
Spain

Profile of Adolfo Suárez: a political gangster in a silk suit

by Katherine Kanter

On Aug. 12, the Spanish Centrist Party, known as the Centro Democrático y Social (CDS), headed by ex- and would-be Prime Minister Adolfo Suárez, announced that it plans to abstain in the vote to elect a premier for the Navarrese government, unless the Socialists and Regionalists allow the CDS candidate to assume the premiership. If the CDS were to abstain, in their own words, "Herri Batasuna will become the arbiter of Navarre," since a coalition would then have to be formed with Herri Batasuna, the political front for the Basque separatist terrorists, the ETA.

Behind that announcement may lie some of the answers as to how terrorism and organized crime are allowed to flourish in Spain today. First, Navarre is not part of the Basque Provinces, though the Basque terrorists (ETA) have declared that it shall and must be. Any political party, like the CDS, which accepts the presence of Herri Batasuna as a legitimate political party, has lost its *raison d'être*, and, if this world were sane, would itself richly deserve being outlawed.

Second, how did a political gangster like Suárez, ever get into such a position of arbiter at all?

The history of Adolfo Suárez is a modern fairy tale, but only for the very ingenuous among us. He is now about 52 years old; he "rose" from being a poor but honest boy from Avila, to being an active and enthusiastic Falangist, that is, until the early 1970s, shortly before Franco died. Then, suddenly, he changed. When the "Project Democracy" circles of the U.S. secret government, decided in 1973 that the assassination of the prime minister, the late Adm. Carrero Blanco, would facilitate one of their pilot projects for a special kind of democracy, known as "fascism with a democratic face," the prettiest face in Spain was chosen for the lift from Falangism, to Project Democracy. That face was Adolfo Suárez, who became prime minister in 1977, four years after the murder of Carrero.

The main task of Suárez seems to have been to foster, by every possible legislative means, the upsurge of an Aquarian

Age social movement, which Spain had been fortunate enough to escape in the 1960s. The word "democracy" was bandied about so much in political speeches from the late 1970s, that the politicians appeared drunk on the word, while an apparatus more totalitarian than anything Franco could ever have dreamed of was tightening its grip on the country. Without a hedonistic, sex-crazed, drug-sick youth, which Suárez's cultural advisers created, the International Monetary Fund would never have been able to pull off its cold coup d'état in Spain: the Socialist victory of 1982.

Behind the pretty face is the murderous grin of the same "free market economists" who have sunk Ibero-America; in Spain, they are, naturally, all left or center, people like Enrique Fuentes Quintana, Luis Angel Rojo, Mariano Navarro Rubio, all of the Bank of Spain, the people who have cleverly "trained" their own citizens to any form of anti-industrial austerity, so long as it is dished up with plenty of drugs, free sex, and pornography. Indeed, the banks themselves admitted that they had increased funding for Adolfo Suárez's electoral campaign in June 1987, relative to 1986, by over 300 million pesetas.

One example of this bankers' democracy at work: Adolfo Suárez's best friend, Gen. Manuel Gutiérrez Mellado, who is known as the Green General or the "Gerd Bastian of Spain," recently created an "Anti"-Drug Foundation, on whose board sits a select group of people who probably do know something about drugs: among others, José María Entrecanales, the major public-works contractor for Libya, José María Armero of the Trilateral Commission, the ubiquitous Mariano Navarro Rubio mentioned above, and a funny little man: Eduardo Serra, formerly Undersecretary of State for Defense, who "was resigned" from his post this spring, in the midst of the Irangate scandal, shortly after telling the NATO monthly review, that he admires Sen. Sam Nunn and his amendment to remove United States troops from Europe.

Anyway, behind the pretty face, there is someone else

too in the scenery: one Gustavo Cisneros, to whom we devoted a whole chapter in the book *Dope, Inc.*, the man who is now making money hand over fist on "hot investments" in Spain. One of the things which interests us the most about the rumored Cisneros-Suárez connection, is the Cuban and Soviet side of things.

Suárez and the Soviets

For example, from the remote past of 1977, when Suárez as prime minister was busy fighting NATO, traveling to Cuba and having himself photographed in the embrace of Fidel Castro, he somehow found time to ram through Parliament, a very singular Constitution. To single out just one aspect of that document, the words "nation" and "people" are never defined, they are used in such a hodgepodge way, that the Catalans and Basques, basing themselves upon it, have very successfully argued their way step by step along the path of arrogating to themselves all the powers of the Nation of Spain itself. Furthermore, the words "nation" and "people" are used precisely in the sense that the newly formed pro-Soviet Communist Party of the Peoples of Spain does.

Fittingly enough, the main architect of the Suárez Constitution, Prof. García de Enterría, was arrested in 1985 in the course of an investigation into an extremely serious case of capital flight, involving sectors of the Spanish aristocracy more than a little soft on Iran and Libya.

Turning to very recent history, 1987, let us see how Adolfo, as his supporters like to call him, is smoothing the way for the Soviets to call the shots in Spain. On Jan. 5, a CDS spokesman told the Spanish Parliament, in the midst of the worst terror wave in European history, that the Spanish police are guilty of abuses (i.e. tortures), and that the present Anti-Terrorist Law should therefore be abrogated. He demanded that the "incommunicado" period for persons arrested on suspicion of terrorism be cut, and that the magistrates should interfere more with the police. But it is notorious that the magistrates in the Basque Provinces, who are not at all protected like the Italian specialists, live in fear of their lives should they do anything overtly unfavorable to ETA!

On Feb. 25, in the parliamentary debate on the U.S. troop presence in Spain, Adolfo Suárez declared: "Spain has neither historical nor economic reasons for standing for the presence of troops on our soil, who are taking care of strategic interests which are purely and solely the business of the United States itself." As for the Spanish troops, "no greater modernization effort is possible" he said, an odd statement in a country where 50% of all the Navy's vessels are over a quarter of a century old.

On March 17, Suárez received the public endorsement of a curious politician, Jorge Verstryngé, as "the only one able to defeat the PSOE"; Verstryngé, of Belgian origin, is said to have been active in ultra (extreme rightist) organizations until the early 1970s: in 1986, he was expelled from his leading position in Alianza Popular, for attempting to over-

throw Manuel Fraga, then chairman of AP. A few weeks later, Fraga, who, for a variety of reasons, was despised by the Trilateral Commission banking circles, was indeed overthrown.

On April 6, the CDS youth group gave the highest award to Juan María Bandres, the founder of the "moderately" separatist party Euskadiko Ezkerra (EE); it is about as "moderately" separatist, as the "moderate" factions Oliver North and Co. shipped arms to, in Iran. Bandres himself is a "former" member of ETA, who has been recycled as a spokesman for the "democratic, pro-separatist, Left." Just how self-interested was the award, became clearer during the European and regional elections on June 10, whereby Suárez worked his way into advantageous situations in the Basque Provinces and Navarre.

On April 8, Adolfo Suárez was described in a poll, as "the most popular politician in Spain," ahead of Prime Minister Felipe González. In the elections on June 10, Suárez succeeded in getting enough votes to take, among others, the presidency of the government of the Province of Madrid, that of Castilla-León, and that of the Canary Islands, all of great importance, provinces where a lot of money moves through the administration and where some of it, could get lost . . . on the way to a premiership campaign.

On July 9, the CDS mayor of Riaño blocked with the Communists and Ecologists, and engaged in a campaign of civil disobedience, and then, violent struggles with the police and Civil Guard, to prevent the government from building a large dam which would flood the village of Riaño, but which would help a nation where 27 million acres are already threatened by desertification, to have drinking water. The street battles were so serious, that they can only be described as having the character of irregular warfare.

On Aug. 5, Suárez, in the Canary Islands for the investiture of his man as premier of the local government, flew in the face of Interior Ministry demands that the press stop presenting ETA as a liberation movement, and declared that "no restrictions of any nature on freedom" can be tolerated in the fight against terror, and therefore, that the press should remain outside any political agreement with the government on fighting terrorism.

On Aug. 8, the new CDS premier of the Canary Islands, which, possibly not coincidentally, harbor the largest Soviet merchant marine base in the world outside the Soviet bloc, declared that the Islands should be transformed into a "fiscal paradise." A free banking zone, perhaps like that which has made Hong Kong into one of the narcotics and arms capitals of the world? But this time, since Suárez and his friends apparently like to feel protected, under the heavy arm of the Soviet Big Brother.

Is there not a reader out there among you, who would like to supply us with a copy of the "disappeared" archive photograph of Adolfo, in his fine Falange uniform, arm smartly upraised?