

ers all of a sudden. The real roles are coming out. The PAN [the neo-fascist party run from Central Europe—ed.] will play a big role. The upper bourgeoisie has broken with the [ruling] PRI because López Portillo has dashed their hopes.

A way out for Mexico will be very difficult. [Incoming President] de la Madrid will not have the same authority as López Portillo. The army has far more strength than you imagine, and its role will depend on the degree of social deterioration. The corruption in that country is unbelievable. Twenty-five cents on every dollar earned by [the state oil company] Pemex goes to the house trade union. The economy is totally overheated; every person who has any education at all, finds a job at U.S. wages. This is ridiculous.

Mexico has nothing to do with other Ibero-American countries, and any idea of an Ibero-American common market is a utopia. The LALC [Latin American Free Trade Association] and Grupo Andino [Andean Pact] never functioned.

Interview: Pedro Guardado

Socialist rejects the Latin trade potential

Pedro Guardado is a member of the technical office of the Spanish Socialist Party-linked trade-union federation UGT. Guardado, who is responsible for the federation's economic affairs, spoke to EIR late in September in Madrid.

EIR: Do you agree with what Felipe González said to his Socialist Party Executive Committee recently about reduction of working hours and forced retirement as the only way to reduce unemployment?

Guardado: Totally. Unfortunately, I am not too optimistic about the effect of reducing working hours, as I don't think employers will hire more people. One of the big hopes is in reducing salaries, say by about 7 to 8 percent. We have the advantage that Spanish workers are very cooperative indeed; at RENFE [the state rail system] the workers have just accepted a 2 percent pay cut in exchange for the creation of new jobs.

EIR: Which do you think are the sectors of the future for the Spanish economy?

Guardado: Let me go through the list. Forget capital goods and equipment, forget steel—there's no need to increase capacity; forget chemical products. We will just never be competitive in any of these heavy fields. We can be modestly competitive in the field of textiles, and construction. As for shipbuilding, there is no market at all, except for highly specialized ships.

Look at Argentina, for example. Nobody likes them in Ibero-America. Since the Malvinas, tension has in any case dropped, especially as the truth has come out how Argentina falsified military information. The war did not affect integration of Ibero-America positively. . . .

EIR: What do you think about the Spanish situation?

De Polanco: Things are so very different from 1936, with an imminent Socialist victory. There is no sense of fear or anguish in the population. The PSOE doesn't have to do a single thing to win. Unfortunately, though we now have a moderate left party, the PSOE, we do not have a moderate right party, nor the leaders which electoral experts tell us we need. Only Adolfo Suárez [the former President who created the new CDS splinter from the centrist UCD—ed.] could stop the right from losing, but the right is divided against him.

EIR: You must be tremendously excited and happy about the recent Mexican moves. . . .

Guardado: No. I have been to Mexico many times and my family lives there. It is unutterably corrupt. It will take light years to do anything in Latin America; there are too many political problems. You can hardly expect a Spanish Socialist government to do business with Argentina, Chile, Bolivia in friendly fashion. As for the Mexicans, all they care about is theatrical effects. López Portillo has only short-term plans. As for an Ibero-American common market, this is very problematic. Brazil, Bolivia, and Peru are all very unstable.

EIR: What do you think about the [anti-nuclear] Almaraz and Ascó riots?

Guardado: We support the ecology movement, indeed we do. We want to limit to a minimum nuclear energy and will not build more reactors. All the existing ones will be carefully checked before permission to operate is granted.

EIR: What do you think about the education system?

Guardado: We will not outlaw private schools because the state is in any case too poor to reach every village. We will simply punish the schools that refuse to allow government oversight of their programs by cutting their subsidies, like the University of Navarra, for example.

There are too many people in the universities; they are becoming schools for unemployment. We must encourage people to go back to manual-labor training after leaving high school.

At this point José Fernández Noriega, the UGT head of collective bargaining, walked in with the facts and figures on the supposed wage cuts at Iberia Airlines, RENFE, and the Madrid metro. In fact there had not been a single wage cut accepted, just some foolish compromise, which left Guardado considerably embarrassed.

The right wing will take their money out of Spain, and put it less into Ibero-America, more into Europe and the U.S.A. The PSOE will have the government but not the power. There will be a powerful opposition. The PSOE's historical tasks are to modernize the public administration and justice.

EIR: Will terrorism stop with a PSOE victory?

De Polanco: [laughing slightly] Why should it? Terrorists are far right and far left, so they are opposed to moderates like the PSOE. I am sure it will not let up.

EIR: Whom do you like in politics today?

De Polanco: I am friends with everybody. I like [Socialist leader] Felipe [González], [UCD president] Landelino [Lavilla] and Adolfo [Suárez], but Adolfo will not win anything. Internationally, I liked Giscard d'Estaing, Aldo Moro, and Ugo La Malfa, but I don't like Strauss. What I really find amusing are small, elitist radical parties, but unfortunately there are none in my country. I describe myself as a "libre pensador" [freethinker]; probably you noticed that religious practice has dropped greatly here, and dogmatism like that of the Christian Democracy is out of style.

EIR: What do you think about the Pope?

De Polanco: This Pope is very curious. So conservative on ecclesiastical questions, but disproportionately advanced in social matters. He is much more interested in the Third World and the East bloc than in countries he doesn't understand, like France.

EIR: What do you think about King Juan Carlos?

De Polanco: The King would not mind a Socialist victory at all. If it were not for the King, the Socialist victory would not occur. His role is to do nothing at all.

EIR: Could there be a coup d'état attempt if the PSOE wins?

De Polanco: [looking worried for the first time] I may be wrong, but I really do not think there will be another 23-F [the attempted coup on Feb. 23, 1981].

EIR: Who is close to Henry Kissinger in Spain?

De Polanco: When he was here last year I had dinner with him. I was supposed to dine with him again this year, but unfortunately I was out of town. My friend Ricardo Diez Hochleiner of the Club of Rome. . . . Marcelino Oreja [Basque government delegate] and José María de Areilza [President of the European Parliament and UCD member] who knows him well.

EIR: Is it true Kissinger had [nationalist former Spanish President] Carrero Blanco killed?

De Polanco: [laughing] Don't jump to conclusions! All I can say is that they talked the day before the Prime Minister's death [at the hands of ETA terrorists].

Interview: Santiago Foncillas

Spain could export nuclear technology

Santiago Foncillas, president of the board of Westinghouse-Spain, granted the following interview to EIR in late September.

EIR: Do you agree with the concept advanced by the Club of Rome that economic growth can be decoupled from energy growth?

Foncillas: These two things are totally interrelated. Economic growth is based, among other factors, on energy growth; to the degree energy is more abundant and cheaper, economic growth is more intense and more stable. Consequently, the possibility of improving general well-being rises.

EIR: What would a truly ambitious nuclear program be for Spain?

Foncillas: In the crisis we now live through, energy demand and consumption, especially for electrical energy, are not growing according to forecasts made in the first Spanish national energy plan, around 1970. All production forecasts are being revised downward; while energy production itself is being revised downward due to extremely high crude oil prices over the whole period, the orientation toward economic growth is also being reconsidered.

The original, in my view very correct, proposal, was to develop nuclear plants intensively. Later, that was partly stopped, because fewer political problems were created by coal-burning plants. But our coal is too low in quality, and therefore must be combined with higher-quality imported coal.

This is where things stand now; coal-burning plants are also tapering off, because with Spain's production capacity and economic growth at minimum, not to say zero, growth—which is being forecast for the next years, this is thought to be sufficient. Whatever the case, I consider it vital to stress nuclear energy and alternative energy sources.