

Report from Madrid by Leonardo Servadio

A state funeral for decoupling

Why did the funeral of Madrid Mayor Tierno Galván become the biggest propaganda event in years?

On Tuesday, Jan. 22, the city of Madrid was paralyzed, as 1 million people gathered in the central "Cibeles" square for the funeral of the mayor of the city, Enrique Tierno Galván. The fact that the ceremony took place in the square dominated by the statue of the Gnostic mother-goddess Cybele gave a little pagan touch to the event. Galván loved that statue so much he even presented a perfect copy of it to Mexico City.

The event has dominated political talk ever since. In order to personally lead the funeral cortège, Prime Minister Felipe González cut short his summit with Italian Premier Bettina Craxi in Sicily. The mayors of all of Spain's cities converged on Madrid to attend the last rites. The national media prepared the mood of the population with days of intense emotional campaigns around the figure of Galván. All public offices and schools in Madrid were closed for three days as a sign of mourning.

Why was the funeral of a mayor turned into a huge state event, even at the national level?

"God never abandons a good Marxist," Galván used to say—a phrase repeated over and over by the press, in an obvious effort to generate a cult of the agnostic, Marxist mayor, "mayor of all the people of Madrid," of communists and Catholics, left and right alike, under the banner of Spanish neutralism.

Tierno Galván was the translator

of Ludwig Wittgenstein's *Tractatus*, published in Spain in 1957. As a teacher at Salamanca University then, he was the reference point for the neopositivists of the Vienna school of Wittgenstein and Karl Popper, the infamous center which spread the disease of formal logic to every aspect of physical and social life.

This current of thought is the theoretical foundation of the International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis, probably the most important nodal center for coordinating strategic policies along the lines of "conflictual agreements" between the Russian empire, and the Western supranational structures like the International Monetary Fund. (Not to mention its role as a frank center of Soviet technological espionage.)

At the time of his translation of Wittgenstein, Galván created the Association for the Functional Unity of Europe. This is the kind of "synarchist" Europeanism which, instead of the Europe of sovereign nations, aims at instituting a Europe led by supranational institutions, with the nations splintered into local and regional entities little bigger than tribes. This prospect is perfectly coherent with the Russian empire plan to take over Western Europe, reducing its nations into satrapies of Great Mother Russia.

It also fits, that Galván, besides being a notorious supporter of Libyan dictator Qaddafi as an anti-American instrument in the Mediterranean, has

in recent years pushed the anti-NATO campaign, calling for "dissolution of the blocs" with the pacifist demagoguery so typical of Russian official propaganda.

Before he became mayor of Madrid in 1979, with the sponsorship of Premier González's Spanish Socialist Workers Party, Galván had been the leader of a little Popular Socialist Party of Marxist leanings, which he created while working as a professor at Bryn Mawr University in 1974, during his exile to the United States in the time of the Franco regime.

Spain today is on the verge of being called to a popular referendum organized by the Socialist Prime Minister González, on whether or not Spain should remain in NATO. The González government supports the idea of being in NATO, but from a strictly neutralist standpoint, based on the prospect of widening the gulf between the United States and Europe. Testimony to this was the recent European Community summit on terrorism where Spain was the country which most ardently backed the Greek position of not naming Libya as a country responsible for terrorism.

The González line, expressed by a 10-point memorandum issued in 1984, is: Be part of the Atlantic alliance, without taking part in its military command, and while reducing U.S. troops in Spain; say "no" to the nuclearization of Spain; say "yes" to signing a nuclear non-proliferation treaty; be part of the Western European Union; work in the context of the European disarmament conference; work in particular with other European countries for the continent's defense. Translated into current strategic terms, this reads, decoupling from the United States.

It was in order to push this policy with a big death-cult emotional wave, that the death of Galván was turned into Spain's biggest spectacle in years.