

IBERIA

SPANISH BISHOPS SWITCH FASCISTS

April 21 (IPS) -- The bishops of Spain have just issued a collective pastoral letter which calls for political liberalization, regional autonomy for Catalonia and the Basque region and "national reconciliation" between the working class and the fascist victors of the 1936-39 Spanish Civil War, according to today's Washington Post. The last time the bishops issued such a pastoral letter was in 1937. That year the bishops came out in support of the Hitler- and Mussolini-supported fascist dictator, Francisco Franco.

MFA ORDERS HALT TO LAND OCCUPATIONS

April 21 (IPS) -- Portugal's NATO-run military government declared itself opposed to continued land occupations in the Portuguese countryside, according to a Prensa Latina dispatch yesterday. To implement its labor-intensive agriculture programs designed to work Portuguese farmers to death for the Rockefellers, the government moved to establish agrarian reform committees in a number of country districts.

MFA FORMING FASCIST ANARCHOSYNDICALIST FRONT

April 21 (IPS) -- The Lisbon daily Diario de Noticias April 19 reports that a Congress was held in Lisbon last weekend calling for "the creation of revolutionary councils in the factories, in the fields and in the barracks for the defense of the socialist revolution." The so-called "revolutionary councils" correspond to Portuguese Admiral Coutinho's recent calls for the creation of a new Armed Forces-linked Socialist Party for the purpose of undermining Communist organizing.

VOTE RIGGING EXPECTED TO PREVENT COMMUNIST MAJORITY IN PORTUGUESE ELECTIONS

April 24 (IPS) -- Portugal's three-week electoral campaign for a constituent assembly ended today with a Portuguese Communist Party (PCP) mass rally in Lisbon last night, attended by more than 150,000 persons, according to a Prensa Latina dispatch today. Foreign journalists termed the PCP rally the largest of the electoral campaign.

Despite obvious mass support for the PCP -- unmatched by the other political parties -- the bourgeois press has determined

that the PCP will receive only a small percentage of the vote. The press estimates that the Socialists, Popular Democrats, and the Social Democrats -- none of which are mass-based -- will receive two-thirds of the total vote, while the PCP will receive only 15 to 20 per cent.

"RED" ADMIRAL CALLS PORTUGUESE ELECTIONS "A TOY" FOR CHILDREN

April 24 (IPS) -- Portuguese red Admiral and leading revolutionary council member Rosa Coutinho stated that the only reason national elections are being held is that "taking elections away from the people would be like removing a promised toy from a child."

MFA USES ELECTIONS TO TERRORIZE PORTUGUESE POPULATION

April 25 (IPS) -- Today's Farical, CIA-rigged elections in Portugal have provided the pretext for a massive terror deployment of the counter-revolutionary military throughout the country. The Republican Guard, a "Guardia Civil" type paramilitary formation formed by Portugal's fascist dictator Salazar, has been deployed into the countryside to intimidate farmers as they appear at the polls, while Brig. Gen. Otelo Carvalho's counterinsurgency police force is carrying out similar operations in the city, under a cover of guarding against "ultra-left" threats to disrupt the elections.

MOSCOW'S IZVESTIA ATTACKS ANTI-PORTUGAL CAMPAIGN OF THE WEST

April 26 (IPS) -- An article in the April 22 Izvestia blows the psywar campaign of European and U.S. papers to undermine the international working class support for the Portuguese Communist Party (PCP). A few weeks ago, the Washington Post, Sueddeutsche Zeitung and British and French papers, peddled rumors to the effect that the Soviet Union had told the PCP to "go slow." These lies, says Izvestia, were aimed at sowing "doubt among those who are building the new Portugal, to drive a wedge between Portuguese Democratic forces and the Soviet Union."

COMPUTER GIVES SECOND INTERNATIONAL A LANDSLIDE IN PORTUGAL

April 26 (IPS) -- The CIA-Tavistock computer at the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation office in Lisbon has given Portugal's two Second International parties, the PSP and the PPD, a combined vote of 63 per cent, according to a UPI dispatch posted shortly after noon today. Mario Soares' virtually defunct Socialist Party (PSP) was awarded 38 per cent of the vote by the computer, while the "Swedish model" Popular Democratic Party (PPD) followed second with 25 per cent of the vote. The Portuguese Communist Party (PCP), the only mass-based party in the country, was awarded only 13 per cent of the vote.

DREW MIDDLETON SETS PORTUGAL AND SOVIETS UP FOR ENDGAME

April 27 (IPS) -- Drew Middleton, CIA-connected military correspondent, revives Rockefeller's "we-are-losing-the-vital-Azores-to-the communists" hoax in today's New York Times in an undated article apparently written two weeks ago. Contributing to setting up the European and Soviet populations for Rockefeller's thermonuclear "endgame" strategy, Middleton says unnamed "U.S. Naval" sources regarding "Portugal's expected shift to neutralism as incompatible with membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization."

In actuality, "Portuguese neutralism" is a code-phrase for the CIA "Southern Europe" strategy. This scenario has Yugoslavia and Rumania join a NATO southern flank of supposedly neutral countries, thereby dismantling pro-Soviet Eastern Europe -- a strategy which necessarily would lead to all-out thermonuclear war.

TIMES CONDUIT TERMS RIGGED PCP LOSS "BIZARRE SURPRISE"

April 27 (IPS) -- Henry Giniger, the New York Times conduit in Lisbon, today found it necessary to excuse the massive vote fraud in yesterday's Portuguese election, rigged by the CIA's Gulbenkian Foundation computer. Giniger writes "it was a rather bizarre surprise that a party as well organized as the communists, after having spent so much money and campaigned so intensively, should have so little to show for the effort." Mario Soares' Socialists Giniger continues, astonished the political analysts with their strength in areas generally regarded as communist strongholds."