

Spain's counter-terror policy at crossroads

by Herbert Quinde

The one-year-old Socialist government of Spain's Felipe González has finally taken the first steps in creating a unified political command to confront the unprecedented terror offensive of ETA. ETA, the military wing of a minority movement which seeks independence for the Basque country of both Spain and France, has been averaging one terrorist act every three days over the last months.

The Qaddafi-funded, Jesuit-created ETA is one of the largest of the "separatist" gangs deployed to shatter the Western European nation-states, separatists which as *EIR* has documented in detail are joint assets of the Swiss-headquartered Nazi International and the Soviet KGB intelligence service.

Hardline measures

In November, González presented to the Spanish House of Representatives (Camara) a package of new laws to be enacted, reflecting a no-compromise stance by the government. Having gained the support of the leading opposition party, Alianza Popular, González told the Congress, "The door of negotiation has definitively been closed." He emphasized that all the concessions granted had been for naught. Full autonomy for the Basque country, amnesty for repentant terrorists, and the abolition of the death penalty have been met with more assassinations and more bombings.

The new legislation in effect will facilitate the declaration of a "state of emergency." The measures proposed will impose maximum penalties for terrorist acts, especially those against military and Civil Guard personnel. Spanish nationals in foreign countries can be prosecuted and convicted in absentia for assisting in extorting the so-called "revolutionary tax." Large numbers of firms regularly pay "protection money" to ETA to insure their property or families are not harmed. The convictions would therefore allow for extradition of persons who manage the logistical and financial apparatus of ETA abroad, like the hundreds of ETA members who have refugee status in the south of France.

The most important changes are the included harsh penalties for "apology for terrorism." With the intention of dismantling the political support network of ETA, the bill forbids any demonstration, public meeting, or press coverage giving "aid or comfort" to terrorism. The new statutes also prohibit political associations that apologize for terrorism. This means that Herri Batasuna, ETA's political party, may in the future be disbanded, and propaganda vehicles of ETA such as the daily *Egin* and magazine *Punto y Hora* could be closed down.

There seems to be popular support for such an initiative. In the days after the most recent ETA assassination, over 2 million people demonstrated against ETA.

Coup rumors , prompt new law

Spain stepped out of the stupor produced by the wave after wave of bombings, kidnappings, and assassinations when in mid-October, rumors of a military coup against González were running rampant.

On Oct. 19, Captain Martín Barrios, a military pharmacist who had been kidnapped and held since early October by ETA, was murdered in cold blood with a gunshot through the head. Prior to the assassination, ETA had humiliated the government by extracting a concession from a national TV network to read part of its demands in exchange for the Captain's life.

Needless to say, there very loud rumblings in the military barracks throughout the country. The situation was considered so serious that President Reagan sent a personal message to González which read in part, "The American people in conjunction with their Spanish allies are in support of the principles of democracy and liberty which are the real targets of terrorism."

Indeed, far from benefiting U.S. interests, the instability created by a military coup would only advance the imperialist designs of Russia for control of Western Europe.

France and Spain's fifth column

Spain's success in putting an end to ETA will depend primarily on straightening out its relations with France and checking the Soviet, British, and Israeli influence in security policy making.

"French-Spanish anti-terrorist cooperation is at its lowest point in recent history" is the assessment of a leading Spanish Interior Ministry official. The straw that broke the camel's back was the arrest and imprisonment of four Spanish police officers, three of whom were GEOs (Grupo Especial de Operación) special operations officers, by French police in Pau, France.

The day before the killing of Captain Martín Barrios, the four unarmed Spanish officers crossed into France and attempted to seize José María Larrechea Goni and bring him on to Spanish soil. Larrechea Goni, who directs the ETA grouping that assassinated Captain Martín Barrios, was to be used by the Spanish to gain the release of the Captain. As the

Spanish police officers were dragging the ETA leader to the border, the French authorities intervened, arresting the Spanish officers and freeing the ETA leader. The Spanish officers have been in a French jail more than a month now.

In the first week after the arrests, the French ambassador in Madrid received over 7,000 angry letters from Spaniards demanding the release of the four officers.

There is no doubt that France has succumbed to the combined pressures of the KGB and Libyan dictator Muammar Qaddafi in offering ETA a sanctuary. The French government's impotent response to Qaddafi's genocide in French-speaking Chad is part of a package which includes a "non-aggression pact" signed with ETA by the French government. Another limited treaty was signed with the Corsican separatist FNLC to assure Mitterrand's recent visit to Corsica.

Although some local Socialist Party elected officials in the French Basque curry favor with ETA "refugees," it is well known that the real problem is Mitterrand's special advisers, the Che Guevara epigone Regis Debray, and Francois DeGrossouvre. Both are the architects of the French accommodation with ETA.

Within the Spanish government, González has suffered the debilitating consequences of his continued catering to the influence of a "fifth column" grouped around Vice-President Alfonso Guerra, popularly considered an extreme left-wing ideologue. Although recently the government has publicly attacked the KGB hand in ETA, the blind spot remains the untouched networks of the Nazi International reaching into ETA. Several months back, the two directors of the Interior Brigade charged with monitoring the right wing, including the Nazi International, were removed from their positions for incompetence. Both were Guerra men. The assistant director of the Interior Brigade is in prison charged with illegal possession of state secrets, and corruption.

The Spanish Interior Ministry has been overly influenced by British and Israeli anti-terrorist "technocrats" such as the London-based Brian Jenkins crowd. "Some people responsible for intelligence-gathering in this country are so incompetent that they quote Claire Sterling as a credible source," was the comment of a former Interior Ministry official. Anti-terror "groupies" such as Jenkins and Sterling, who make a living off terrorism, are increasingly losing credibility for obfuscating the issue of the role of the social sciences in terrorism, and covering up the Nazi International's role in international terrorism.

Interior Minister Jose Barrionuevo has attempted to balance all these contending influences by creating the Consejo Superior para la Informacion, a national advisory board on security policy. Although the Consejo will not get off the ground before the beginning of next year, the return of Manuel Ballesteros, former director of the Mando Unico Lucha Contraterrorista (MULC) to an advisory role in security policy indicates that the partisan politics in the intelligence community which weakened the government's counterterror policy, may be nearing an end.

Russian avant-garde art Rome' cultural assault

by Judith Wyer

In April 1983 an exhibition of paintings and prints by contemporary Soviet artists began a tour of several West German cities. The largest contemporary show to leave the U.S.S.R., the exhibition at first glance could have been mistaken for a turn-of-the-century exhibition from tsarist Russia. It was skillfully assembled, featuring every significant modernist style from the late 19th-century post-impressionism school to pure abstractionism.

Moscow followed that spring exhibition with a multimedia show of pre-revolutionary futurist art from the Mayakovsky Museum which opened in West Berlin in September. That exhibition featured some of the most extreme examples of the degenerate irrationalist Russian modern school which thrived during the years preceding the Russian Revolution.

Since the late 1960s, the U.S.S.R. has undergone a cultural transformation which is demonstrated by its policy towards the visual arts. The 50-year dogmatic adherence to "socialist realism," the propaganda tool of orthodox communism, has been eclipsed by pre-revolutionary modernism, and the Byzantine Imperial culture it glorifies. This is the correlate in art of the political turn in the U.S.S.R. toward the chauvinist doctrine, long nurtured in the Russian Orthodox Church, that Moscow is destined to become the seat of a "Third Roman Empire."

The avant-garde school of painting now being revived is the modern equivalent of the imperial art of Byzantium, the unchanging icon which represents a flat, lifeless hierarchical world dominated by Eastern mysticism. The fathers of the avant-garde abstract school lauded their paintings as the icons of a "new spiritual age." Painters like Wassily Kandinsky were followers of Oswald Spengler, whose *Decline of the West* heralds the final collapse of western civilization. One of the leading exponents of Spengler's apocalyptic worldview was the religious philosopher Nikolai Berdyayev, an enthusiast of the new "modern icon." Berdyayev wrote that the new artistic and spiritual awakening in pre-revolutionary Russia would overwhelm Europe: "For a long time we [Russians] have recognized the distinction between culture and civilization. Beneath their hostility to the West many Russian