refusing to accept the reforms after a referendum, the King could dissolve the Cortes and call elections.

Doubts continue to surround the fate of the late General Franco because his death has since the dictator died, watered down many of the reforms made so far. Whether there will be a change in this is regarded by Government circles as up to the Spanish court of Justice.

The text of the Spanish Government is interpreted by political circles to mean that any reform proposals which the Cortes stops reforms after a referendum, the King would submit the reforms to the people in a referendum.

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**Basques seek control of local police force**

**From Harry Debelius**

**Madrid, Sept 20**

The mayors of 17 Basque towns have asked the Government to give them control over their local police after widespread indignation at the fatal shooting of a demonstrator earlier this month in the northern coastal town of Eibar.

The context of a joint petition to Senator Baltasar Martínez Villa, the Interior Minister, was apparently presented to Senator Martín Villa in Madrid last Monday and again in San Sebastián on Friday. There has been no indication of any official reply.

According to the mayors’ petition, the question of how to handle public order is “extremely urgent.” The means employed by police in handling demonstrations should be “strictly proportional,” in order to avoid any future repetition of such events as those which occurred in Fuenterrabia.

The mayors also called on the Interior Minister to authorize the display of the red, green and white Basque flag, which is regarded as a symbol of subversion by the political authorities.

The situation in Fuenterrabia was discussed at a general meeting of police chiefs.

**Spanish moderate is new Deputy Premier**

**From Our Correspondent**

**Madrid, Sept 22**

Senor Adrián Suarez, the Spanish Prime Minister, today appointed an Army officer with the reputation of a political moderate as Deputy Prime Minister to succeed Lieutenant-General Fernandez de Santiago, who resigned last year by General Franco for being too liberal.

He is Lieutenant General Manuel Gutierrez Maldonado, aged 64, who moves up from the post of Army Chief of Staff. He is politically identifiable with Lieutenant General Manuel Ruiz Almeida, head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff who was dismissed last year by General Franco for being too liberal.

General Santiago Diaz de Mendivil is the first military man in the Cabinet to be removed since King Juan Carlos took over as head of state from General Franco. Today’s change is widely interpreted here as an indication that Spain’s military leaders will give General Suarez a freer hand in carrying out the promised democratic reforms of the constitution.

**Basques win no promises from Madrid minister**

**From Harry Debelius**

**Madrid, Sept 19**

Senor Baltasar Martínez Villa, the Interior Minister, did little to ease Basque workers’ suspicions of authority this weekend when he said that the existence of authority is necessary more than ever.

Many Basques had hoped that his assurances about local government would be an indication that the Government was seeking a solution to the Basque problem, and an end to incidents involving alleged abuses of authority, brutality and torture by police. Even the Basque representatives in the Parliament where Senor Villa had gone to assure workers that the Government had complaint to him about “Civil Guard.”

In Eibar, the Interior Minister met representatives of steel workers, who asked him to guarantee the use of the red, green and white Basque flag, which is regarded as a symbol of subversion by the political authorities.

The government announced the arrest of two Basque miners and two Basque policemen, who are suspected of being involved in昨晚’s Basque flag demonstration.

The government also announced the arrest of a Basque army officer for his alleged involvement in last week’s demonstrations.

**Pamplona challenges King Juan Carlos**

**From Our Correspondent**

**Madrid, Sept 16**

Senor Martin Villa, the minister of the Interior, is reported to have left here for the Basque country immediately after attending a Cabinet meeting in Madrid, to inspect the situation after the killing of a demonstrator earlier this month in the northern coastal town of Fuenterrabia.

In Fuenterrabia, the authorities last night freed two people who had been arrested on Monday in connexion with apparently unauthorized political meetings. One of the two was Senor Vidal Juanarraga, the number of a young man who was shot dead in 1970 during a demonstration.

In San Sebastian, the daily El Pais published a note signed by newspaper employees of the newspaper as well as employees of the newspaper, stating that they left a meeting at which labour matters were discussed.

**Biden place since a worker was shot dead during a demonstration**

Yesterday, just after the minister had travelled from San Sebastian to Pamplona on one of the region, an attempt was made to shoot at two Basque miners on the morning of Amandor, near San Sebastian. Two Basque miners, unharmed, were shot at by a man who was killed. The miners, and a Basque policeman, were injured.

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Hapless birthday for Spanish Premier

From Harry Debelius
Madrid, Sept 26

Señor Adolfo Saiz, the Spanish Prime Minister, turned 44 yesterday but had a troubled birthday.

In Madrid police fired in the air in front of the central post office to keep striking postmen from attacking volunteer postal workers. The postal strike spread that day from Madrid to other big cities; opposition plans went ahead in the Basque country for a "day of struggle" tomorrow; and the Internacional Air Transport Association warned the Government that virtually all air traffic with Spain might be cut off as a result of the prolonged air traffic controllers' strike.

To add to the Prime Minister's problems there was a riot in Tenerife over the dispatching of the first group of tax collectors, and two Basque islands stopped work in protest at the arrest of a man who had just been freed under the King's amnesty, and political demonstrators were scuttled in Pamplona and other large Basque towns.

There was no sign either of any easing of the economic situation that the Government had hoped for when it introduced stringent laws and measures to combat the inflation that was spreading that day from Madrid to the south of Spain, where the reservoirs of the Guadalquivir river system are barely 12 per cent full.

On the economic scene as gloomy as the political outlook. Unemployment continues to increase, exports were still falling and there were widespread labour troubles.

The Seville chamber of commerce publicly criticized the economic measures announced so far by Señor Saiz's Government as "weak" and "partial" in a statement that "Ceremonial economic measures must be adopted even if they are drastic and unpopular, if we are to survive and if the transition to democracy is to be made peaceful.

The demonstrations continued to spread that day from Madrid to the south of Spain, where the rains were pouring with yesterday and today in Madrid and throughout most of the northern province.

In Madrid police fired in the street shouting "Police killers" when the shots were fired.

The fact that no member of the French Government has ever been tried and that the allegations of terrorism against the Government are serious and true, was said by General Francisco Franco, who has been in office since his death last Wednesday, and who is expected at some time to resign.

The strikes continued to spread that day from Madrid to the south of Spain, where the rains were pouring with yesterday and today in Madrid and throughout most of the northern province.

There has been some speculations that the Government might resort to military interference for the postal workers in the south of Spain, but there is no sign of any easing of the economic situation that the Government had hoped for when it introduced stringent laws and measures to combat the inflation that was spreading that day from Madrid to the south of Spain, where the reservoirs of the Guadalquivir river system are barely 12 per cent full.

In Tenerife transport, banks, factories, and businesses in Pamplona and other large Basque towns have been closed. It was learned today that there were strong indications that the wave of strikes would spread to some of the more important sectors of the economy, such as civil service employees, railwaymen and factory workers.

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**WEST EUROPE**

**Spanish armed forces are warned to keep out of politics**

*From Our Correspondent*

Madrid, Sept 30

In spite of a back to work agreement reached last week between the elected representatives of the striking postal workers and the Government, the postal service was not back to normal today. While postal workers returned to work in most provinces after being on strike for over a week, workers in Madrid, Burgos and Bilbao continued the dispute which has caused a huge backlog of mail.

The National Coordination of Postal and Telegraph Workers agreed by 16 votes to try to go back to work before starting negotiations with the Government. Their basic demands for the release of jailed strikes organizers, the lifting of punishments and higher pay were to have been discussed today after normal service was resumed. It is not known whether negotiations have been started.

It is believed that Sefior Adolfo Suarez, the Prime Minister, rejected the idea of calling a meeting of prison room the time because of the danger that position would seriously cede his authority by refusing to sign a new strike call.

Early this year the Government of Sefior Carlos Arias turned postmen into soldiers. The Prime Minister is believed to feel that a tough attitude was necessary regarding the postal strike, since if the Government gave in immediately to their demands it might set off strikes by other civil servants.

In Madrid postmen reportedly rejected their representatives' deal with the Government but because they felt it would put them in a worse bargaining position.

The Illegal Macht Workers Party is strongly represented among pensioners and it is thought that the party encouraged pensioners to reject the agreement and continue the strike.

In what was believed to be an unprecedented step the entire town council of Tolosa in the North has resigned in solidarity with the civil guards.

Captain Luis Alzito Avilla, who has been working for the days of armed force, was preparing a new strike call.

**Partial return to work by Spanish postmen**

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*From Our Correspondent*

Madrid, Sept 30

In spite of a back to work agreement reached last week between the elected representatives of the striking postal workers and the Government, the postal service was not back to normal today. While postal workers returned to work in most provinces after being on strike for over a week, workers in Madrid, Burgos and Bilbao continued the dispute which has caused a huge backlog of mail.

The National Coordination of Postal and Telegraph Workers agreed by 16 votes to try to go back to work before starting negotiations with the Government. Their basic demands for the release of jailed strikes organizers, the lifting of punishments and higher pay were to have been discussed today after normal service was resumed. It is not known whether negotiations have been started.

It is believed that Sefior Adolfo Suarez, the Prime Minister, rejected the idea of calling a meeting of prison room the time because of the danger that position would seriously cede his authority by refusing to sign a new strike call.

Early this year the Government of Sefior Carlos Arias turned postmen into soldiers. The Prime Minister is believed to feel that a tough attitude was necessary regarding the postal strike, since if the Government gave in immediately to their demands it might set off strikes by other civil servants.

In Madrid postmen reportedly rejected their representatives' deal with the Government but because they felt it would put them in a worse bargaining position.

The Illegal Macht Workers Party is strongly represented among pensioners and it is thought that the party encouraged pensioners to reject the agreement and continue the strike.

In what was believed to be an unprecedented step the entire town council of Tolosa in the North has resigned in solidarity with the civil guards.

Captain Luis Alzito Avilla, who has been working for the days of armed force, was preparing a new strike call.