

## 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."