

France joins Spain in war on ETA terror

by L. Servadio

On Aug. 5, French Security Minister Pandraud and Spanish Interior Minister Barrionuevo met in Madrid and signed a pact against terrorism and drug traffic. The joint communiqué emphasizes the intensification of cooperation on the border, to identify and capture those who attempt to cross illegally.

The formal agreement comes after several weeks of intense but informal cooperation between French and Spanish authorities against the Basque terrorist gang known as ETA. During the recent period, five ETA terrorists have been handed over to the Spanish authorities by French police, representing a 180-degree policy shift by the French since the government of Jacques Chirac took office. Previously, France had served as a safehouse and base of operations for the ETA, whose assassins were granted the status of "political refugees" in the French part of the Basque region. It is estimated that at least 700 ETA killers now live there.

The Chirac government appears to recognize that ETA is not just a Spanish problem, or representative of some legitimate political interest. "ETA" is merely the Spanish name for Soviet low-intensity warfare in Europe, here utilizing "separatist" nuts as cover. Police indicated as much on Aug. 4, when ETA sent threatening letters to the embassies of Great Britain, Germany, Japan, Italy, France, and Belgium: the better part of the Free World. Police experts observed that, although the letters were signed "ETA," they were not written in the style of ETA. Is not "ETA" now merely an acronym, behind which Soviet KGB operations are run?

In fact, as Spanish-French collaboration began to materialize, blistering attacks on both governments were launched by higher-level Soviet collaborators.

'It's LaRouche!'

The first, panicked reaction came from *El Pais*, the newspaper owned by Trilateral Commission member Jesus de Polanco, which has on its board Jesus Aguirre, the Duke of Alba. On June 16, it carried an article smearing American political figure Lyndon LaRouche and his associates. *El Pais* accused LaRouche of mediating between the French and the Spanish police to establish cooperation against ETA!

El Pais re-published the slander of LaRouche on Aug. 5,

the day that Pandraud arrived in Madrid!

The article was a patent attempt to discredit the collaboration, and to set up LaRouche and associates for "ETA" assassination. (But it effectively informed the world that, in the eyes of the KGB, if you are seriously opposed to terrorism, you are "an ally of LaRouche.")

Intelligence sources informed *EIR* that behind the article was the network of Philip Agee, part of the "Tricontinental" apparatus created in Cuba in 1965 as a joint venture of the KGB and various Western agencies, for example, the Washington-based Institute for Policy Studies. That gives a good idea of who is pulling ETA's strings.

In mid-July, ETA launched its worst atrocities yet, killing 11 Civil Guardsmen in a bombing attack on a bus, and damaging the defense ministry in Madrid with anti-tank grenades. In subsequent days, Spanish security personnel were killed in Navarra and the Basque region. ETA's above-ground political arm, Herri Batasuna, staged demonstrations against the French-Spanish cooperation.

But French Premier Jacques Chirac's response was that France would not vacillate, but intended to go all the way in the fight against terrorism.

Never had "ETA" been more threatened.

Hence, on Aug. 1, *El Pais* published a lengthy statement by an unnamed "French spokesman for ETA," who stated: "ETA is as strong as ever. With its latest actions in Madrid and Euskadi [separatist lingo for the Basque region], it has clearly reached the primary objective of the armed struggle—to create a correlation of forces that permits a dialogue with Madrid based on the KAS alternative"—separatist lingo for the full independence of the Basque "people."

The demand for "dialogue" was seconded by Communist Party official Sartorius, who criticized Prime Minister Felipe González's refusal to negotiate. Xavier Arzallus, the president of the National Basque Party, the biggest in the region, wrote: "ETA wants to talk, but Madrid does not." Monsignor Setien, a Basque-based Catholic prelate, chimed in: "Those who hold power should negotiate, and pay the price that is required."

Then, none other than former Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez, who did his best to keep Spain out of NATO while in office, declared: "If there exists an opportunity for dialogue . . . it must be taken."

González replied as had Chirac: "Those who want to negotiate with the terrorists, irrespective of all the blood they have shed, should say exactly what they are ready to concede to them." The government knows that to negotiate with ETA would mean the dissolution of the nation-state, to give way to all sorts of separatism.

All the demands for dialogue are, in that sense, quite useful, for those making the demands also know that it would mean the dissolution of the nation. With every demand for dialogue, therefore, a traitor to Spain and the West has walked out into the open and identified himself.