

saving measure under Spain's current economic adjustment program which led air force chief Gen. Conde Ceñal, interviewed below, to ruefully term the decision a "day of mourning" for the air force.)

Spanish officials have repeatedly affirmed that they don't simply want to buy ready-made weapons and equipment; they want technology transfer and co-production deals, of the sort included in the recently revised French-Spanish military cooperation accord. It is well known that the key to French defense policy, as laid out by General de Gaulle, was a high degree of technological independence, achieved by France through a crash development program in aeronautics and aerospace fields, among others.

This point was addressed by Felix Alonso, president of the naval construction firm BAZAN, a major military supplier, and one of the first in Spain to publicly endorse U.S. President Reagan's proposal for a particle-beam defense weapons system. "Either we enter the program at the outset and begin to produce ourselves," said Alonso, "or else the same thing will happen to us as many times before: we will be running behind. . . ." And as Mr. Alonso points out, high-technology industrial production creates jobs—a vital issue given Spain's current unemployment rate of 17 percent.

But under Spain's current economic adjustment program, characterized by officials as mid-way between an austerity "stabilization" package and an "expansionary" policy, high-technology basic industry is being de-emphasized. The long-awaited "White Book" on industrial reconversion, issued the first week of June by the industry ministry, lays out a framework for scaling back manufacturing sectors in financial trouble, primarily basic industry, including shipbuilding, and basic and specialized steel sectors. The plan is rather to focus investment toward high-tech light industry sectors like electronics. The expected price of this rationalization is an estimated 200,000 jobs.

---

## Interview: Gen. Emilio Conde Ceñal

---

# Air Force Chief of Staff discusses European security

*The following interview was conducted with Gen. Emilio Conde Ceñal by EIR correspondent Katherine Kanter in April. General Conde Ceñal is Chief of Staff of the Air Force of Spain.*

**EIR:** On March 23, U.S. President Reagan adopted a program to develop space-based energy-particle beam weapons within five years. This policy could overturn the Mutually Assured Destruction strategic doctrine. In what way could the Spanish Air Force participate in this enormous technological and scientific effort, which would be similar to that of NASA in the 1970s?

**Gen. Conde Ceñal:** The United States logically has the initiative in establishing plans to develop the new weapons for this policy, which President Reagan announced in statements to the press. It is the United States which would negotiate with the governments of allied countries about their possible participation, something which right now seems very far off. The beam weapons policy was not included in the recently approved Spanish-U.S. agreement [the "Friendship and Cooperation" agreement approved by the Spanish parliament in late April which, among other things, allows the presence of U.S. military bases in Spain].

**EIR:** The deployment of space-based weapons will eventually make U.S. military bases in Spain obsolete. What are the implications of this for Spanish defense strategy in general?

**Gen. Conde Ceñal:** No revolution in the field of armaments, not even the appearance of nuclear weapons, has eliminated the need for conventional weapons. I do not think that for the moment one can say anything about the consequences for the art of warfare that the appearance of new weapons could have, until their characteristics and effects are well known and proven in practice.

**EIR:** What is the involvement of the Spanish Air Force in international space programs?

**Gen. Conde Ceñal:** The air force does not participate in any military-oriented international space programs. Spain does participate in international space programs for peaceful purposes, but the air force is not included in this.

Spain participates as a member state of the European Space Agency, contributing to the support of the agency and to greater or lesser degrees in satellite programs—meteorological, telecommunications, space transport, resource investigation [minerals, fishing, and so forth]—and launch systems for those satellites.

Spain also participates in International Space Programs with NASA and the European Space Agency through satellite tracking stations, as Spain has a launch station on its national territory.

Spain has its own research program in the aerospace field, being developed through the National Commission for Space Research. The program uses the INTA-ET Technology and Research Center, which used to be under the jurisdiction of the air force ministry, but which is now under the defense ministry as a result of the merger of the three military ministries.

**EIR:** How will the META plan for reorganization of Spanish ground forces affect the air force, from a strategic point of view?

**Gen. Conde Ceñal:** The air force began with the ORGEA program in 1978, a reorganization and modernization plan that has given shape to the present structure, in which functional criteria prevail over territorial criteria.

It is possible that the army, once its META plan is com-

pleted, may be able to more effectively make use of the support that the air force can provide to ground forces.

**EIR:** On the anniversary of the Malvinas crisis, Great Britain is dealing with Spain in a very provocative way. What are your observations on the Gibraltar problem?

**Gen. Conde Ceñal:** Your question refers to a political problem, in which the air force is simply an instrument at the disposition of the government, ready at all times to fulfill its duty.

For my part, I, like all Spaniards, aspire to re-establishment of the [territorial] unity of Spain, but I understand that it concerns a very complex problem which has already lasted for centuries and which is not easily solved.

**EIR:** What would be the strategic and technological effects of closer collaboration with France, such as Defense Minister Charles Hernu has proposed?

**Gen. Conde Ceñal:** There is no doubt that if there were closer collaboration with France on defense questions, there could undoubtedly be strategic and technological advantages for both countries as well as for Western defense in general.

---

Interview: Felix Alonso

---

## Naval shipbuilder wants beam technology for Spain

*Felix Alonso is an engineer who worked for over a decade on the security of the Spanish nuclear program. The firm he heads, a state enterprise, builds warships and merchant ships for the Spanish navy. The following interview was conducted by EIR correspondents Anno and Elisabeth Hellenbroich and Katherine Kanter in Madrid April 21.*

**EIR:** What are your main technological projects?

**Alonso:** We are primarily doing research on naval construction, and in particular on how to improve our productive systems. We are working on systematic analysis of mathematical series for high-speed hulls, and we are developing another series of systems which will improve our productive systems, as well as new prototypes which will introduce an innovative content.

We are working on a catamaran propelled by its hydrodynamic forms, to create a stable platform even in heavy seas. We are also working on systems engineering, integrating weapons systems onto ships, and profiting from our ever-greater experience in the building of ships like the aircraft carrier for the Spanish navy with a very high electronic content, which is to be a command unit for other units.

**EIR:** On May 23, Mr. Reagan made a speech on space-based anti-missile weapons, which would mean doing away with MAD through a laser or particle beam civil defense system. To what extent does this proposal concern Spanish industry and science?

**Alonso:** There is no doubt that the affair concerns us. We want this to be done in Spain because, in the final analysis, we will have to use the technology, both from the standpoint of defense as well as from that of other systems of protection.

Obviously, laser and other such systems are necessary and we will be requested to incorporate them into our navy. Either we enter the program at the outset and begin to produce ourselves, or else the same thing will happen to us that has occurred many times before: we will be running behind, trying to buy the technology or forced to accept whatever may happen.

I believe that Spanish industry will be very interested. And we ourselves will insist that Spanish industry shows interest. Since we will be the user at the end of the line, we are going to insist that every system like that which Reagan proposed be truly useful and be placed at our disposal. I do not know how to apply it to improve the situation, but we must include more national production. In other words, what we do must create more jobs here, because the Spanish demographic growth rate is slightly higher than most of Europe. Either we create new jobs or the only solution will be to send emigrants abroad. These technologies will be fundamental for us to do just that and find a way out.

### Outlook For U.S.-Japan Economic Relations

- Strategic and Economic Context for U.S.-Japan Economic Relations
- The Five Key Areas of Conflict in the Coming Year
- The Politics of Economic Friction: the Trade Warriors' Strategy
- Exclusive Interview with William Brock, U.S. Trade Representative
- Exclusive Interview with Lionel Olmer, Commerce Undersecretary

95 pages

\$250.00

Order from: Peter Ennis, EIR Director of Special Services, at (212) 247-8820, or 304 West 58th Street, New York, N.Y. 10019.