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Irujo and Aquirre dined with me last night and informed me that he metaphorically will for the present remain as minister without portfolio. A special minor post (in connexion curiously enough with Merchant Marine Fishery) is being created for him and he will have an office in Ministry of State. Present incumbent of the latter is again ill and it looks as if he could not much longer continue in office.

Idea is that Irujo should gradually acquire influence in Ministry of State and eventually become its head.

Above is sent with reserve as Basques are some times optimistic but it is a consummation devoutly to be hoped for and speaking personally I told him so though on humanitarian grounds and those of law and order he would be even better employed in his own Ministry or that of interior. (?His) influence seems to be growing.

As example of how they hang together (see my telegram No. 788) a Basque traditionalist handed over to me six months ago by government for an exchange has lived at Embassy at my expense ever since, was removed last week by Basque Communist Governor of Alicante without my knowledge and smuggled out of country.