

---

## ***Trilateral Commissioner Antonio Garrigues Walker***

---

# **‘It is necessary to renounce national sovereignty’**

*Antonio Garrigues Walker is the head of the Spanish branch of the Trilateral Commission and founder of the Federation of Liberal Clubs. This interview was conducted on June 23 in Madrid.*

**EIR:** You must be very concerned about the grave situation in the UCD [Democratic Center Union].

**Garrigues:** No. In Spain we had only seven years to move from dictatorship to democracy, from a very centralized state to an autonomous one. It will take many more years, perhaps hundreds, to achieve democracy. I think the crises in the UCD are normal, in fact good, from the standpoint of corresponding processes in the rest of Europe.

We are witnessing something which I consider very positive: the birth of a conservative party which will grow very fast. While the PSOE [the Spanish Socialist Workers Party] moves towards social democracy, we need something to connect the two. In our country, the left is too far left and the right too far right. The first two political tendencies [the PSOE and UCD] are positive.

**EIR:** What should Spain do about the world economic crisis?

**Garrigues:** Nobody knows how to correct the world's economic problems. We are undergoing a structural change, which can probably best be described by the theses of Alvin Toffler [author of the post-industrial bestsellers *Future Shock* and *The Third Wave*] and of Jean-Jacques Servan-Schreiber [a leader of the post-industrial society, technetronic movement in France] in his book *Le Défi Mondial*.

The zero growth option does have a meaning, but I find it too defensive. Our main problem is that the principles of economic sovereignty, the principles of

political sovereignty are still too strong.

An attempt must be made to reduce the power of these principles, or get beyond them one way or another—and rapidly—or there will be no solution.

**EIR:** What do you think about Milton Friedman?

**Garrigues:** Friedman's theses as a whole are valid, and as a liberal I accept them. But of course they should be seen in the American context. Friedman is typically American. By that I mean that he lives in a situation where there are no left-wing political parties, no trade unions on the left, and no left-wing cultural power. If you attempted to transfer Friedman's policies literally, to Europe, which has a higher cultural level, a more developed social level, and much more social strife, Friedman would first have to be translated into European terms of reference.

**EIR:** What will happen if the PSOE comes to power this autumn?

**Garrigues:** The PSOE would have the same policy as Socialist Prime Minister Papandreou of Greece and [French Socialist President] Mitterrand. There is no doubt whatsoever that the PSOE's coming to power is acceptable. The Spanish people must get it into their heads that this is part of a democratic alternation. The positive thing about a Socialist triumph is that it would enable the right wing to clarify itself much more, and to intellectualize its behavior much more.

**EIR:** Please specify what you mean about overcoming national sovereignty.

**Garrigues:** At the moment there is still monetary sovereignty. Nobody wants to give up customs protection, nobody wants to give up their administrative liberty. We

must move bit by bit towards renouncing individual sovereignty. It won't happen overnight, but we could start, for example, by creating European-type courts of law, which would help to break down the barriers of each country. Our big problem is that there is truly ferocious nationalist resistance, which must absolutely be gotten around.

**EIR:** Who else thinks as you do on the question of national sovereignty?

**Garrigues:** First of all, the youth. Youth are tired of toll gates, ID cards, and principles as a basic institution of society. Also, a whole series of economic groups think as I do; they realize that national sovereignty is a dead end. Politically, I pushed for that when I was president of an industrial syndicate. Now, I work with the European liberal parties, who are totally for this project. Liberal ideology is fundamentally internationalist. I want to collaborate with the Liberal International, an instrument which I think should take on a great deal more power than it has now.

All Spanish parties have given verbal support to internationalism, but when you get down to applying the ideas, suddenly some very bizarre forms of resistance crop up.

On a personal level, I believe Felipe González [head of the PSOE and Vice-President of the Socialist International] is a man with a certain sense of internationalism, who would push this type of thesis, as would Alfonso Guerra [second-in-command of the PSOE]. Calvo Sotelo [the President of Spain] is beyond any doubt a partisan of my ideas.

**EIR:** Who poses the greatest resistance to the UCD?

**Garrigues:** Fundamentally, the biggest resistance comes from the circles around [former President] Suarez and his men. They have little international sense, and are not even interested in what I have just said. I think Suarez is personally worried that wider integration of Spain would be too demanding on him—I mean from the standpoint of his competence.

That is why people in industry are also fighting my idea. It is too demanding; they would have to be too competitive. But the small and medium industries are not afraid of what I said at all. The main problem is that there is an elite group within the really big industry.

**EIR:** Are you for independence of Spanish military technology?

**Garrigues:** Personally, I am for integration. Independence is a sterile waste of energy and money. This all forms part of the principle of national sovereignty, which is so strange.

**EIR:** I assume you favor a big expansion of the nuclear

program, in order to promote greater economic growth.

**Garrigues:** The nuclear industry is getting enough credits as it is.

**EIR:** What do you think about zero population growth?

**Garrigues:** I am against the use of force. The world population is already dropping; the problem is taking care of itself. Look for example at West Germany. There will be several million fewer Germans by 1985. This is a rational process, which shows there is a will to do something about the problem.

**EIR:** What can Spain do to industrialize Ibero-America?

**Garrigues:** Spain has neither the financial nor technological means to play a major role in Ibero-America. We Spaniards can just forget that. All we can do is to maintain our good political relations with Ibero-America and arrive at agreements with European capital and U.S. technology. I myself have not worked at all on the problems of Ibero-American economic development.

**EIR:** What can Spain do to help Mexico?

**Garrigues:** [Mexican President-elect] Miguel de la Madrid looks like an improvement on López Portillo to me. He is more modern, more open, less nationalistic than Portillo. He knows he will have to undertake major changes. In my opinion, Spain does not have real means to help Mexico. Spain has few options.

**EIR:** What do you think about the Malvinas question?

**Garrigues:** I do not think that any Spaniard would justify the act of force by Argentina. Many people have come to realize that Spain, as a member of NATO, will be able to improve relations between England and Latin America, and the United States and Latin America. Our role would be reevaluated as an intermediary and we would get some prestige, some personality, out of this reintegration into the Western world.

My personal opinion on the Malvinas is that I do not have enough information. You simply have to know more than is available. No matter who may have been right, the war is unjustifiable, sterile. None of the deaths had any meaning.

A strange process of interrelation between England and Argentina will take place once the euphoria in England and the pessimism in Argentina have subsided, and new criteria will be adopted. England will realize that in the case of Gibraltar she will also have to negotiate, and this will benefit Spain.

**EIR:** One last question for our readers in the United States. Who are the American political figures to whom you feel the closest?

**Garrigues:** Sen. Edward Kennedy, Sen. Charles Percy, and Henry Kissinger.