



The Voice of the Basques

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Basque Delegations

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NEWS FROM THE BASQUE COUNTRY

BASQUE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

TO THE BASQUE PEOPLE:

Several reasons impel me, as your President, to address this message to you on the threshold of the New Year of 1968, setting out some general lines of appreciation of the context in which the cause of our liberty now ^{MOVES} moves. It is along these lines that we must all plot the route over which we must move in order to attain our fundamental objective.

In the context of the world as a whole, the President of the Basque Government could not fail to take notice of the meeting, in the last quarter of 1962, of the Second Vatican Council. ^{IN} This occasion the Catholic Church invited, not only its own prelates, but representatives of all the Christian confessions, excluding none whatsoever on the face of the earth. The Basque Government has never, as such, been able to declare its attitude towards a religious event of this nature. But the presence there of more than one hundred prelates of Basque origins or birth and the fact that, like my humble self, the vast majority of our people professes the Catholic religion, moved your President, in what seemed an opportune moment, to send greetings and best wishes for the success of the Council's intentions. The more so, of peace, accord and intelligence among all men, even those who are not believers, is the task and primary objective of the assembly.

THE MORE SO, OF COURSE, SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CLIMATE

In the international political sphere, on its part, changes have been registered. Different perspectives have been traced, situations which differ clearly from those existing when I last addressed myself to you, on the occasion of the twentyfifth anniversary of the destruction of Guernica. These changes have even affected the political situation in the Spanish State.

Of those changes which have taken place on the world political plane, it is not necessary to stress even for our own attention, the importance of recent events in Cuba. But it is not my intention to seek in distant lands any lessons nor any just inspiration for what is to be our own political task. For we have something of far greater importance very much nearer to us. It is the consummation ~~of military institutions.~~ **OF A FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE AFFECTING SPANISH MILITARY INSTITUTIONS**

The year 1962 has marked one of the final stages in the process of dissolution of the African task or mission which, since 1907, has absorbed and completely shaped the Spanish military system.

Structurally speaking, the crisis which now confronts this system is very much more important than that imposed on European armies by the nature of new nuclear weapons. We cannot fail to take into account that the situation of the Spanish Army in Africa allowed it, in 1936, to break out in rebellion against the Republic and achieve victory thereby. Henceforth, with the changes which are now in progress, the Spanish military will no longer be able to count on the facile transfer of Moslem contingents for their own purposes in the Peninsula. Which means that they are now placed in a wholly new situation in which the only way of ensuring that a military instrument can subsist in good spirit and morale will stem from an arrangement which the military must reach with popular forces.

The Basques well know what the Spanish Military adventure launched in Africa in 1936 had in store for us. Our people confronted it with notable resolution and displayed in the defence of liberty that complete solidarity which has always existed among the Basques. Nor did the advantage of surprise which allowed the military and their allies to mobilise forces of some strength in Navarra and to exploit local resources, change this picture as a whole.

At the present time, during a completely inverted phase in history, unlike that when the powerful totalitarian movement in Germany, Italy and elsewhere gave aid to such enterprises as that which we have described, our cause sees a favourable path in the new political orientations of the world. The year 1962 has seen continued development in the process of liberation of peoples. Among them it may be useful to cite, because of their proximity in space and time, the new State of Algeria and the inauguration of a democratic and representative regime in Morocco. In this process of evolution and in this atmosphere our own cause moves towards the last stages of liberation.

That our people feel the necessity to accelerate events is clearly demonstrated by the events of the year which is just ending. The working class maintained strikes, the significance of which was made plain to all; Basque priests have, in recent months, confronted processes of law as a consequence of protesting against ill-treatment and tortures inflicted upon prisoners by agents of the authorities, whom the responsible bosses of the Franquist system sought to cover and protect by all possible means; Basques in large numbers, from every region and from all sections of the social and economic structure, showed themselves at the Congress of the European Movement in Munich as adherents to the principles of freedom in which the integration of Europe finds inspiration. Moreover, while no proof has been adduced to show that they were either principals or accomplices in reprehensible

incidents, a great number of our youths have been imprisoned and subjected to trials by court martial, some of which have not up to the moment at which I address you, been fully reported. The young men have been the object of investigation and persecution on the part of the chief agents of governmental and judicial repression. Here, then, is additional proof of the inner conviction of the Franco regime that it is undergoing plain and profound crisis, with no means of justifying itself in the light of the general repulsion felt for it by the Basques.

All of us Basques find ourselves firmly united in the will to regain our liberty and we believe that integration in a democratic Europe is the normal course to ensure for ourselves a peaceful and prosperous future. Franco's Spain finds it necessary to face the highly important fact of European integration in process. Tardily, and long after the Government of Euzkadi (the Basque Country), in the light of the opinions to which it is wedded, had, fifteen years earlier, associated itself with the task of creating an united democratic and free Europe, Franco's Government appealed for preparations to be made for the incorporation of Spain in the European Economic Community, a fruit of the activity in which we have been constantly involved in the name of the Basques. That the admission of Franco's Spain in a Europe born to prevent any civil war between Europeans and to impede any reintroduction of totalitarianism in whatever form, with its array of institutions which affront Humanity however camouflaged under the guise of "national revolution", might be an impudent act of treason against Europe's own programme does not appear to have passed through the mind of the Franco Government when it made its demand. Perhaps the intention is to present a purely external appearance to show that the present Franco system is adapted to the political formulae of democracy. Perhaps some of the reforms in the economic sphere are intended to achieve the same object. We all know, nevertheless, that, at bottom, no purely evolutionary process in Franquism can produce any real step towards the defence of the freedom of man, towards his participation as such in the exercise of political power (universal, free suffrage, for example), or towards the recognition and liberation of natural communities -and, therefore, of the Basques.

To bring about the liquidation of this regime without any depression of economic levels and also without the rerudescence of a one-party system, the Basque Government is continuing its struggle alongside the democratic political movements and the free trade unions operating inside the Spanish State. This is the normal march of the liberation of the country along the paths of peace.

Basing itself on the will of the Basque Country and in its role as the legal political institution which represents it, your Government continues to beg of you your collaboration and your help, as you have given it in the past, with those means which are indispensable for its task. We must, of course, count for the purpose on your discipline.

Until the day, which I believe is not far off, in which your own, freely expressed will determine the paths along which Euzkadi will move and find its own destiny, in full harmony with the precepts of liberty which have been our inheritance since time immemorial and which were symbolised with its trees and its broken chains, with arms raised in the defence of justice on the coats of arms of what were until less than one century and a half ago, the Basque States.

25 December 1962

The President of the Government of Euzkadi
Jesus Ma. de Leizaola

A PRIEST JUDGED IN SAN SEBASTIAN (BASQUE COUNTRY)

San Sebastian (OPE).— The judgement pronounced by the Criminal Court is as follows:

"In the City of San Sebastian, on the fifteenth of December one thousand nine hundred and sixty-two.

Hearing in oral and public judgment of case number thirty-six in the year one thousand nine hundred and sixty-two, followed by contempt and by urgent proceedings against the defendant, Don Nemesio Echaniz Arambarri, aged sixty-two years, son of Jose Luis and Maria Antonia, born in Azcoitia and resident in San Sebastian, of bachelor status, with instruction; by profession, priest; no criminal antecedents; of good conduct; having provisional liberty for this reason; the parties thereto being the Fiscal Ministry and the said defendant represented by the Procurator D. Luis Maria Saez de Heredia y Butron, the chairman being the Magistrate Don Manuel Macielor y Reparaz.

FIRSTLY: It having been proven, and so declared, that the defendant Don Nemesio Echaniz Arambarri, priest, domiciled in this City, addressed to His Excellency the Governor of the Province, Don Manuel Valencia Remon, the letter which is enclosed in the Folio of the Indictment, accompanied by the written note which appears in the folio following the same, both manuscripts being dated the twentieth day of September in the year one thousand nine hundred and sixty-one, the first of which states, in its text, in literal form as follows: "Your Excellency: It is possible that it may prove... (entire text follows)..." And the second manuscript being of the following literal tenor: "Your Excellency: Your predecessor..." both manuscripts having been written, signed and endorsed by the person who is today the defendant. These writings, together with the letter which shall be transcribed later, appeared in transcription in issue number seven relating to January one thousand nine hundred and sixty-two of the periodical "Gudari" published in Caracas, Venezuela; the defendant pleads that he is not aware how such letters could have reached the editorial offices of the said publication; that he did no more than to give the scripts, in the form of a copy, to some intimate friend to read, all of this in confidence. That the aforementioned letter, also addressed to His Excellency the Civil Governor and dated the fifteenth day of November one thousand nine hundred and sixty-one, contained a text of the following literal tenor: "I have left..." No proof is available as to how these letters reached the editorial offices of the periodical in Caracas in which they were published. To the first of the said letters, and apparently to another addressed to him by the defendant, his Excellency the Civil Governor made reply with his two letters appearing in the Roll dated the eighteenth day of October and twenty-ninth day of December one thousand nine hundred and sixty-one, in the first of which, among other things, the Governor denied allegations of Police maltreatment.

SECONDLY: The Fiscal Ministry's definitive conclusions having resulted in the deeds under process being considered as constituting an offence of contempt as contained in Article 240, Paragraph the First, and punished as in Paragraph

the Second of the Penal Code, and the aforesaid accused, Don Nemesio Echaniz Arambarri, being considered responsible for the same, without the presence of circumstances mitigating criminal responsibility, demanded that there be imposed upon him the sentences of six months and one day of simple imprisonment and a fine of 2,500 pesetas, with legal incidentals and costs.

THIRDLY: The legal representative of the accused having produced in his equally definitive conclusions which accompany the letters contained in the roll eloquent evidence that His Excellency the Civil Governor did not consider that the concepts published by the defendant in his writings should constitute contempt; and considering also that in such writings, which obeyed strictly sacerdotal motives, there was nothing which might in law be qualified as calumny, mischief or threat; and, affirming that the defendant had no knowledge as to how the letters came to be published in the periodical in question; considered that the deeds did not constitute any offence, wherefore he demanded the acquittal of the defendant.

FIRSTLY: In consideration that the deeds^s which have been found proven constitute an offence of contempt against Authority, as provided for in Paragraph the First of Article 240 of the Penal Code and to be punished according to the following Paragraph; and given that the context of several phrases requires their being framed within the Fourth of Article 450 of the aforesaid Code; and there appearing also from their selfsame content the essential and deliberate intent of contempt and discredit for the person and Authority of His Excellency the Governor.

SECONDLY: In consideration that the accused, Don Nemesio Agapito Echaniz Arambarri, is criminally responsible for the said offence in concept of author thereof by reason of the direct, material and voluntary participation which he had in its performance.

THIRDLY: In consideration that the commission of the said offence attracts no mitigating circumstances of criminal responsibility.

FOURTHLY: In consideration that the cost of proceedings are understood to be imposed by law upon those criminally responsible for an offence.

In view of the Articles cited and those of 1, 3, 12, 14, 27, 29, 33, 47, 48, 49, 58, 61, 78, 109, 110 of the Penal Code and 141, 239 to 241, 741 and 742 of the law of criminal Judicial Proceedings.

OUR FINDINGS ARE: That we must sentence and do sentence the accused, Don Nemesio Agapito Echaniz Arambarri, as responsible author of an offence of contempt for Authority, without presence of circumstances to mitigate criminal responsibility, to the terms of six months and one day of simple imprisonment and a fine of two thousand fivehundred pesetas, with accessory suspension from all public office, profession, trade and right of suffrage for the duration of the term of the sentence being subject to the event of non-payment of the fine to ancillary personal liability to one month's detention in lieu thereof, and to the payment of the costs of proceedings. We do declare the solvency of the prisoner, approving the warrant which to this end was issued by the Instructing Tribunal under date 28 February 1962.

Let this sentence be notified to the Ordinary of this place, as provided for by Paragraph the Fifth of Number Four of Article XVI of the Concordat with the Holy See of the twentyseventh day of August one thousand nine hundred and fifty-three.

Thus for this our sentence, certification of which shall be joined to the roll of the Court, we do pronounce it, command it and do sign.

....."

THE "CATHOLIC HERALD" AND FRANCO'S SPAIN

Towards the end of 1962 the "Catholic Herald" published a series of articles examining the Franco regime in Spain. As a consequence, a number of letters were addressed to the paper. This correspondence is now reproduced below.

The Labour Party addressed a letter to the "Catholic Herald" for purposes of correction, but the London weekly suppressed a part of it. The complete letter is also reproduced below. That part of it which was not printed for its readers is set out in italic.

Don Manuel de Irujo sent four letters to the "Catholic Herald" replying to points raised in the articles. Not one of these four was published. The editor of the paper replied to the first two, suggesting the form in which the rectifications might be set out and published. We are publishing here the four letters of correction together with the two received from the Editor. As the "Catholic Herald" refused to admit the fact of the trial of a priest in San Sebastian, we are printing in this bulletin a literal translation of the judgment passed in the case.

Don Inaki de Aspiazu, a Basque priest domiciled in Bayonne and attached to the Cathedral church there, also wrote to the "Catholic Herald". His letter has not been answered. Nor has it been published. It is given as the last of the letters, the text of which we reproduce here, to illustrate the conduct of the "Catholic Herald". For the rest, the reader may judge for himself.

The Editor,
The CATHOLIC HERALD,
67 Fleet Street,
London, E.C.4

27th November, 1962.

Sir,

The first of your series of articles by Hugh Kay under the heading, "Spain in Transition", will come as a surprise and a disappointment to those, including many Catholics inside and outside Spain who have been following events in that country. Certainly the first article smacks too much of an apologia - for which ~~no doubt~~ General Franco's Government will feel much indebted. Of course the "left" has been critical of events in Spain but not, as you suggest, for any reasons of racial antagonism but because we believe in the democratic form of society. Of course we look

differently on Germany and Japan - those countries turned their backs on dictatorship and followed the course of democracy.

Since there were reference^S in the article to the British Labour Party perhaps you would permit me to make three points, all concerning the position of workers in Spain:

(1) It is a complete travesty of the facts to refer to the "Communist" U.G.T. The U.G.T., or General Union of Workers is a powerfully anti-Communist body. They and their political wing, the Spanish Socialist Party (P.S.O.E.) have refused to co-operate with the activities of the Communists in Spain and have remained loyal members of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions.

(2) The Spanish Socialist Party is of course different from the British Labour Party, for it is operating within a totalitarian system in which political parties are illegal; but is, with the British Labour Party and other democratic socialist parties, affiliated to the Socialist International, of which Hugh Gaitskell is Vice-Chairman.

It is sheer nonsense to describe the Party and its courageous members as "essentially violent". To accept this fantasy is to fall completely for Franco's theory that the real democrats are not those who are struggling for freedom, but those who are oppressing legitimate opposition. Last week in Madrid a military tribunal passed sentences ranging from eleven years to three years on two groups of trade unionists of the C.N.T. for no greater crime than that they dared to meet together and to distribute leaflets calling for a free trade union movement. How far has Mr. Kay's liberalisation gone ?

(3) In case your quotation from one of the Labour Members of Parliament who has visited Spain should give an impression that the British Labour Party is impressed by the liberalism of the Spanish Government, or its trade union movement, let me quote from a statement made by Mr. Len Williams, the General Secretary of the Party on 20th June this year. He condemned "the measures of repression and intimidation" taken against the workers who went on strike for higher wages and better working conditions, and expressed solidarity with those who were "demanding the liberalisation and democratisation of their country's social and political institutions".

I shall look forward with interest to the remaining articles in this series.

Yours etc.

David Ennals

Secretary, Spanish Democrats Defence Committee.

London 2nd January, 1968

The Editor "CATHOLIC HERALD"
67, Fleet Street
London E.C. 4

Sir,

The "Catholic Herald" has recently published a series of articles on the Franco regime in Spain from a Catholic viewpoint. The overall picture is objective. The questions are well chosen.

But there is, perhaps, one consideration, as there is one question, which is missing; the consideration and the question stated by Father H. Raguer in "La Revue d'Histoire Ecclesiastique de Louvain", Vol. LVII, No. 2, of 1962. The Spanish Civil War, with all its crimes, its rancours, its heroisms, its idealisms, its half-amillion dead, took place between 1936 and 1939. In its course there was unleashed a religious persecution without precedent in modern history. Why? How to explain the fact?

In Spanish universities evolution is much preferred to revolution. It is a sensible preference. But St. Thomas considered it licit for a tyrant to be destroyed when there is no other means of securing freedom from a tyranny which has become intolerable. And after him, every philosopher whose work has been of any consequence has upheld the same philosophic theory. It has been upheld, too, perhaps even more firmly than by the thinkers, by peoples. If Mr. Kay will re-examine human history, he will find examples. Man will always prefer evolution without violence to evolution with bloodshed. Recourse to violence occurs only where there is no remedy. Twenty-five years of personal, totalitarian dictatorship would appear to underline the idea that there is no other remedy.

Everyone in Spain is looking to the Common Market. A truth indeed. Some want the Common Market, as they want the American bases, to help consolidate the Franco regime. Others want the Common Market because it would offer entry for Spain into Europe, with all the advantages which such a move would promise, just as they are prepared to accept the American bases in order that Spain might join the Atlantic Treaty as a natural consequence of the solidarity of Western democracy.

Mr. Kay says that there is an element in Spain which hopes for the disappearance of the Franco regime and its replacement by a democratic regime. This, too, is true. Those who belong to this fraction include men who fought the war under Republican flags, with their sons and their grandsons; as do also a very considerable number of those who fought under General Franco, on the admission of Senor Ridruejo, one of the composers of the Hymn of the Falange Espanola.

Only one thing is lacking in Mr. Kay's assertion on this point: that this fraction consists of the vast majority of Spaniards. That is why Franco will not consult it in free elections.

Mr. Kay says that the youth of Spain is becoming impatient with the monolithic nature of the regime. Such impatience is, perhaps, a poor reflexion of the realities. On December 12th there was heard at San Sebastian Assizes a case against a priest, Father Echaniz, who was charged

CATHOLIC HERALD
67, Fleet Street
London E.C. 4

4 January 1968

Dear Mr. de Irujo:

Thank you for your letter concerning our articles on Spain. I would be quite happy to publish your views but I would be very grateful if you could present them in a more informative and factual way. I think that the first page of your original letter is entirely irrelevant. I would be inclined to start with page 2 but here I would like you to be more precise in the facts that you present. In particular, I am referring to the court case concerning Fr. Echaniz. I would be interested to know what the 18 men you mention were charged with at the military tribunal. I would also like you to verify that the priest's trial was ^{at} the San Sebastian Assizes. According to our information, priests do not go before Assize courts unless on the most grave charges.

You make rather general statements -such as, that the "vast majority of Spaniards" oppose General Franco- but give no supporting evidence for making them. If you could be more specific about the statements you make, I would be very glad to publish a letter from you. I am enclosing your letter for your reference if necessary.

Yours sincerely,

Desmond Fisher
(signed)
Editor

Mr. Manuel de Irujo
Basque Delegation
39 Victoria Street
London SW 1

* * * * *

London 7th January, 1968

The Editor "CATHOLIC HERALD"
67, Fleet Street
London EC 4

Sir,

You were good enough recently to publish a letter of mine in which I commented on the first articles about Spain by Mr. Kay. I should now ^{like} like to make some observations on some of the later articles in the series.

The functionaries of General Franco's Government told Mr. Kay that Jose Maria Gil Robles and Dionisio Ridruejo are not Communists. They told him the truth. If only all else that the good functionaries of General Franco's Government told had been as true as this. And yet the truth told by them was only a half-truth. Let me tell ^{Mr.} Mr. Kay the other half of the truth. Gil Robles and Ridruejo, like the vast majority of all democrats, are more anti-Communist than they are anti-Franco.

Mr. Kay has deplored the tendency in General Franco's Government to call everyone who is a democrat, a Communist. The observation is correct, but not complete, either. To complete it one must bear in mind that the Government of General Franco and Communism have a common slogan: "Franquism or Communism". Each of them exploits the slogan from its own angle. But it remains a fact that both exploit it. Between them they establish the pendular system of political polarisation by virtue of which the intermediate situations tend to be attracted to one of the extremes. Thus the most efficacious propaganda of Communism lies in the continuation of the Franco regime.

Next best in the propaganda aid to Communism is that provided by North American policy. The American bases in Spain have made more Communists than Stalin and Khrushchev together. None of us who lived in these islands during World War II has forgotten the introduction made by Churchill of the new allies of democracy the Soviet Russians under Stalin. My friends are the enemies of ^{Mr} will not need to make any great effort to accept that this way of thinking is not exclusive to Mr. Churchill. If he has any doubts on this score, I would advise him to consider his doubts as the outcome of bad thinking.

In studying the danger of Communism in Spain, as is the case in the study of most other Spanish problems, foreigners are too much given to making for Madrid, as if Madrid reflected the rest of Spain. It doesn't. The people of Galicia and Catalonia, the Basques and the Castellians differ as much between themselves as the Scots, the Irish, the Swedes, the Dutch and the French. Like all others who approach these problems of Spain Mr. Kay should always remember that the possibility of Communist penetration in Spain is in inverse ratio to the personal quality of the country. Thus, for example, to think that Communism can draw on a vast following in Catalonia or the Basque Country is to dwell in the realm of imagination. The quality of the people is the best protection against Communism.

Franco has revoked the autonomous statutes of Catalonia and the Basque country. He has thrown into the wastepaper basket the results of the plebiscite in Galicia; he has forbidden the examination of the results of those held in Aragon, Valencia and Andalucia. And yet, every autonomous statute in Spain is an antidote to Communism, a much stronger one than any number of armoured divisions or nuclear warfare units.

One of the advantages which democracy has over the regime of General Franco is this: that democracy and autonomy, in substance, mean the same thing in Spain, where democrats would extend the Rights of Man to individuals and to peoples. Only one problem would arise: the limit to which political autonomy might stretch. The principle of autonomy itself would never be in doubt in such a democracy. The policy of the Franco regime, on the other hand, tends to cause renascent movements among the different peoples to become separatist and inclined towards direct, revolutionary action. This is, perhaps, the surest way of helping Communist designs.

MY ENEMIES;
MY ENEMIES
ARE THE FRIENDS
OF MY ENEMIES.
MR KAY ----

To mention Jose Luis Aranguren as one the elements of philosophic opposition to the regime is accurate. To cite Ruiz Gimenez, a former Minister, in the same category is arguable, though not wholly outrageous. But I hope that Mr. Kay will forgive me if I say that the name Martin Artajo as an opponent of the regime is nonsensical. I myself had to reply, in the Jesuit periodical "America", to a propaganda article written by Martin Artajo in which the truth had been manifestly turned inside out. That article was written in the cause of the Franco regime.

There was a reply to my own article in the same review, not by Martin Artajo, but from the same chair, by the current Minister of Information, Senor Fraga Iribarne, who seems to be most admirable to Mr. Kay. It can be said for Martin Artajo that he always had ~~A~~ certain respect for his own signature. On this particular instance the same thing cannot be said for Fraga Iribarne, as will be appreciated by reading his article.

Ten per cent of the population of Spain is the proportion allowed to the aggregate of Socialists, Anarchists, Communists and "Castrists". Mr. Kay will, perhaps, permit me to ask where the key for this calculation was found. One could say how many socialists there were in Spain in 1933, because they voted freely at the elections. But is there today any observer capable of establishing how many Socialists there are in Spain now?

Why, too, heap together Socialists, Anarchists, Communists ~~and~~ "Castrists"? The Socialists are Social-Democrats and of the West. The Anarchists are above all, anti-Communists. The Socialists are not theoretically dedicated to direct action; the Anarchists are. The former seek socialization of the economy; the latter, syndicalization. The only thing the Communists want is to be at the command of Russia.

In the specific order of things, what have these organisations in common, that the Catholic weekly in question should lump them together, as if they belonged to the same mass? By what right would anyone seek to measure by the same standard Messrs. Churchill, Roosevelt, and Stalin, merely because all three were in conflict with Hitler?

There are a number of other points in Mr. Kay's articles which call for comment. Perhaps you will allow me to deal with them on some other occasion.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

Manuel de Irujo

* * * * *

CATHOLIC HERALD
67, Fleet Street
London E.C. 4

8 January, 1968

Dear Mr. de Irujo,

I have already returned your first letter in which you comment on Hugh Kay's articles on Spain. Yesterday I received a second letter which

opens with the sentence thanking us for publishing your first one. I should just like to stress again that I would like you to re-write the first letter and I will hold the second one for the moment, although I feel that it is also far too long and verbose.

I would indeed be grateful if you could condense all your criticism into one short letter which would be more to the point than the correspondence I have received so far.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely

Desmond Fisher
Editor

* * * * *

12th January, 1963

The Editor "CATHOLIC HERALD"
87, Fleet Street
London E.C. 4

Sir,

I should like, if I may, to make some further comments on the series of articles about Franco's Spain which appeared recently in your periodical.

Mr. Kay has given an exact account of the explanation given by the Franco Government of the telegram despatched by Cardinal Montini in his bid to save the life of a terrorist charged with placing a bomb in a public square. A Catholic newspaper may, perhaps, wish to have the Cardinal's own explanation.

The Cardinal sought to save a human life and succeeded in doing so at the cost of Castiella, the Foreign Minister, saying of him that he had burnt his fingers. Some light may, perhaps, be thrown on the affair by the quip which gained currency in the lobbies of the Vatican Council about the telegram and its effects. Some Roman humorist declared that Cardinals could be divided into two classes: the "ultramontani" and the "ultramontini". The first category consists of the supporters of the Inquisition in any of its forms, and the second of the liberals, who, in trying to save human life, are quite capable of burning their fingers.

That the intellectuals and the workers are desirous of enjoying more liberty is a fact well observed by Mr. Kay. I must, however, say that I am made to marvel at some of the points in Mr. Kay's ample work. He has written at length about the Civil War and its consequences. But it does not seem to occur to him at any time to give a thought to this first principle: whether the War was a just war. If it was not a just war, everything connected with its precipitation and its prosecution was a sin. I know of not one single theologian of consequence who, on setting out to study a situation arising from a war, does not ask himself that first question. That the problem should be spoofed by anyone

directly or indirectly linked with the Franco Regime is perfectly natural. But this cannot, surely, be the attitude adopted by a British Catholic weekly.

To assert, as Mr. Kay does, that the judiciary in a totalitarian regime enjoys absolute independence in making judgments, seems to me to be as rash as the erection of a horizontal infrastructure within a vertical totalitarian system: the hope, as the paper has it, for tomorrow.

Every Spanish judge had instructions to treat as rebels in the Civil War precisely those who were not rebels. This instruction has been enforced to the letter, and it has cost the lives of thousands of men before firing squads. Much imagination is needed to regard as independent judges who swallow a windmill without choking.

If one of them should dare to think for himself and resolve the problem of conscience for himself, as did Sr. Sanchez Movellan, President of the Victoria Court, he would find himself, as this truly independent judge did, removed from the bench. In this case it was merely a matter of not having sentenced a number of strikers as the Government would have wished him to have done.

Has the Press full freedom to report and discuss everything and anything? What Mr. Kay really means to say is that, despite this freedom of which he writes, the climate is such as to discourage publication of anything which might upset the Government. It seems all the same to me. Don Nemesio Echeandia, a priest from the province of Guipuzcoa, has just been sentenced to six months and one day's imprisonment in the first division because he dared to denounce the torture to which prisoners had been subjected. The trial was followed with great interest by the clergy, by intellectuals and by workers. Curiously enough, it is the Press which has betrayed no interest in the matter.

Not one line was given to the many and highly significant incidents connected with it.

Mr. Kay publishes figures given to him by General Franco's Minister of Justice: 1,350 political prisoners; 450 strikers detained; and three prominent persons subjected to sanctions for attending the Munich meeting. It is a great pity that he does not add the number of persons deported in connexion with the strikes. For if they are in fact so very few, how could publication of the data possibly injure General Franco's Government. It is not, of course, the responsibility of Mr. Kay that the Minister might have told him this or that. But it might perhaps, be prudent, once again, to verify the figures by other than official processes before quoting them. I shall refer here to only one of the groups mentioned; the three men punished for having gone to Munich. Following publication of the articles in the "Catholic Herald", Senores Casals, Prieto, Pons, Cervero and Navarro have been amnestied from their deportation to the Canary Islands. Deportees still in the Canaries are Senores Satrustegui, Alvarez Miranda, Miralles and Barros de Lis. In Switzerland, France, Belgium, Luxemburg and Mexico are to be found Senores Gil Robles, Riárvejo, Prados Arrarte, Infante, Cembrero, Baeza, Alonso, Ventura, Suarez, Carreno,

ff
Ruis, Navarro, Fernandez Castro and Martin Zaro. Mr. Kay will see how effectively the Minister pulled his leg and caused the readers of the Catholic Herald to be ill-informed.

General Franco has declared his intention to install Don Juan Carlos de Borbon on the Throne, Mr. Kay says. Unless Franco himself told Mr. Kay, we know nothing of this declared intention; no trace of such statement is to be found in the records. If, in fact, Franco has said anything at all, it was wholly to the contrary.

That the position of Protestants in Spain will change, is self-evident. It will change when the regime changes, because democracy will give honest application to the Rights of Man.

Mr. Kay is not very fair with the Basque clergy. He must allow me to say so. He is, moreover, badly informed. It is not true that the statement of the 339 Basque priests was inspired by the Vitoria seminary. More than eighty per cent of the signatures belong to the dioceses of Bilbao and San Sebastian; and only twenty per cent to the dioceses of Vitoria and Pamplona. Someone must have told Mr. Kay something about the Vitoria Seminary before the division was made of dioceses. At the present time every diocese has its own seminary, and often two.

It is not true that the priests' signatures were illegible. The Bishops were so well able to read them that they summoned the signatories to appear before their Court to ask them their reasons for signing the document. Let Mr. Kay note the 74 transfers imposed by the Bishop of Bilbao on 74 of his priests. There is no reason to doubt that the Bishop of Bilbao had any difficulty in reading the signatures. Nor is there any element of doubt about the transfers. They have been notified in the Official Bulletin of the Bishopric. I don't suppose that anyone will begin to think that the priests who were punished suffered on account of having repudiated their signatures.

It is obvious that the Basque priests live in contact with the people. That the corporeal feeling of the Basque country acts within them, is not in doubt. That these priests maintain contact with the entire population of the Basque country, without distinction of creed or religious favour, honours them; their conduct obeys the instructions of Pope John XXIII; and it is a practise to which Mons. Heenan, Archbishop of Liverpool, referred in his famous Pastoral Letter when he asked Catholics to unite with those not of the faith to work for the well-being of the community as a whole, in social services, in trade unions and in political parties, wherever Catholics might set an example of communal policy.

But why does Mr. Kay call them separatists? What would French-speaking Canadians think of the "Catholic Herald" if your newspaper should attack its clergy because they live in close communion with their people, as much French-speaking as the clergy? And what does he think that our clergy and all Basques will think of the "Catholic Herald" in the columns of which it was asserted that Gaernica had been burned down by the Basques and which has not yet had time to rectify that piece of mendacious propaganda by General Franco?

I am, Sir, Yours faithfully
Manuel de Irujo

The Editor "CATHOLIC HERALD"
87, Fleet Street
London E.C. 4

Sir,

I have written to you a number of letters setting out in exten-
so my comments on Mr. Hugh Kay's series of articles on Franco's Spain,
and I am now taking up your invitation to submit my points in condensed
form.

The evolution of any totalitarian autocracy such as that in
Spain cannot be exchanged for democracy unless the autocracy ceases to
exist.

The substitution of General Franco by the Count of Barcelona in
such a way that, to quote General Franco himself, "the Movement shall
follow the Movement", resolves nothing.

With the notable exception of the Communists, everyone in Spain
wants the country to join the Common Market. The democrats want the na-
tion to enter this European movement; the Franquists hope that the regime
itself should join, so that it could continue to impose itself on the
country with the full support of Europe.

^{IF THE}
If the Spanish people enjoyed any freedom, the vast majority
would vote for a democracy.

To deny to Spain her ability to follow the paths of democracy
which are being opened to African negroes only recently emerged from the
jungle, is an extraordinary contradiction.

No Tribunals of Justice can be independent under any autocratic
regime, and this is, of course, the case in Spain. The fact that thousands
of court sentences on grounds of military rebellion have been visited on
those who did not rebel against the Government of the Republic is unde-
niable in good faith. Spanish judges and magistrates are, for the most
part, both competent and honest. Such litigation as is not influenced by
the regime, produces fair judgment. In cases where the regime is inte-
rested, this interest dictates the finding and sentence.

Freedom of the Press exists only in such matters as suit the
Government. On 12 December last a case was heard in San Sebastian against
the Basque priest, Don Nemesio Echaniz, because he had addressed to the
Governor a protest against tortures and other excesses against prisoners.
Hundreds of priests sought to attend the hearing of the case; but it
was heard behind closed doors, with a considerable cordon of police ensu-
ring isolation and secrecy. Spain is the only country in the world in
which the Police are mobilised against priests. Senor Echaniz was senten-
sed to imprisonment for six months and one day and a fine of 2,500 pese-
tas. Everybody in San Sebastian knew and took notice of it -with the
exception of the Press. Such is the freedom of the Press in Spain.

Colonel Eymar, chief of the Brigade which specialises in the application of tortures, and instructing judge with jurisdiction throughout Spain, took eighteen young Basques to Madrid as prisoners. The Court Martial against them opened on 31 December and was adjourned on the same day for further hearing on 11 January, when Mr. Ernest Davies, representing the Parliamentary Labour Party, and other foreign observers arrived in Madrid. No mention of this was made in the Press. Such is the freedom of the Press in Spain as echoed in the "Catholic Herald".

Striking one of the Rights of Man, is a crime against "Public Order" in Spain; it is "Sedition" or "Rebellion", as the Government may decide, a crime punished with as many years' imprisonment as the Government itself may decide: anything between thirty days and thirty years. I have cited the relevant statutes in my earlier letter. I cannot be more concise.

The Spanish democrats who oppose General Franco and his regime - Christian democrats, Socialists, Republicans, Liberals and Autonomists - are as much anti-Communist as anti-Franquist. This character is clearly shown by the Government of the Republic and the autonomous Government of Catalonia and Euzkadi (the Basque Country), the Union of Democratic Forces, the Syndical Alliance, and the Spanish Federal Council of the European Movement, which organised the well-known Munich congress. The efficacy of these Institutions and organisms may be open to question, but their character is not to be held in doubt.

The renascent Movements which are generally referred to in Spain as "Regionalist", and which Catalans, Galicians, and Basques term "Nationalist", constitute a democratic, anti-Franquist and anti-Communist front, a fact which appears not to have been appreciated by the "Catholic Herald".

Sr. Fraga Iribarne has surprised people who don't know him. Today he surprises only those who want to be surprised. He thought that he had managed to persuade the International Commission of Jurists not to publish its findings on Spain. He failed in this effort. That is all.

Mr. Kay has chosen to enter the lists in support of the Government of General Franco to say of the report of the International Commission of Jurists, that it is "inopportune". We are more interested in it being "true" than "opportune". We prefer to be regarded as importunate believers in the truth than opportunist liars. The report in question tells the truth. It is possible that Mr. Kay did not consider it "opportune" to call Trujillo an indecent tyrant when he was at the apogee of his power and when certain prelates visited his country and enjoyed his favour for pious ends. But surely and in truth, he should have been termed an indecent tyrant in those days no less than today.

It is not true that the manifesto of the 339 Basque priests carried illegible signatures; that the signatories made amends; and that the whole thing was elaborated in the seminary of Vitoria. The priests in question came from the four Basque dioceses, most of them from those of Bilbao and San Sebastian. In their statement the Basque priests honour their status

and that of the Basque people equally. In all humility, but with complete integrity, all the priests from the diocese of Vitoria confirmed this to their bishop when called by the diocesan tribunal to give a reason for their signatures.

Mr. Kay ends by saying that a single ten-minute interview on television with Sr. Castiella, the Spanish Foreign Minister, would transform the image of Spain which is held in Britain. The experiment could be made more complete by reading out some paragraphs of his work, "Reivindicaciones de Espana", dated on the day of the armistice imposed by Hitler on France, in which Sr. Castiella says of democracy in general, of Britain, France and the United States in particular, that they were lying "at the feet of the onrushing horses".

I am, Sir,
Yours faithfully

Manuel de Irujo

* * * * *

To the Editor
CATHOLIC HERALD
67 Fleet Street
London EC 4

Sir,

I have read in your periodical a series of articles on Spain written by a Mr. Kay.

I am a priest and am not, therefore, concerned with author's political assessments. But I do feel in duty bound to correct some of the errors which he has made in his references to the Basque clergy who, in the course of May 1960, addressed a statement to their respective Bishops:

1. The statement was not drawn up at the Seminary in Vitoria. This Seminary is not a separatist centre. The Bishop of Vitoria would not permit this or any other political bias. Not one of the Basque priest who signed the statement belong to the Seminary. Certainly there was a book written by three priests which was published with the permission of the Bishop and which was seized by the Police of the Franco regime. It was on the subject of economics, and it referred to the stabilisation plan. This fact of itself is evidence of the lack of freedom of expression in Spain even in such matters as publications authorised by the ecclesiastical hierarchy.
2. The list of priests who signed the statement was not illegible. If proof of this be required, one need only recall that the statement and the signatures were delivered to the Bishops in person by a number of secular clergy

and religious. Father Zubiaga, SJ. made the delivery to the Bishop of San Sebastian; Father Querejeta, presbyter, to the Bishop of Bilbao.

3. The priests who signed the statement do not subscribe to any separatist declaration in the text. They do denounce the absence of civil liberties in Spain; the intervention of the Executive Power in matters of justice, the unjust nature of penal legislation, and the use of torture as an instrument of Police investigation. They add that the Basque people have become victims of genocide, a fact which has been given historical demonstration. They affirm cultural rights in the face of the State. Not one of these propositions is of a separatist character.

I am, Sir,

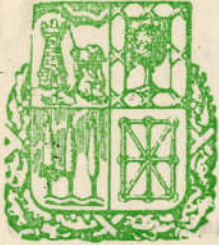
Yours faithfully,

Ignacio de Aspiazu
Priest of the Diocese of Vitoria

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The Voice of the Basques

1.st. Year - Number 9

Basque Delegations

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NEWS FROM THE BASQUE COUNTRY

LESS HOLIDAYMAKERS, MORE TOURISTS

San Sebastian (OPE).- The general trend in recent years in the pattern of visitors to this resort was again followed this year: a decrease in the number of Spanish holidaymakers and an increase in the number of foreign tourists.

It is estimated that four times as many tourists came here last summer as in the previous year; and that they spent four times as much money. Some 50.000 foreign exchange operations were recorded in the course of which foreign currencies to the value of 420 million pesetas were exchanged, against 160 million pesetas in the previous year.

The most numerous foreign visitors here are the French, but the English stay longer. Of three thousand persons who stayed at one of the principal

hotel last summer, ninety per cent were foreign: English, French and American. Only three groups were long-term residents: the German Embassy staff, personnel from the American base, and the family of Jorge Antonio, an Argentine millionaire.

THREE YEARS GAOL FOR REMOVING A PICTURE

Bilbao, (OPE).- The State prosecutor is demanding a sentence of three years' imprisonment for "grievous outrage upon the Head of State", a charge levelled against an eighteen-year-old Basque, Ramon de Arrarte.

The charge arises from an incident which occurred on 6 August during a joint cultural performance by the "Txinpartak" group and the Bermeo Orpheum held a school in Forua. In the school cloakroom there was a portrait of Franco, and someone took it down from its place of pride. The fact was promptly reported by the Mayor and the schoolmaster, and the Civil Guard proceeded to arrest five men from Bermeo who were thought to have been responsible.

Ramon Arrarte, who had returned to Bilbao, on hearing of the arrests, immediately reported to the small Police post in the Calle de Castaños and there confessed that it was he who was responsible for taking the picture down; he claimed, however, not to know its whereabouts now.

After being imprisoned in Guernica for a fortnight, Arrarte was returned to Bilbao and imprisoned at Larrinaga gaol, where he is still held. Although he is being prosecuted by the State, he has also been fined 25,000 pesetas by the Civil Governor.

The portrait has been recovered. A close examination by experts has revealed no damage either to the portrait of Franco or the glass which protected it. The experts say that there are two stains which "were not caused by any act of violence."

Arrarte has two brothers who are students and who are living in exile in France. His father was a Bilbao municipality engineer before resigning the post when the Franco regimen took control of Spain. These facts appear to have had some influence on the prosecutor's appreciation of the case against Arrarte, which has been classified as urgent. It is expected to be heard so on at Bilbao Assizes.

ONE YEARS' S IMPRISONMENT WITHOUT TRIAL

San Sebastian. (OPE).- Emilio Agote and Jose Gereca, who had been imprisoned here for whole year without trial, have now been freed. At no time were they brought before any court. They had been arrested in mid-August 1960, allegedly on the circulation of which had not been authorised.

A recent visitor to San Sebastian, the purpose of whose journey has not been established, was the notorious Colonel Eymar, a "Special Judge" with jurisdiction throughout Spain who intervenes in all cases concerned with offences against the security of the State.

It is not yet known whether the Captain-General of Madrid has confirmed the sentences passed on the seven Basque Nationalistes. Nor is there any information as to the dates of the hearing of the cases against the other twenty-four accused who remain in Carabanchel prison.

SHOOTINGS IN IRUÑA

Pamplona. (OPE).- The local newspaper, "El Pensamiento Navarro" continues to publish extracts from its pages of twenty-five years ago. A recent sample:

"Selected elements of the Popular Front were brought to Pamplona, among them the former Civil Governor of Zaragoza, Vera Coronel; the former Director-General of Security, Don Arturo Menendez; the former Civil Governor of Asturias, Sr. Bosque; Lieutenant-Colonel Penado. Major Reig and Captain Del Campo. All were lodged at San Cristobal Fort."

But this Carlist newspaper does not say what was done with them, although everyone in Pamplona knows that the Director-General of Security, at least, was executed by a firing squad.

A MEDIAEVAL SMITHY

Bilbao. (OPE).- The local Press has been drawing attention to the future of the blacksmith's shop of El Poval, in Somorrostro, on the ground floor of the birth place of Antonio de Trueba, the famous Basque author. This smithy, probably the last of its kind using the tools and methods of the Middle Ages, is threatened with ruination or engulfment in a projected reservoir scheme.

BASQUE RUNNERS DEFEAT GORDON PIRIE

San Sebastian. (OPE).- Before eight thousand spectators in the bullring here, a 10,000 metres challenge race between Gordon Pirie and a pair of "korrikalaris" (professional runners), Miguel Aldaz and Juan Cruz Azpiroz, also known professionally as "Chiquito de Arruiz", was won by the two Basques. The race involved one hundred circuits of a one hundred-metre circular track round the ring, with the Basques running in relay against Pirie.

Gordon Pirie, who is thirty years old, is 1,80 m tall and weighs 68 kilos; he is a veteran of some six hundred races and has been paid one hundred pounds per race (16,000 pesetas) in Sweden. He holds the world record for 3,000 metres (7 min 52 8/10 sec); he is a former holder of the 5,000 metres record (13 min 16 3/10 sec); and in Rome he covered 10,000 metres in 29 min 25 2/10 seconds, a time which he was expected to equal, at least, in this San Sebastian race.

Aldaz, who comes from Urnieta and is 32 years old, is 1,60 m tall and weighs 52 kilos; he won distinction in this first professional race nine years ago by covering 8,000 metres in some 27 minutes. The same distance was covered by Azpiroz

who comes from Navarra, in his first professional race in 28 minutes; he is 32 years old, is 1.73 m tall and weighs 65 kilos.

Before the race the odds were two to one on the Basque pair, but later they moved to 100 to 80, and at the outset of the race, to evens. For the first half of the race, "Chiquito de Arruiz" ran against Pirie.

They covered the first kilometre in the same time (2 min 53 sec), but "Chiquito" lost the lead at two kilometres, with a time of 5 min 55 $\frac{2}{5}$ sec against the Englishman's 5 min 53 $\frac{1}{5}$ sec. Pirie (8 min 55 sec) was still leading "Chiquito" (8 min 59 $\frac{2}{5}$ sec) at the three kilometres mark. The advantage remained with Pirie at four kilometres, which he covered in 12 min 0 $\frac{2}{5}$ sec against "Chiquito's" 12 min 4 $\frac{2}{5}$ sec; but the Navarran put on the pressure in the fifth kilometre and gained a two-second lead over the Englishman. Times at the five-kilometre mark: Gordon Pirie, 15 min 11 $\frac{1}{5}$ sec; Azpiroz ("Chiquito"), 15 min 9 $\frac{1}{5}$ sec.

"Chiquito" covered the last two hundred metres of the five kilometres with Aldaz running beside him for the takeover. Aldaz thus started on his half of the race against Pirie with a lead over the Englishman which he held to the end of the race, while the betting moved in favour of the Basque pair with final odds of 100 to 15 on.

Times recorded in the last half of the race were:-

Sixth kilometre:	Aldaz 18' 6 $\frac{2}{5}$ ";
	Pirie 18' 19 $\frac{4}{5}$ "
Seventh kilometre:	Aldaz 21' 17";
	Pirie 21' 30 $\frac{4}{5}$ "
Eight kilometre:	Aldaz 24' 29 $\frac{2}{5}$ ";
	Pirie 24' 45"
Ninth kilometre:	Aldaz 27' 42 $\frac{4}{5}$ ";
	Pirie 28' 2 $\frac{4}{5}$ "
Tenth kilometre:	Aldaz 31' 7 $\frac{1}{5}$ ";
	Pirie 31' 22 $\frac{2}{5}$ ".

Thus the "korrikalaris" won by fifteen seconds, although they failed to beat Pirie's record of 28 min 15 sec. while Pirie himself succeeded in beating Arruiz's best time of 31 min 39 sec.

Pirie's failure to react, as he had been popularly expected to, to Aldaz's slight lead on take-over, is attributed to his lack of experience in small-circle running; all his running had been carried out in Lasarte, and not in the ring here. The Basques were relatively fresh on completing their respective legs of the race, but Pirie was on the point of collapse as he crossed the finishing line. He complained of pains in his left leg, on which his whole weight had been forced during the race round small circle; he also felt giddy and rather sick after the hundred tight turns he had made. His adversaries had each run only fifty laps and were, moreover, accustomed to running on these bull-ring tracks. Pirie has stated that he will not run again against a pair of adversaries.

The promoter, Sr. Oyarzabal, whose brother, a priest, recited the Angelus before the race started, paid Pirie £/ 1,200; Pirie was also expected to draw fees from the French and British television services.

A MILLION FOR AN IDEA

Bilbao. (OPE).- The General Council of Bilbao has announced details of an international competition for the urbanization of the valley of Asua. The terrain in question covers 400 hectares with a population capacity of 150,000 inhabitants.

The zone adjoins Sondica airport and is linked with Bilbao by the Archan da tunnel. Closing date for submission of plans is 1 April next. First prize, for the winning plans, will be 1,000,000 pesetas; second prize is 500,000 pesetas; and there are two "consolation" prizes of 100,000 pesetas each.

A CHAMPION'S FAREWELL

Bilbao. (OPE).- Florencio Sarasua, a stone-weightlifter better known as "Chiquito de Mallavia", made his public farewell appearance with two notable performances:

He lifted onto his shoulder a rectangular stone weighing 175 kilos (385.875 lbs) in 19 seconds and repeated the feat after 1 minute 53 seconds; and

He lifted a cylindrical stone weighing 151 kilos (332.955 lbs) ten times in four minutes.

Stone-lifting is, with competition woodcutting, a traditional Basque village sport.

TUNNY BOATS LEAVE FOR DAKAR

Bilbao. (OPE).- The Basque tunny-fishing fleet has sailed for West Africa for the season's catch in the Dakar area. Sixteen boats are involved, three of them from Lequeitio and thirteen from Bermeo.

The vessels were due to call at the Canary Islands to revictual and refuel before moving on to the fishing grounds. The vessels will be based on Freetown (Sierra Leone) until January, when they move to Abidjan (Ivory Coast).

On the morning of departure the crews, consisting of some 350 men altogether, attended Mass at the Franciscan church in Bermeo, which is sending two of its priests, Father Manuel de Berriatua, and Brother Alberto Aurrecoechea, with the expedition. They have both accompanied previous expeditions.

The campaign is expected to last three months. The firm whose contract the fleet will be fulfilling is the same as that involved in last year's expedition, but the terms this occasion are said to be better.

EXPERIMENTAL REACTOR IN BILBAO

Bilbao, (OPE).- An experimental nuclear reactor known as "Argonaut" will come into operation in Bilbao early next year. It is being installed in the laboratories of the Industrial Research and Investigation organization.

The reactor will be used for training purposes, for investigation work and also, on a more practical plane, for the production of short-term radioactive isotopes to be used, for therapeutic purposes at the Basurto Hospital.

A new computer, or so-called electronic brain, is also to be installed in the laboratories. Its purpose is to help students at the School of Engineering to make calculations and other operations. It will also be at the disposal of Basque industries in general, which should obtain valuable assistance from the computer.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY AND THE BASQUE SAILORS

New York. (OPE).- The "New York Herald" has published a despatch from Biarritz in which it states that John F. Kennedy, an ex-officer of the Navy, resident in Washington, is "as of this day" Honorary President of a Club of Navy veterans. The members of this club belong to the Basque region of the Southwest of France and they normally meet every week in Biarritz.

The newspaper says that at one such meeting a member, Jean Etcheverry, recalled a young officer of the Navy whom he had known in the Pacific who was later to be appointed President of the United States. He wrote to him, asking whether he would accept the presidency of the club, and he had recently received a communication from the White House in the following terms:

"President Kennedy has asked me to reply to your letter. He is honoured by the request that he agree to become Honorary President of your Club of Navy Veterans. He has asked me to inform you that, with much regret, he must refuse the invitations, as he is unable to accept it as President of the United States. Nevertheless, as a former Navy officer, he accepts with great pleasure."

A CONCENTRATION CAMP FORGOTTEN ?

San Sebastian. (OPE).- The pro-Franco newspaper, "La Voz de España", reporting the award to Paul Fagoaga in Sara (Basses Pyrenées) of the Legion d'Honneur, writes:

"The highly prized award is made by virtue of the fact that during the German occupation of France, Fagoaga, a local man with a considerable knowledge of all the smugglers' paths, organised the flight of French patriots who, in those desperate days, wished to come to Spain to take advantage of our traditional hospitality."

The Falangista newspaper does not go on to say where the refugees found the traditional hospitality. It was at the Miranda concentration camp (well-known to RAF escapees and to thousands of less fortunate men and women denied consular intervention in Spain); at the notorious Figueras prison; and other similar enclosures so well known to De Gaullists at the time when Fernando Castiella, today Franco's Foreign Minister, was an officer in Franco's Blue Division fighting alongside the Germans against the Allies.

NEWS ITEMS

The first taxis to run on butane gas have made their appearance in Bilbao. Since butane is a cheaper fuel than petrol, it is expected that fares will be lowered.

--"The Radio Nacional in San Sebastian", which is known also as the "Cantabrian Transmitter", has come into operation. The transmitter is at Jaizkibel, near Fuerte Enrique, at an altitude of 540 metres.

--The periodical "El Economista" states that it is difficult in Bilbao to find non-specialist workers drawing less than 150 pesetas for a ten-hour day.

--A young Navarran girl, Mari Cruz Ayerza, who has been an orphan since the age of 14, leapt into the bullring at Morazarzal while a fight was in progress and took on a bullfighter's role. She had done the same thing previously at the Alcobendas bullring. She is determined, she says to become a bullfighter, and all the indications are that she will succeed in this ambition.

--Eight young Basque girls left for Barajas airport, near Madrid, on the first stages of a flight to Australia with sixty young Spanish girls who are going there to work in domestic service. To date 50 Basque girls altogether have emigrated to Australia. Many of them have been married there, their sweethearts having preceded them to work in Australia.

--After a special Mass at Ciboure said by the Bishop of Bayonne, 17 fishing vessels sailed from St. Jean de Luz for the Dakar area. As has been the practice in previous winter seasons, they will be engaged in catching tunny fish off the African coast.

OTHER ITEMS

FRANCO THE MIRACLE-WORKER

Madrid (From Our Correspondent).-- Quite a few days have passed since the Head of State made some speeches in series. One might have supposed that once the topical impact was lost, the papers here would change the record on their loudspeakers. Not so. An editorial in the newspaper "ABC", under the heading "Franco and Economic Intuition", has made it quite clear that this particular organ is determined to surpass itself as well as all other journals in its eulogies of the "Caudillo".

The leader writer began by saying that when it was still not possible to make any forecast on the economic future of the nation because the Civil War had not yet ended, "General Franco possessed enough intuition to give his sustained attention to these problems".

And as "ABC" says in the same editorial, it is a normal thing for Franco not to leave to chance or to improvisation "any decisive faculty". "Herein resides without doubt the success of all those successes of his which have in some cases touched on the verge of the miraculous or the supernatural".

Well, there goes the Miracle-Worker of El Ferrol and the Sentinel of the West...

"ABANDONED VILLAGES"

Madrid. (OPE).- An editorial in "Ya", an organ of the Regime, under the headline "Abandoned Villages", says in part:

"It is not for the first time that we have heard of a village which has been abandoned because its people can no longer live in it. We could quote precedents for such abandonments, but the news is always penetrating, however little imagination we may have to bring to bear upon the pathetic picture of a dead village; a village which has not died as a result of a natural physical calamity, but from the free decision of its inhabitants. A village, one might say, dead on its feet; emptied of all life; but, to all external appearances continuing as always until, slowly, time has done its work.

Because we are believers in traditional values and in the unquestionable links which it has with those material things which symbolize them, with home in which parents and grandparents lived and died, with the soil worked by many generations of forbears and cultivated in the hope of passing it on to one's own children, we are far from inclined to the idea that the abandonment be accepted as a measure of a general character. Certainly we cannot conceive that there is any easy way to resolve otherwise the problem of many wretched little villages with populations under one thousand; yet, on the other hand, we feel that the extreme step to which we refer should be reserved only for extreme cases in which it is manifestly impossible to reach any other solution. But even here, would it not be worthwhile to study the whole situation and anticipate the final dramatic decision of the villagers by offering some remedy -often, perhaps, advice to bring about a concentration in small localities nearby, thus making the break-up less painful and possibly more effective in the longer term."

The existence of sheer misery twenty-five years after the great Franco 'Crusade' is so obvious and manifest that 'Ya' has had to recognise the fact. Elsewhere in the same edition, the newspaper asks those enjoying power and prosperity to show generosity: "A coffee, a cigar, a little glass of something are more

highly appreciated than 'garbanzos' (the chick-pea; a staple of the poor) by those who have no possible hope of getting such after dinner luxuries."

THE ORATORY OF SUANZES AND THE REALITY OF THE SPANISH COUNTRYSIDE

Madrid. (OPE).- In a speech made in Burgos as one such item in the official cycle commemorating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the elevation of Franco to the Headship of State, Sr. Suanzes quoted figures which, being based on comparative dates (1940 and 1959) specially chosen for his purpose, permitted him to engage in glorious untruths. We would refer to his statements in claiming that total agricultural production had increased by 61 per cent. The wicked abuse of basing the comparison, not in the period of twenty-five years, which should have been used, but in nineteen years, has allowed Suanzes to deceive only a ninny.

For in the first week of last October the State had to announce that it is compelled to buy 1,050,000 metric quintals of wheat, 467,000 quintals of barley, 337,500 quintals of maize, and 65,000 pigs of between 60 and 80 kgs.. The terms have been announced and it has been stated that the pigs will come from Poland.

Twenty-five years ago the Spanish State did not have to buy any of these products except maize. The rest was produced in Spanish countryside.

THE THREE VOICES

Madrid. (OPE).- The weekly review of the Ministry of Commerce dealt in its 19 October issue - both in an editorial and in a report on the visit to Madrid of Mr. Huges, US Secretary of Commerce - with the Franco regime's "position" on trade and with the balance of payments.

The editorial stated that the European Common Market was in conflict with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). The contradiction consisted in that certain arithmetical sums could be calculated in several ways. (But the editorial does not say that the external duty tariffs of the Common Market will be progressively reduced, and that, therefore, discussion is centred on a transitory condition. Nor does the editorial say that Spain does as she pleases in the matter of duties. So that when they talk of waywardness, one simply cannot know to whom they are referring).

At the official banquet for Mr. Huges, the American Statesman said: "The United States has a serious deficit in its international balance of payments ... in 1960 this rose to 3,900 million dollars... The deficit arose despite a favourable export balance amounting to 4,700 million dollars. But this sum did not suffice to cover the enormous military expenditure in other countries, our economic help to a number of countries, and our investment abroad."

Ullastres, the Spanish Minister, said: "We are aware that we must all defend the dollar, which has become an international symbol."

Of these three voices, the first and the third do not appear to belong to the same musical score, for only an European Economic Community, of which the Common Market is only a part, can bring about a reduction of military expenditure, of American economic aid to a number of countries, and of investments abroad - the knotty points in the dollar situation.

GERMANS IN SPAIN AND SPANIARDS IN GERMANY

Barcelona. (OPE).- Martin Michelena writes as follows in the financial page of "La Vanguardia", the Barcelona daily newspaper:

"There is considerable interest in the authorisation which has been granted whereby the capital investment of companies may freely pass to foreign ownership up to the figure by consent of the Council of Ministers.

The German Investment Trust, better known by the initials ADIROPA, has begun to include Spanish properties in its portfolios and the tax-exemption agreed in Spain for loans abroad will have its first application in Switzerland..."

"The steel industry", the article says elsewhere, is again operating at full speed and now reports the shortage of skilled workers, many of whom went to Germany or other countries during the last two years of depression. Of course, one must respect personal liberties in that everyone may choose to pursue his life as he thinks fit, but it is a great pity that our country should lose such working potential. Even more regrettable is it to listen to young men at a Labour University who have been getting a splendid free training, when they proclaim their intention of going abroad as soon as they have completed their training."

"THE SPANISH TRAIN"

Madrid. (OPE).- Dr. Moralejo, Auxiliary Bishop of Valencia, who spent his holiday living among Spanish workers in Germany, has declared that the total of Spaniards now in Germany is 60,000. Twenty-two Spanish priests, he said, look to their spiritual welfare; there are also a number of Spanish social welfare workers of both sexes.

The iron and metals industries are those in which the greater number of Spanish workers are employed, with a total of some 23,000 so engaged. The majority of these Spaniards, to judge from their accents, would appear to be from Andalucia. Those displaying the greater technical skill are the from Cataluña, the Basque Country, Santander, Madrid, and Valencia.

Referring to "The Spanish Train", which arrives every Friday at 1.10 pm at the Deutz (Cologne) station, Mons. Gonzalez Moralejo says that he was especially impressed by the sight of it:

"Every week the scene is repeated. Every week an average of 500 to 600 emigrants from our country descend from train, their suitcases on their necks. Almost all are young, of both sexes, and not a few arrive with tears in their eyes."

THE SANDWICH STRIKE

Madrid. (OPE).- The bank employees of Madrid and Barcelona entered on their third day's "sandwich strike" to underline their objections to the new working hours established in the banking trade. The new hours of work are continuous: from 8.50 in the morning to five in the evening, with a thirty-one minutes break for a sandwich.

The break is one of exactly thirty-one minutes, and not one minute less; for if it were reduced by one minute to half-an-hour, the banks would be officially obliged to establish dining rooms for their staff. Some, incidentally, prefer to give their staff ten pesetas each and let them make their own arrangements.

The consequence of all this is that in Madrid one day bank employees, at a given time, invaded the left pavement of the Calle de Sevilla, formed up in a collective mound of food which went well beyond common sandwiches, and thereby monumentally obstructed all movement in the street.

Picturesque incidents were also recorded in Barcelona. As a result of the absence of any directive fixing particular times for the free sandwich break each establishment has adopted its own individual solution. Thus while the management of some banks have allowed their employees to eat their sandwiches in a place on the premises appointed for the purpose, no such arrangement has been made in others. When feeding time occurred at such establishment, the staff spilled out into the Paseo de Gracia, the Plaza de Cataluña and other such thoroughfares to enjoy an alfresco meal under the public gaze. In some cases the staffs spread tablecloths or newspaper on benches or even on pavements in order to improvise a table of sorts. Some persons have been luckier: the managements of some of the banks have fed their staffs splendidly with a cold buffet of distinction.

As soon as the thirty-one minutes are over, it should be recorded, the bank employees must resume work instantly.

BANK CLERKS LUNCH ON THE PAVEMENT

Paris. (OPE).- "France Soir" has given prominence to the following news item from Madrid:

"This is a scandal! They must give us time to eat!"

"Under the ironical gaze of those with nothing better to do, employees of Madrid's banks have been lunching on the pavements in protest against new working hours.

In response to the wish of the Government to modify working hours in Spain, Banks have instituted a new intensive working day beginning at 9 in the morning and ending at five in the afternoon. One provision of the Law was that if these enterprises did not grant their employees more than half-an-hour for lunch, they would have to provide them with lunch.

In order to avoid such inconvenience, the Banks have conceded their staffs a lunch break of thirty-one minutes, which keeps them just outside the legal requirement. The measure was not well received by the bank staffs who have for two days given public display to their discontent.

Since then banks have had to call in the Public Cleansing Department to clear their pavements of the remains of meals, empty food tins, papers, and other detritus wilfully left behind."

SCANDAL IN THE SPANISH INSTITUTE OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE

Paris. (OPE).- Under heavy headlines across four columns referring to "the embezzlement of eight thousand millions which is making Madrid's financiers tremble" "France-Soir" has published the following report with a Madrid dateline:

"High time that Justice should have intervened": this was the gist of the muttering among the many hundreds of persons queuing outside the Palace of Justice in Madrid while waiting for hours to watch and hear the greatest case of corruption and misapplication of funds which has taken place in Spain in the last twenty-five years.

The Deputy Director of the Spanish Institute of Foreign Exchange, don Federico Monsalve, together with his brother Paulino and nine "businessmen" friends of theirs, have been charged with committing the most fantastic embezzlement of State funds involving one thousand million pesetas (more than eighty million new francs; that is, 8,000 million 'light' francs).

At the time when the Spanish Government bought dollars at a very low rate of exchange, the export enterprises of Sr. Monsalve's friends exported bitter fruits from the Canary Isles and other fruit from the Valencia region. They would then send false declaration forms to the Spanish Institute of Foreign Exchange, which paid them the equivalent monies.

The prosecutor has established forty-nine charges against the eleven accused, which suggests that the trial may last several months. Sentence of 24 years' imprisonment and the equivalent of 400,000 new francs by way of compensation is demanded for Federico

Monsalve. The lawyer of the civil party involved, in this case the Institute itself, is also asking for further compensation in the sum equivalent to 1,500.000 new francs.

Even though the Madrid Press has been given no authority by the censorship to print a single line about the case, the news has spread like wildfire.

And in certain financial circles where it is feared that the affair may develop new leads, the examination of records began immediately."

EMBEZZLER OF 18 MILLIONS IS SENTENCED

Madrid. (OPE).- After the story had been well known to the foreign Press for days, the Spanish Press finally received authority to publish details of the sentence passed on the former Director of the Spanish Institute of Foreign Exchange. The following statement was issued by the official CIFRE agency:

"The Third Section of the Madrid Provincial Court, which is informed about the proceedings taken over the irregularities committed by Don Federico Monsalve Flores and other functionaries of the Spanish Institute of Foreign Exchange, has directed, in one of the several indictments relating to his conduct when fulfilling the appointment he held in the service, that he is judged responsible as perpetrator of a crime of embezzlement of public funds in the quantity of 18,555,963 pesetas; guilty also of falsifying an official document; of a case of bribery. No circumstances have been found to mitigate criminal responsibility. He is sentenced on the first count to twelve years and one day of imprisonment in major degree, with absolute disqualification during the period of sentence; on the second count to six years' imprisonment with absolute disqualification during the term; and on the third count, to six years and one day's imprisonment in lesser degrees, a fine of 150.000 pesetas, with special disqualification from all public appointments and with a proportionate share of the costs of proceedings and the restitution of 4.746.620 pesetas to the Spanish State. The sentence carries with it a series of secondary punishments.

Apart from this concrete case which has already been heard, the Court is still engaged in other cases arising from the different indictments against Federico Monsalve Flores and others accused."

"WE ARE IN THE MIDST OF AN IDYLL", SAYS CASTIELLA

Paris. (OPE).- At a Press conference held at the Spanish Embassy here, Sr. Castiella, the Spanish Foreign Minister, expressed his great satisfaction with the

state of affairs in his particular province.

"The condition of normality for ourselves in the international centres of the world which I hoped for when I assumed responsibility for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has been virtually achieved in every terrain."

Questioned on his conversation with President De Gaulle, the Minister said with a smile: "We are in the midst of an idyll." We have not arrived at this state by any miracle, for the basis of our relations is firm; and it is firm because we have covered the path by gradual stages, by manifest effort, and with a display of goodwill on both sides."

Correspondents of Franco's official Press have given their own detailed account of the meeting between De Gaulle and Castiella in the following terms:

"When President De Gaulle learned of the visit to Paris of the Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs, Fernando Maria Castiella, he made certain diplomatic moves and, as a result, shortly before eleven o'clock today, our Minister, accompanied by the Ambassador, Conde de Motrico, presented himself at the Elysee Palace. In the President's ante-room the two Spanish officials met and greeted the German Minister Hallstein who, as is well-known, is at present head of the Common Market.

In the course of a conversation lasting half-an-hour, the tone of which was more direct and cordial than the usual protocol exchanges, the French President covered with his Spanish visitors and examination of the international situation, with special emphasis on matters connected with European integration, a matter very dear to De Gaulle. His "Europe of the Nations" does not weaken, but rather strengthens, to his way of thinking, the defence of Europe, which is so very essential.

He also spoke about friendly relations and the good neighbourliness which has improved so much between Spain and France, an advance which has not the situation who have their place in the framework of French politics.

It is known that General De Gaulle and Sr. Castiella reviewed not only Spanish-French relations, but also the international problems of our times, particularly all matters relating to Europe and European integration.

In this atmosphere of great cordiality General De Gaulle asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs to deliver an oral message to our Caudillo in which the French Chief of State makes it clear that the position of Franco and the Spanish regime has been a source of peace and social stability in the world, and particularly in Europe.

Two further points underline the esteem with which General De Gaulle treated our Minister of Foreign Affairs. The first was the length of the visit, which lasted more than half-an-hour (to be exact, from five minutes to eleven until twenty-seven minutes past eleven), when it is well known that General De Gaulle is usually sparing of the time he gives to audiences. The second point: at the end of the interview, and in final token of his cordiality, General De Gaulle accompanied Sr. Castiella to the very door of the Palace of the Elysee, where he bade him farewell."

WHEN THE CAUDILLO USED TO GAOL THE FRENCH
RESISTANCE MEN

Paris. (OPE).- M. Lucien Barnier, scientific correspondent of "Paris Presse" and Radio Luxemburg, recently contributed an article for his paper which received prominence under a four-column headline: "My Hunger-Strikes in Spanish Prisons".

M. Barnier wrote:

"July was slipping by. We had been in the Barcelona prison for seven months. With the agreement of our Senior Officer, Major (now General) Gambiez, our group of French prisoners decided to go on hunger strike in order to get some semblance of decent human treatment from the Spanish authorities. We maintained the hunger strike for a week and, finally, our conditions improved in that we were moved from the Castle of Montjuich to the concentration camp at Miranda del Ebro.

We got much pleasure out of our first day's hunger strike. We felt the joy of defying our guards and resisting the charms of the red soup cauldrons. Like my companions, I stood up for many hours. I drank a lot of water. We told each other stories, each man from his bed. I used to read. I remember nothing about the nights. Doubtless I slept well.

On the second day the smell of highly diluted Viandox soup gave me a sensation of appetite. But it had to be resisted. That was very painful."

After detailing his sensations each day of the hunger strike, Barnier ended:

"On the sixth day there were two sick men in the infirmary. I couldn't stand much more. I no longer even felt hunger. The situation became worse. A Spanish priest called to exhort us to eat. No-one agreed to do so. It was easier to refuse food on the sixth day than on the third. Instinctively one becomes frightened of eating, as if a mouthful of bread were something dangerous. One thinks of nothing else, as evening follows evening, than of fighting fatigue. Of the seventh day few memories remain with me. I recorded nothing in my diary. On the eighth day we won; and we had to surrender slowly to broth and 'yoghourt'. Not long afterwards, everything had gone back to normal."

THE POPE'S CONGRATULATIONS AND THE CARDINAL'S VALISE

Madrid. (From Our Own Correspondent).- Mons. Modrego Archbishop of Barcelona, has received congratulations from the Pope on the occasion of his episcopal silver jubilee. The Pontiff's letter was dated 4 September. To date there has been no mention of it in the Spanish lay Press. Why?

Three phrases in the letter made references to the Civil War. In none of them was the war entitled "The Crusade", a term which Franco apologisers employ for their propaganda purposes in certain international quarters.

This is one paragraph in the congratulatory note sent by Pope John XXIII to Mons. Modrego:

"Scarcely had the deplorable civil war begun than you were made titular Bishop of Ezani, as Auxiliary Bishop to the Archbishop of Toledo, and later put at the head of the Vicariat of Castro; you fought then with indefatigable courage and with no less kindness to stanch the wounds of that lamentable struggle; to repair what had been destroyed and what was ruinous. When, at last, the cruel Civil War came to an end, you were promoted to the dignity of Apostolic Administrator of Cuenca..."

Deplorable civil war --lamentable struggle-- cruel civil war. No reference to a Crusade, for all that certain Cardinals affected to Franco love to savour the word. That is why publication of the letter was forbidden in Spain, although a suggestion was made to Mons. Modrego that, instead of "cruel civil war", the word "Crusade" might be used.

The Bishop consulted Rome and the Vatican replied opposing any idea that the phrase in the Pope's letter should be bowdlerised in such a manner. The Spanish Government then proposed, very primly and simply, that the letter should not be published. A note of agreement by the Vatican on this proposition was carried to Spain in the valise of Cardinal Ottaviani.

It was, as is well known, not the sole content of the Cardinal's valise. Nor did the sole content of the valise emanate from the Pope. For Pope John was not pleased with the liltany of praise for the Franco regimen, its Caudillo and the Civil War, left by the Roman Cardinal on his visit to Spain at the time when he was trying to arrange the affairs of Opus Dei.

This, then, is the reason why a letter addressed by the Pope to a Spanish prelate, under date 4 September, has not been published in the Press, but only (on 21 October) in "Ecclesia", organ of Catholic Action.

PORTUGAL FIRST, SPAIN LATER

Vitoria. (OPE).-- Don Juan Aparicio, a former Director General of the Press, has visited Vitoria for a conference and a lecture.

He spoke on this occasion about Portugal:

"Until the contrary is established, one must accept that the course of events in Portuguese politics always anticipate similar events in Spanish politics. Portugal marches ahead of Spain in historical events: they had a Republic twenty-one years before we did; Portuguese "Miguelismo" is a predecessor of Spanish Carlism; problems of Legitimism arise there before they do here."

Sr Aparicio made no forecasts, but also pointed out that Portugal has undergone great changes in Police activity. Three years ago, when he travelled to Portugal with a Diplomatic Passport, the Portuguese Police ransacked his suitcases. Lately, on going there with an ordinary Passport, his bags not even been opened.

While Portugal herself was being debated on three fronts -her overseas problems, her UNO situation, and her internal state- the country itself was united and its youth was settled. The Portuguese people was dedicated to its passion for football, for "toto bola", and "quiniales" another diversion which it has just discovered.

LOOKING AT THE ESTIMATES

Madrid (From Our Correspondent).-- The State Estimates for 1962 and 1963 have been presented to the Cortes. According to official calculations, State expenditure in each of these years will amount to 86.824 million pesetas.

When the Estimates for 1960 and 1961 were presented, it was estimated that expenditure in each year would amount to 65.537 million pesetas. The estimates have, therefore, increased by 32 per cent after two years.

On the Expenditure side three main headings are set out under letter symbols A to C; they are extremely varied, but not all public expenditure is featured therein. Nor, indeed, all State expenditure.

One item of this type which has never been included in the Budget relates to amortization of the cost of the Civil War. These cost are hidden away behind figures for the operations of the Bank of Spain and its distribution of profits. In 1960 provision for the Sinking Fund in this connexion amounted to 887,4 million pesetas. In any proper accounting of public funds, the figures should be shown in the Estimates on the Revenue side (By Profits of the Bank of Spain, Share Corresponding to the State) an Expenditure, too (Public Debt).

There are other items of Expenditure or deductions from Revenue which

should also feature on either side of the State accounting sheet. These items represent the tax exemptions of privileged enterprises, especially those of INI. On examining the Estimates one should be able to see what these exemptions cost the community. This cost is not shown in any forms at all.

Public expenditure also comprises costs already featuring in municipal and provincial estimates. In 1958 these totalled more than 13.000 million and the rate of increase which has been registered permits current valuation at about 16.500 millions.

When added to the State Estimates, we thus have public costs described as such reaching a figure of more than 103.500 million pesetas. Actual expenditure is, of course, notoriously higher always than the figure given.

To compare the figures with those for the national income and with Estimates of the years before the Civil War will provide food for much thought and some comment.

NATIONAL INCOME AND NATIONAL SPENDING

Madrid. (From Our Correspondent). - When considering the increase in public expenditure in Spain -running at present, according to certified figures, at 103.500 million pesetas,- it must not be promises for official "Autonomous Organisations". Yet even if these are ignored, the total of the charges officially listed in the Estimates of the State, Provincial Corporations and Municipalities is considerable enough.

In the last few years the national balance sheet figures continue to increase in response to the rate of growth of the expenditure. But there has been no increase in the national income, from which the money must be drawn to meet those costs.

On examination one finds the following figures for national income over the last three years:

	<u>Total income in pesetas</u> <u>at current valuation;</u> (Million of pesetas)	<u>Total income in pesetas</u> <u>at 1953 valuation</u> (Million of pesetas)	<u>Income per habitant in</u> <u>pesetas at current v.</u>
1958	440,210	301,514	14,842
1959	463,387	310,789	15,501
1960	446,546	292,934	14,322

The 1959 figures will not have been exceeded by much in 1961, for the harvest was not good and the trade balance less favourable than in 1960.

In the state of stagnation illustrated by the figures quoted above, the Government has now presented budgetary Estimates for the two years 1962-1963 which show a 32 per cent increase over the figures for the previous two years. Fiscal pressure can be expected to increase at about the same rate.

MONARCHIST ACTIVITIES

According to reports which have appeared in the French Press, a meeting has taken place in Estoril (Portugal) of the Council of the Spanish Crown. It was over by don Juan, son of the late Alfonso XIII.

Apart from statements made by the Pretender himself, the meeting dealt in particular with the marriage of his heir, Don Juan Carlos, with Princess Sofia of Greece. The impression gained at the meeting was that the marriage in no way signified that the son of Alfonso XIII had any intention of renouncing his claim to the Throne in favour of his heir.

The same sources state that the marriage of Don Juan Carlos has by no means brought the family of Don Juan de Borbon any closer to the Franco regime.

A LETTER

We have received following letter:

"Highwood Hill Rushbury
Nr. Church Stretton
Salop.

2. Nov. 1961

Dear Sir, I came across recently a letter from your office to the "Guardian", giving an inspiring account of the continued fight of the Basque people, with their age long tradition of democracy and respect for human values, against the Franco tyranny.

The news fills me with renewed pride in own Basque ancestry, as my great-grand father, N.M.S. de Jauralde, first came to London about 140 years ago as a political refugee, having been taken prisoner by the French while fighting against the tyranny of Fernando VII.

I should be most interested to learn more of the work of your delegation.

Yours truly
R.A. de Jauralde Hart.

NEWS IN BRIEF

The Mayor of Zaragoza has announced that of the 2,689 citizens of Zaragoza who joined the Blue Division -the Franco volunteer force which fought alongside the German armies on the Eastern Front during World War II- 915 were killed in action.

*** "Paris-Presse" has announced the impending publication of "Leon Degrelle m'a dit" ("Leon Degrelle told me"), a book written in defence of the Belgian Rexist leader by the Duchess of Valencia, "eight times imprisoned by Franco for her determined monarchist activity". (The Duchess of Valencia, in fact, facilitated the escape of Degrelle from the military hospital in San Sebastian, with the help of the Franco authorities, in order to evade the Belgian Government's demand for his surrender to them).



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SYMPATHY AND LOYALTY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF EUZKADI TOWARDS FRANCE

Paris (OPE).- Sr. Jesús M. Leizaola, as President of the Basque Government, has sent the following message to the French Chief of State:

"General Charles de Gaulle, President of the Republic.

"On the 18th June 1940, the Government of Euzkadi and the Basque people answered your call. In the name of this Government and people I have the honour today to convey to you the same feelings of sympathy and loyalty. I salute you respectfully,

"Leizaola, President of the Basque Government".

THE BASQUE BRIGADE

Paris (OPE).- Ex-servicemen of the Basque Brigade, which fought with the Allied Forces at Pointe de Grave during World War II, offered their services to the French Republican Authorities when the recent crisis developed in Algeria.

The "Gernika" Brigade was formed, at the Euzkadi Government appeal, by volunteers recruited among Basques which fled to France in 1936 because of the Spanish war.

COMMEMORATION OF LA POINTE DE GRAVE

Bordeaux (OPE).- In the presence of General Adeline, President of the Association of Ex-combatants of the South West (of France), a commemoration ceremony for Basques killed on the fronts at Royan, La Rochelle and Pointe de Grave during World War II was held at the national cemetery at Retaud.

A delegation of the Basque Brigade 'Guernika' unit, formed by Major Ordoky and the Captains Martinez and Inchausti and other soldiers attended the several ceremonies.

After funeral rites had been held according to the Arab, Hebrew, Protestant and Catholic forms, General Adeline made a speech. He spoke with affection of the presence of the delegation of the Basque Brigade and he praised the attitude of the Basque people, especially for the exemplary tenacity which they exhibited to other peoples in maintaining their ideals of liberty.

An alfresco lunch was attended by all those who were present. Patriotic hymns were sung, including the 'Euzko Gudariak'.

THE BAD BOOK

Pamplona (OPE).- One of the affronts with which the Carlists reproach the novelist Gironella arises from the fact that in the seven or eight hundred pages of his book he always puts quotes around the words 'National' and 'Red' when he refers to the respective contestants or zones. Thus he is constantly underlining his view that, so far as horrors were concerned, there was nothing to choose between one side and the other.

In fact, Gironella writes in his novel:

"But the fact was that in Castille and Navarra and in the South, the Falangists and the Carlists, to say nothing of the Moors, were committing the same horrors at the very same time and with the same fury as their adversaries in Gerona. And it is not surprising, for the race was the same. Perhaps in Valladolid they fired with greater elegance; so much the worse for them. The book of words which they used may have been more refined; but so much the greater their responsibility. And how surely in Pamplona the firing squads of the Carlists must have fallen in invoking Christ the King".

INDUSTRIAL REVIVAL IN VIZCAYA AND GUIPUZCOA

Bilbao (from our Correspondent).- Pedro Rico, who is well known among journalists and economists in the Basque country, has written this in one of his recent articles:

"Impressions gathered at the moment on the economic situation of the two Basque provinces become more encouraging from day to day. Insofar as Vizcaya is concerned, orders begin to flow in; and as is always the case after a crisis, there are buyers-in-haste who demand excessively short delivery dates, so that in some industries overtime has begun again.

As for the province of Guipuzcoa, here too impressions are favourable. Here exports are being well maintained and in certain directions are expanding in a wholly unforeseen way.

This is particularly notable in machine-tools, the export of which is now being made to several countries, many of them highly developed industrially, such as Germany. In fact, machine-tools are being shipped to Germany, including electrical material and diesel-injection equipment for trucks and motor-cars."

A local newspaper also confirms these optimistic impressions:

"Little by little it is observed that the revival is taking shape and is spreading to every branch of industry. More and more factories are beginning to work several shifts, and in

several production figures have reached totals never before recorded. Those which are not hampered by structural defects have begun to work at full production, as was well proved recently at the machine-tools exhibition."

Optimism derives also from the consumption of electricity in the first quarter of this year. During last year it was the agricultural provinces which showed increases, and consumption in the industrial zones was below that of the previous years: the very opposite is now true. Vizcaya, for instance, has, in the quarter under review, recorded an increase well above 18.8%, as was the case also in Guipuzcoa. The increase in the consumption of electricity in this first quarter of the year (18.8%) is the greatest since 1956; it was 23.8% against 3.7% in 1957; in 1958 it rose again to 14.4%, but in 1959 it fell to 7.1% and in 1960 to no more than 5.3%. The last figures indicate the effects of the recession in the first instance and of the revival afterwards.

So far as Vizcaya is concerned, it is also interesting to note that during March the number of unemployed workers fell: there were only 64 workers in 56 firms wholly out of work, and 101 men only partially employed in 5 firms.

THE CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT IN VIZCAYA

Bilbao (OPE) - On the occasion of a recent co-operative campaign here, the Press has stressed the importance of the co-operative movement in Vizcaya, where there are 50,000 members of co-operatives. This means that almost one third of the population of Vizcaya enjoys the benefits of the co-operative movement.

There are housing, agricultural, consumers', industrial, producers', maritime and other co-operatives. The housing co-operative have already built more than 1,800 homes and have several hundred more in course of construction. There are 60 farmers' co-operatives, but the most important of all are those of consumers, the latter numbering 52 with 110 branches. They have an annual gross cash turnover of some 600,000,000 pesetas, which is three times as much as the rest of the co-operatives.

These establishments are situated in the mining and industrial areas on both sides of the river in the Bilbao area as well as in Durango, Guernica, Marquina, etc. They have 38,000 members and to this number one may add 17,000 workers who profit from these co-operatives through the 'economato' arrangements established with 19 important undertakings in Vizcaya.

The consumers' co-operatives require purchases on such a scale that consideration has been given to the need of setting up a co-operative bank.

Profits from the co-operatives are allocated as to 15% to social works, 10% to reserved funds, and the remainder is returned to the consumer by way of co-operative dividends.

SOME STATISTICS FOR VIZCAYA

Bilbao (OPE).- The tonnage of goods entering the port of Bilbao during 1960 was 2,953,000 against 3,150,000 in 1959. The tonnage of merchandise leaving was 1,347,000 against 1,086,000 in 1959. The total length of roads in Vizcaya is estimated at 1,337 km., of which 660.6 km. country roads.

Average area of the municipality of Guipuzcoa is 22.95 sq. and that of Vizcaya, 19.39 sq. km.; these are the lowest figures in all provinces, the greatest average being that in Murcia (269.45 sq. km.). The smallest municipality in Vizcaya is Lanestosa, with 1.11 sq. km.; it adjoins the largest municipality, Carranza, with 136.4 sq. km.

PIGS SHOT

Vitoria (OPE).- Three hundred hogs affected by "African pest" were shot in one day, and more executions will take place in the near future with the segregation of all swine affected by the disease.

SWINE FEVER

Bilbao (OPE).- Movement of swine throughout Vizcaya has been prohibited by decree owing to the incidence of several foci of African swine fever. Sales on foot, showing at fairs and attendance at markets is forbidden.

A FRENCH PHILOSOPHER AND THE DESTRUCTION OF GUERNICA

Paris (OPE).- M. Merleau-Ponty, a leading French philosopher, has died at the age of 53 after a heart attack. His intellectual life was as brilliant as it was precocious.

The name of Merleau-Ponty, that of a young professor who had already established himself in philosophy, featured in 1937 among those of a number of intellectuals who, upon the destruction of Guernica by bombing, published "an appeal to all men of good heart". His fellow signatories were Francois Mauriac, Jacques Maritain, Francisque Gay, Georges Bidault, Emmanuel Mounier, Gabriel Marcel, Jacques Madaule, Stanislas Fumet, Maurice Lacroix, Claude Bourdet, Paul Vigneaux, and others.

"The Spanish Civil War, the appeal stated, "has just assumed a particularly inhuman form in the Basque country. Yesterday there was the bombing of Durango; today, by the same means, the almost complete destruction of Guernica, an undefenced city and a sanctuary of Basque traditions. Hundreds of non-combatants, including women and children, died in Durango, Guernica and other places. Bilbao, which is crowded with large numbers of refugees, is threatened with the same fate.

"Whatever one may feel about the parties to the conflict in Spain, one fact is not to be disputed; that the Basque country contains a Catholic people; and that public worship has never been interrupted in the Basque country. In these circumstances it is Catholics everywhere, without distinction of party, who must be the first to raise their voices to ensure that the world shall not lose a Christian people by pitiless slaughter. Nothing can justify and nothing can excuse the bombing of open cities like Guernica.

"We address an anguished appeal to men of good heart everywhere to bring to an end at once the slaughter of non-combatants."

NEWS IN BRIEF

The death has been announced of Brother Justo of Tolosa, a Capuchin monk who was professor of law at the University of Cracow (Poland).

— Sixteen merchant vessels are to be built for Norwegian owners at the 'Euskalduna' shipyards in Bilbao at a cost of 50 million pesetas.

— 'Progress and Sorrow' was the title of a talk in the 'Conversations in Bayonne' programme on 28 May; taking part was the San Sebastian philosopher, Javier Zubiri Apalategui.

— The air service between Bilbao and Barcelona and Palma has been restored since 1 May to a three-days-a-week basis.

— In connexion with an exhibition in Madrid of paintings by a woman artist from Irun, the critic of the daily newspaper 'Arriba' has commented: "Among our women painters today none, perhaps, is as balanced, refined and prescient as Menchu Gal".

— A great part of the hermitage of San Salvador has collapsed in Abadiano. Under an oak tree in the grounds of the hermitage there used to be held after Mass, the General Meetings of the Merindad of Durango (A 'merindad' was the district of the jurisdiction of a 'merino', himself, literally, a royal judge and superintendent of sheep-walks).

— Because of lack of consignments, work on the Deusto canal (Bilbao) has been at a standstill for more than a year. Half of the estimated cost of 100 million pesetas has already been expended. The walls of the right bank are 13.40 metres high and 1,500 metres long; but work on the other bank has been much delayed. Water in the canal is about seven metres deep.

— The Basque Centre in Caracas (Venezuela) has paid tribute to Dr. Luis Bilbao on the occasion of a special distinction given to him by the Government of Venezuela. It also organised a wake in memory of Jose Antonio de Aguirre, the late President of Euzkadi, and Jesus de Galindez, the former Basque representative in the United States. Sres. Azurza and Amezaga spoke on this occasion.

— Don Luis Irizar Salazar, a Basque priest from Guipuzcoa, who was priest-in-charge of the Church of St. Martin in Navarra (Colombia), has been appointed Bishop of Tumaco. One of the sponsors of the Bishop at his installation was the President of the Republic of Colombia, Don Alberto Lleras Camargo, head of the Liberal Party.

— The May Day meeting organised by the Union General de Trabajadores (General Workers' Union) and the Solidarity of Basque workers was held in the hall of the "Force Ouvriere" in Paris. Messrs. Jimeno and Agesta spoke for their respective unions. Don Indalecio Prieto, a Cabinet Minister in the former Republican Government in Spain, presided. In making his resume of the speeches and commenting thereon, Sr. Prieto drew attention to the fundamental identity of views expressed by both speakers. As a Socialist and a member of the UGT, he referred to the worthy, important, and promising position of the STV. He spoke in the warmest terms in praise of its representative, Agesta.

— The 'Papelera Española' (Spanish Paper enterprise) has sought authority to instal a new machine at the Arrigorriaga works with an annual production capacity of 7,000 tons of quality paper.

— The Bilbao Press had recorded the sixteenth anniversary of the assassination of Benito Mussolini by publishing a death notice advertising a Mass at the Church of San Vicente 'strongly entreating the presence of all those who admired him in his life'. (Well, it seems that either the local admirers were few, or they were the kind that doesn't go to Church, like the Duce himself).

— There has been a recrudescence in Navarra of the Africa swine pest, and the competent department in the Town Hall has announced a forthcoming broadcast on 'the present situation and the possible consequences of this frightful disease'.

— The Polish vessel 'Baltic' took on a shipment of motors and chains at Santurce and sailed for Gdynia (Poland).

— The Polish vessel 'Lewant' arrived in Bilbao from Gdansk to load 1,200 barrels of resin.

----- OTHER ITEMS -----

A FORMER REPUBLICAN MINISTER ON SOCIALISM
AND THE MONARCHY

Toulouse (OPE).— An interview between its correspondent, Michel Roquebert, and Don Indalecio Prieto, the former Spanish Republican Cabinet Minister, was published recently in 'La Depeche de Toulouse'. Sr. Prieto was in Toulouse in connection with meetings of the leadership of the Socialist Party.

He was asked what was the position of Spanish Socialists in regard to the restoration of the monarchy in Spain, and he replied: 'We are fundamentally republicans and we do not wish to become involved in any restoration of the monarchy in Spain. Let us look back on events which took place some years ago. On 6 March 1946 a tripartite Note issued in Paris, London and Washington expressed the view of the three great Western allies; they hoped for the formation of a provisional Government which would re-establish all freedoms and would organise free elections. In December of the same year this resolution was unanimously recommended in the Security Council. The position of the Socialists is based on these documents. If a plibiscite should give preference to a constitutional monarchy, then we socialists were to have our place in such a regime. Don Juan himself appeared to agree to this.'

"Later Franco put a stop to all this. What he wants is an absolute monarchy; a monarchy by divine right without ruck with the people; and it is an absolute monarchy that he has promised to Don Juan, apparently, for this year. And Don Juan will play with him. He is an absolutist.

"Now, if the monarchy is to be restored some day in Spain it will be necessary for all democrats to do everything possible to ensure that it will be a constitutional monarchy. This is a vital matter for Spain. Absolutism would only keep her in her present state as an under-developed country."

Señor Prieto was asked whether, on his recent visit to Washington, he had formed the impression that United States policy towards Spain might well undergo a change with the succession to office of President Kennedy.

"I have the impression that that will be so", Sr. Prieto said; "but it is a purely personal impression. Of course, there will not be any immediate change, but the general tone of American policy has changed already. This has not yet been translated into action, but this may take place soon".

Sr. Prieto was asked how such changes might find expression, and he said, "I am persuaded that President Kennedy and the men who surround him support the establishment of democracy in Spain, and that this is part of a very much wider plan: to establish democracy in all the Latin-American countries. If in all these circumstances it were possible to establish democracy in Spain, it would exercise a powerful attraction upon Latin America".

What could the United States do to this end? Don Indalecio said, "For the time being the American government cannot take any decision or adopt any position. Unless, of course, events took place which would move them to action; and then they would adopt democratic methods. At all events, it is essential for them that they wait until Spanish public opinion finds expression in a more global, more organic form than at present.

"See what is happening in Portugal, where there is a considerable movement against the regime, with the Army itself demanding the democratisation of the regime. All this is, of course, linked with the question of Angola. Well, I am convinced that the United States will do nothing to counter a revolt, if it should take place. But a similar situation does not exist in Spain at present."

The interviewer said that as Sr. Prieto had raised the Portuguese situation, it would be useful to know how he felt that the Spanish people had expressed themselves over the 'Santa Maria' incident. 'It was a warning call', said Sr. Prieto. "The affair of the 'Santa Maria' shows that in Portugal even the Army wants to see an end to the dictatorship. The Spanish masses have interpreted this as an encouraging thing".

SEVERE CENSURE ON SPANISH SOCIETY

Madrid (OPE).— Don Antonio Anoveros, Auxiliary Bishop of Cadiz, is the author of a severe censure on Spanish society published in the periodical 'Ecclesia'. The title given to his article is, 'Dismal Lies for the Public Good', and his allusions are clear enough. Here are some extracts:

"A lie is never permissible. It is never permitted to say anything with the intention of misleading..."

"Adulation is a sin against the truth, and often against justice also... To engage in adulation of persons in authority on false premises and with all the manifest exaggerations of a publicity campaign could be a grave crime..."

"There is an abundance of speeches, reports, propaganda slogans in which the poor adulators have become caught up in a wild, exhausting race for superlatives..."

"The poison of adulation promotes vanity in people; it works upon them to the point where they become unattainable by any truth which conflicts with their opinion; it makes

them incapable of accepting both advice and loyal and objective advisers..This is the road which leads to the exercise of an authority proof against the stirrings of healthy public opinion. The adulators, being without conscience or being cowards or seekers after advancement, create the blindfold of an absolute, undisputable ego, a source of equivocations and lying optimism, over the eyes of those who need to be aware of the pure truth of all that is about them".

"the adulatory cult of public men and institutions, quite apart from the prejudices it creates in someone or another, does grave harm to the country: it makes it more and more sceptical, lacking in faith in its leaders and its institutions, and short of a collective conscience."

"Faults of commission or omission in the performance of public duties by those who are under the obligation to be vigilant for the sincerity and liberties of electors and elected at public polls, like the exercise of favouritism, no less plaguing and corroding for any society, are a clear injustice..."

"It is an obligation to protest the very truth of the law in order to combat, let us say, public immorality; to attend to the just demands of those who suffer injustice, even against all the manoeuvres of powerful persons..."

"The free will of men cannot be violated with direct or indirect pressures; nor can you misrepresent the rights of men in public life with devices short in sincerity; and it is not fitting to underwrite data lacking in truth..."

"It is a fault against the laws of proper allocation to grant a public post to one not worthy of it or perhaps not fit for it... It is not moral to allow oneself to be swayed by recommendation alone... It is a sin against justice to show obvious partiality to a person absolutely lacking in qualities... But it can also shatter commutative justice. This can occur where patronage is exercised in posts open to competition, in which advantages would normally derive from special merits. If patronage should succeed in robbing one man of his legitimate rights in favour of another, then it would be a sin against commutative justice."

CATHOLIC WORKERS AND THE FALANGIST SYNDICATES

Madrid (AFP).-In a cyclostyled leaflet clandestinely circulated on 1 May, the National Committee of Worker Brotherhoods of Catholic Action strongly criticised the process of syndical organisation in Spain and the work of Franco's regime. After denouncing the "Law of tacit impenetrability which denies the workers" representatives access to important posts in the syndical organisation", the leaflet affirmed that any criticism of the Spanish syndicates was regarded as an offence against the State, even when the syndical organisation might deny that it was a State institution.

Expressing its "firm determination not to associate itself with the chorus praise which greeted the achievements of the Franco regime", the National Committee stated: "These achievements doubtless relate to improvements, but these do not compensate for the harm suffered by the working class, subjected, as it is, to eternal tutelage and denied self-government".

Finally the National Committee of the movement denounced the "blockade of salaries, insufficient remuneration, the inefficacy of collective agreements, police repression and recourse to military force in work disputes".

AN OATH OF LOYALTY

Paris (OPE).- "Le Monde", reports that the former Spanish Minister for National Education and ex-Ambassador to the Holy See, Don Joaquin Ruiz Gimenez, has sent a letter to the President of the Spanish Cortes protesting against the Law which exacts an oath of loyalty to the (Franco) Movement from all professors. The Law was approved at the last plenary session of the legislature.

MALAISE AND COMMUNISM

Paris (OPE).- "Paris-Presse" publishes the following despatch from Barcelona:

"For the first time since his accession to absolute power, Franco has been the object of public demonstrations of hostility. The incidents occurred in connection with the tour which he had been making in the last week.

"It appears that despite a considerable weight of Police escorts and guards, the crowd at Ciudad Real actually came to the point of booing the Chief of State. Yet the Government had arraged the preventive arrest of hundreds of persons and had reinforced the secret police. Until this moment the person of the Chief of State had never been the subject of discussion by the crowds, which hitherto had always applauded him with warmth. This brusque change would appear to be due to the economic deterioration, the rise in prices, and increased stoppages of work.

"The majority of Andalusian villages are without roads and telephones. But each has a Communist cell. The truth of this little quip, made originally by a dignitary of the regime, has just been confirmed by the Minister of Information, who has let it be known that the Caudillo's itinerary had to be altered following the discovery of a network of Communist cells in the province of Jaen".

TRADE WITH THE EAST

Madrid (OPE).- According to official figures, the USSR imported during November 1,548 tons of textile fibres to the value of 42,9 million pesetas. From January to November 1960, total Spanish exports to the USSR were valued at 7 million dollars; imports reached 3.7 millions.

As regards the other states of Eastern Europe, conversations have begun with Jugoslavia and a substantial application has been made for payments by Spain to these countries. It would appear that these bills are hard to get, but they are discounted 12 to 13 per cent, while Eastern European-Spanish bills are offered for discount at 5 to 5.5 per cent.

The 20,000 pigs imported from Poland have been allocated to the Agropesa organisation, at 422.50 dollars a ton.

The Directorate of Customs has issued an explanatory note on consular visas for Bills of Lading for shipments from Satellite countries. As there is no Spanish consular service in Polish, Yugoslav or Bulgarian ports, visas of the local authorities will be acceptable, or those of the consulates of nations with which Spain has diplomatic relations.

Vessels registered behind the Iron Curtain will have to present Bills of Lading for goods transported in transit in the event that they call at Spanish ports.

FLIGHT OF SALAN

Paris (OPE).- Commenting on an editorial in the Madrid daily 'AEC' about the flight of Salan, the French newspaper 'Le Monde' publishes a report from Madrid sources:

"(It is no secret that the former General enjoyed much sympathy in Spain, not least among persons close to the Caudillo (Franco) and more especially chez the latter's brother-in-law, Serrano Suñer.

"It is also known that the organisers of the putsch in Algeria enjoyed the friendship of certain circles in the Spanish Army. Well informed circles suggest that shortly before the events in Algeria, a meeting took place at a country house in the province of Avila between General Salan and a high-ranking Army personality.

"Furthermore, the fact that the pilot of the plane which took the men to Algeria was none other than the traffic manager of a State-controlled airline, suggests that the supporters from whom the rebels derived these great benefits could not have been others than persons of some importance.

"A soldiers' Government in France and a 'French Algeria' would undoubtedly have counted on the full sympathy of the greater part of Spanish official circles. But it is unlikely that the Spanish Government intervened directly, or indeed actively in the flight of Salan. The policy of friendship with France followed by Franco in the last few years could not be gambled against a card of such low value."

FIGHTING WORDS

Sevilla (OPE).- During manoeuvres in the field connected with a mock military exercise, General Franco made a speech to military leaders and other officers. Here are some excerpts:

"Little do we care that the foreign Press, when referring to us, fails to understand us and engages in calumny. They are not moved by reason, but by evil and malice.

"It so happens that at the present time, in view of events in Algeria, we have become the passive object of their insidious attacks; they want to involve us in matters which are not ours, merely because this is an affair of generals, one of whom escaped the vigilance of our Police. Why, France herself could not prevent almost all those generals leaving her own soil and making for Algeria... Those are the facts of the matter.

"We are the first people to deplore the break which French schisms could cause to one of the vital elements in the defence of the West, and we can congratulate ourselves that normality has returned to our neighbouring nation. We are not of those who would run lances through the dead or run to the help of the victors. If we have great cause for anxiety over the expansion of Communist chaos in Africa, we are much more worried over the thought of its establishment north of the Pyrenees.

"That is why we reject all those malicious barbs which serve only to deceive other countries. Though they seek to wound us, they do not do so, for we feel ourselves to be strong enough in our Army, in the air, on the sea, and, above all, strong in our people. Say what they will, they cannot touch us.

"Acting as they do, they mislead only their own countrymen. We want nothing more than to maintain our tense vigilance and look to the good form of our Army, supported as it is by our people. With that we shall maintain the united, great, free Spain of our time. Long live Spain!"

FINANCIAL DEVICES

Madrid (OPE).- The balance sheet of the Bank of Spain again shows signs of a return to the inevitable financial practices of the Franco regime which neither fruitful tax-gathering nor a favourable balance of trade with abroad can oust.

During March advances against stocks rose from 14,000 to 18,000 million pesetas, an increase of 4,000 millions.

The cause of this leap is probably to be found in the fact that the INI has made issues to value of 2,362 million pesetas, while the State has produced investment certificates valued at 3,250 million pesetas. In addition to the 4,000 million pesetas referred to above, the balance sheet shows an increase in banknote circulation in the sum of 1,100 pesetas.

BANK OF SPAIN PROFITS AND THE CIVIL WAR

Madrid (OPE).- At the General Meeting of shareholders of the Bank of Spain it was reported that liquid profits from the period under review amounted to 1,337.8 million pesetas, of which 887.4 millions will be applied to partial amortization of the Special Debt.

This "Special Debt" is the term given to cover loans without security made by the Bank of Spain to Franco's party during the Civil War. The "Special Debt" has no due date and attracts no interest, General Franco having so ruled when regularising the position between the Ministry of Finance and the Bank. The total was 14,679 million pesetas on 31 December 1948, but within ten years it had been reduced to 10.918 millions and now stands at some 9,100 millions.

The report of the Bank refers to the continuation in 1960 of negotiations begun during earlier years to reclaim the Spanish gold deposited in Russia during the Civil War.

SPANISH SOCIAL CHRISTIAN DEMOCRACY

Paris (OPE).- Don Jose Maria Gil Robles has presented to the New Internacional Groups the fundamental articles of Spanish Social Christian Democracy and has sought admission to this international organisation. The articles carry sub-sections referring to Recognition and Guarantee of Individual Human Rights, Unity of the Nation and Sovereignty of the State, Participation by the People in the Affairs of Government, Structure of Spanish Society, Economy, Teaching and Education, Justice, International Cooperation and Form of Government.

Among details which may be worth mentioning are the following:

Adherence by Spain to the European Declaration on the Rights of Man; illegality of all social and political groups of totalitarian concept, and, specifically, the Communist Party; the 'untouchable unity' of the nation and the independence of the State from all foreign intervention; recognition of the 'natural societies' and historical communities, municipalities and regions; and in this connection, too, guarantees as to the spheres of activity recognised in regard to persons, customs, natural, cultural, economic and linguistic characteristics; the freedom of the Catholic Church within the limits of its sphere and authorisation for private practice of other religious professions; a concordat to be freely granted.

Right of suffrage to be exercised by citizens in their dual quality as individuals and as members of organisations or local societies; the removal of the present class barriers in Spanish society which facilitate favouritism and privilege; social categories to be based on work and on services rendered to the community; freedom of enterprise, commerce and movement of goods, industrial coordination by the State and transformation of the present capitalist enterprise system into a system which will harmonize relations between capital and labour, and the just distribution of the national income.

Recognition of the Right of the Church to teach, with inspection duties vested in the State; free teaching in all grades; the right to teach in Castilian in bilingual areas and also in the local languages; prohibition on the teaching of apologetics of doctrines or programmes of any single party; affirmation by the State of the right or independence of the Judicial Power; international and European cooperation; integration of Spain with full rights in European common enterprises.

Restoration of the monarchy in the person of Don Juan of Borbon, it being understood that any exercise which may have as its purpose the firm establishment of the monarchy upon institutions alien to democratic principles would greatly endanger the permanence and consolidation of the regime and might compromise the foundations on which is based its acceptance and its defence."

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