

Report from Madrid by Leonardo Servadio

González creates anti-NATO wave

If the referendum on NATO membership fails to destabilize Spain, the IMF is waiting in the wings.

On Feb. 23, pacifists streamed along the avenues of Madrid from all over the country, heading for the biggest anti-NATO demonstration so far in Spain. The youngsters screamed "NATO no, bases out," meaning, naturally, the U.S. bases. Over the previous week, some 60,000 persons took part in anti-NATO actions in Spain. The biggest was in Barcelona on Feb. 16, where clashes with the police left some 20 wounded, and several people were heard shouting slogans promoting the Basque terrorist organization, ETA.

In February the walls of major towns were covered with anti-NATO posters. The anti-NATO movement did not exist before; it has sprung up as the result of the absurd referendum on NATO membership proposed by the Socialist government of Prime Minister Felipe González.

Meanwhile, Mohamed Bucetta, ex-foreign minister of Morocco and leader of the Islamic party Istiqlal, has been instigating a movement aimed at capturing the enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla, Spanish possessions in Moroccan territory. Ceuta, right across from Gibraltar, holds a key strategic position. Bucetta, a former official of González's Socialist Workers Party of Spain (PSOE) in Melilla, accused the Spanish government of being the only government in the world besides Israel which unlawfully occupies territories belonging to the Arab people, and of perpetrating on these territories a racist policy like South Africa's.

As long as King Hassan II rules Morocco, these demonstrations will

not turn into a mass Islamic anti-Spain movement. But what if the King were to die? Recently, the weekly *Cambio 16* ran a scenario cooked up by "specialists" at Columbia University in New York, of a possible war between Morocco and Spain, egged on by the Soviet Union, for the control of Ceuta and Melilla.

Bucetta's actions were triggered by a "law on foreigners" recently passed by the Spanish government. In short, both the pacifist movement, which fuses Communists, ecologists, and separatists, and the revanchist movements in Morocco, are by-products of the actions of the Socialist government of Felipe González.

It is only too obvious that this fits into the Soviet grand strategy to make the Mediterranean a Russian lake. Soviet Ambassador to Spain Yuri Dubinin was replaced in February, after serving in Madrid seven-and-a-half years. To interpret this as part of the ongoing Gorbachov purges may be too simplistic. Dubinin had worked to turn Spain into an anti-NATO instrument within the ranks of NATO, by begetting pacifist and separatist movements; maybe it would have been embarrassing to have him in Madrid to reap the fruits of his work, with the March 12 referendum. Dubinin, whose role in financing the pacifists together with the Libyan embassy is notorious here, was suddenly called back to Moscow a few days after González announced that, when the referendum is over, he will fly to Moscow. Dubinin is now in Moscow preparing that visit.

If the referendum went against NATO, Spain could not leave NATO without Parliament ratifying this result. In Parliament, the absolute majority is in favor of NATO. This would be a conflict between "public opinion" and Parliament, and González would have the option of dissolving Parliament and calling early elections—the perfect playground for the pacifists and Communists to create a large united front to try and change the present pro-NATO majority.

Even if the government wins the referendum, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Trilateral Commission are waiting in the wings to stir up social conflict. The IMF has prepared a new report on the Spanish economy. Its publication is being stalled so as not to influence the referendum. In the last two years, the Spanish economy has been functioning on the basis of a pact between government, the industry confederation, and the Socialist union UGT, to control salaries and prices in order to contain inflation and allow "modernization" of industry. The "modernization" has been done at the expense of jobs, as a crisis-management instrument, not in the context of a long-term expansion policy. Now there is over 22% unemployment, and 48% among the youth.

The main opposition party, Alianza Popular (AP), tries to propitiate the IMF, probably in the hope of getting its support for the upcoming election. AP's official policy for Latin America is the Rohatyn Plan, which is a scheme to grab indebted countries' assets while turning over the "management" of their debts to the big New York banks. Nothing could be worse; Spain's only hope is to support Peruvian President Alan García's drive for an Ibero-American Common Market, for which Spain would be the natural bridge to Europe.