
Spain

Pro-terrorists hound interior minister

by Katherine Kanter

On Oct. 24, the Spanish interior minister announced some surprising changes in the structure of his ministry, which included: the removal of the Directors for State Security and Police; the creation of a new post, Secretary of State for Security, combined with that of Directorship of State Security—purportedly on the French model; and the nomination of a civilian, for the first time, to head the Civil Guard, a military body responsible for border duties and the fight against terrorism.

While it is impossible at this point for us to evaluate the various appointments in detail, certain striking features lead one to conclude that the press campaign against Interior Minister José Barrionuevo, has achieved its first success.

The role of *El País*

One day after the Socialist government of Spain was inaugurated in October 1982, and announced the appointment of José Barrionuevo as interior minister, the Madrid daily *El País* demanded his resignation for being “anti-democratic.” José Barrionuevo is a viscount, and as he himself freely admits, was, as a student, associated with various Carlist groups; no one today, not even *El País*, would seriously affirm that the minister supports the pretensions of Carlos-Hugo de Borbón Parma to the Spanish throne, either overtly or covertly. What disturbs *El País*, is that the minister belongs to a faction of the police and intelligence services which does not joyfully contemplate Spain’s joining the Warsaw Pact, nor the proposed dissolution of the national state of Spain into rival satraps of Russia, ruled by Monseñor Setien and Abbot Cassia Just, the clerics who run the Basque Provinces and Catalonia, respectively, and energetically policed by ETA and Terra Lliure, the relevant terrorist groups.

Why then, the shrill, unceasing campaign by *El País* against José Barrionuevo? *El País* belongs to a firm called Ediciones Prisa; on the board of directors of Ediciones Prisa sits the Duke of Alba.

The Alba family, of Byzantine origin, is one of the wealthiest and most powerful houses in Spain, and is convinced that if they can only divide, then will they again rule Spain. Western Europe would then, of course, have to be under the Russian boot. The family has great power among the syc-

phantic mediocrities who affect to be “cultural” in Spain today, like the world-famous “writer” Camilo José Cela, who heads the Latin Union, dedicated to the restoration of the Holy Roman Empire.

It was the Albas who puffed up the second-rate Spanish Nietzsche, Ortega y Gasset, whose children are closely associated with Ediciones Prisa; they control, through Ediciones Santillana and Editorial Timón, a great chunk of school book production, both in Spain and Hispanic America; they control the Ministry of Culture. Does the House of Alba want terrorism crushed? Read the House newspaper, *El País*, for your answer.

IMF’s friends in the justice ministry

The real strongman of the justice ministry is the “left Catholic” Joaquim Ruiz-Ximénez, now ombudsman, who in 1956, helped to oversee the student riots which brought the liberal International Monetary Fund (IMF) economists into Spain, as a concession to the orchestrated “international uproar against Franquist repression.” The present justice minister, his protégé Joaquim Ledesma, has himself been at the center of more than a little controversy.

In 1983, Ledesma’s ministry drafted reforms to the narcotics legislation, which made the penalties for drug traffickers caught in Spain the lowest in Western Europe; the law explicitly stated that consumption of narcotics was not punishable. Ledesma then stood fully behind a law, voted up by the parliament, which de facto legalized abortion, in Ledesma’s own words, for “economic and social reasons.”

The Spanish press, over the last months, has been continuously supplied with “leaks,” blowing up isolated incidents

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like that in which a policeman punched an ETA member during interrogation, and was therefore accused of “torture.” The pages of *El País* are littered with photographs of ETA members in various stages of undress, proudly pointing to a black-and-blue mark, under a screaming headline, “I was tortured.” The fact that ETA killed, tortured, and mutilated over 700 people in the last 10 years, including the wife and children of the military governor of Guipuzcoa, Rafael Garrido, as recently as Oct. 25, does not overcharge the conscience of *El País*’s editors, obviously.

Easterly wind blows over Madrid media

On Oct. 24, the pro-Soviet director of Spanish Television (TVE), José María Calvino, was replaced. Immediately, he was celebrated at a private luncheon prepared in his honor by none other than Justice Minister Joaquim Ledesma. Under Calvino's rule, a number of odd events have taken place: First, the post of Director of News was given to José Luis Balbín, now a star of Radio Moscow's late night broadcasts; he was succeeded by Enrique Vázquez, who spent two weeks in Libya last year. Then Vázquez's wife, also a TVE employee, Mrs. Elena Martí, broadcast an extremely sympathetic interview with leaders of the Colombian terrorist group M-19 on national television. Finally, in October, a Spanish TVE film crew was de-

tained by the Colombian government, as they flew to an M-19 encampment for "talks."

On the same day, Alfonso S. Palomares, intelligence adviser to the Grupo Zeta press empire, was named president-director general of the Agencia EFE, the fourth-largest press agency in the world, with tremendous clout in Hispanic America. Grupo Zeta controls the magazine *Interviú*, which prides itself on being the first pornographic magazine to have appeared after Franco's death, and printed an article in July 1986 falsely alleging links between the European Labor Party—a Swedish party associated with Lyndon LaRouche—and the murderers of Olof Palme.

Also on Oct. 24, the wife of Alfonso Palomares, Ana-María Vicente de Tutor, was named civil governor of Madrid; she now has 20% of all security forces in the country under her immediate command. Mrs. Vicente de Tutor's first act was to give an interview to *ABC* magazine, wherein she called for the legalization of prostitution.

Now, the Alba family thinks that they have hit the jackpot: the "El Nani" case. A recidivist called "El Nani," alias Santiago Corelli, suspected of entertaining relations with Ibero-American organized-crime circuits, disappeared while being held incommunicado and is presumed dead. This occurred in 1983. Some months ago, a group of "progressive" magistrates, and a number of ad hoc committees like the newly formed Association against Torture and the Council of Judicial Power, arrived at the "feeling" that the interior minister, given his jurisdiction, is personally responsible for cases of this nature, and must be forced to resign.

The case of these "progressives" went right up to the Supreme Court, which on Oct. 30 rejected their arguments, stating, however, that the decision was "without prejudice" to what conclusions might be drawn from subsequent investigations. The head of the Association against Torture had just declared that, should the court decide for Barrionuevo, it would immediately be presented with new facts which would force the case to be reopened.

A little help from Russian friends

Just before the Supreme Court decision, an important planning meeting was called in Madrid by about 16 members of the 33-man Board of Criminal Judges of Madrid, the conclusions of which were announced fulsomely by *El País*. The meeting coincided with the presence in that city of a large number members of the Association of Soviet Jurists, who were there to participate in a joint conference between the U.S.S.R. and the International Association of Jurists, at which the inaugural address was given by the man we met above, Joaquim Ruiz-Ximénez, ombudsman.

The conclusions were, that the government is unable to

"control the police"; that the Council of Judicial Power, should take the matter before the government, and the parliament; that an investigative committee should be set up to investigate "irregularities," not only in the police, but also in the intelligence services of Spain. The judges further said that "an institutional confrontation is arising, in which the independence of the jurisdictional organs is at stake, which the Council of Judicial Power is called upon to save."

The "independence" referred to, is a very specific one: the cause of the Basque judges, not a few of whom, like Mrs. Elisabeth Huerta, are barefacedly pro-ETA, and who are throwing everything and the kitchen sink at the central government to avoid having jurisdiction over terrorism cases taken out of their hands, and put under the National Courts in Madrid. In a word, those judges who are protesting want to free ETA members, and jail the police who arrest ETA members.

In mid-October, the interior minister, in response to the Huerta case, said in parliament that in order to stop her from forcing Civil Guards to parade in identification lineups before ETA members and then be interrogated by the ETA members, he would go right up to the Constitutional Courts. Huerta and one of her cronies, Judge Belloch, then mobilized *El País* and the justice ministry networks, and put out the line that a mysterious West German group against separatists, the CRUN, had threatened them with death. On cue, the justice minister rang Judge Belloch and offered him his "solidarity" against the alleged death threats.

The interior ministry has said that the CRUN simply does not exist. Moreover, on Oct. 19, the head of the Fifth Military Region of Spain, General Hernández, called upon "all generals of the Army to unite in the fight against ETA."