

United States are very good. In the discussions we had in October and December, the Americans accepted that a reduction of their presence is logical, because the first thing is for Spain to be inside the Alliance. Spain is increasing its aid for the defense of Western Europe, because Spain was almost like Iceland, a base for American troops and no more. Now we are responsible for a zone, and our forces are modernizing.

The government has avoided demagogy in these issues and dealt with them with great serenity, and even with courage. I think that the government's decision to call the referendum [on NATO—ed.], was a decision in exercise of leadership. Public opinion, which at first was against keeping the Alliance, was convinced and in great part changed its mind.

The government's posture has always been that of a dialogue. On July 10 we start the negotiations for reductions. If we find ourselves with a situation where the U.S. is not reasonable, no doubt we will have the possibility of renouncing the present accords. But we would not want to get into this situation. I think everybody would lose, we would lose, the United States would lose, and the Allies. This means, as in all dialogues, there must be good faith on both sides.

EIR: Do you believe that Spanish cooperation with the United States on the Strategic Defense Initiative can be realized? And can this reinforce technical and scientific cooperation between the two countries?

Miranda: I must say that in technological cooperation, we have been tremendously defrauded. Following the latest decisions of the Spanish government, in the last two years, it is clear that the government wanted to stop being a simple customer. The government doesn't want to just be a paying customer, who pays with credits given to buy in the United States. We say that we are also disposed to give credits so that they can buy weapons in our country. . . .

. . . On the problem of the Strategic Defense Initiative, the politics and philosophy behind this project arouse a great deal of worry among us. We understand it more as a project that can provoke another arms race, than as a pacification of the international situation. I believe that it is very difficult for a shield to be introduced by only one power. If a shield is made on one side, the other will make a sharper sword—it's an old story. We think it is more reasonable to stop a new arms race between the superpowers, and negotiate nuclear disarmament at Geneva.

That said, we distinguish between the research phase and deployment. We think that one can investigate the technologies, because they are not subject to any treaty, because it is a product of human curiosity. For now, we are not thinking of having an accord with the SDI, because we are very critical, and worried about the attitude today. We don't want to make an accord with the United States on this issue that would be interpreted as support for the whole SDI concept, and not limited to research.

Interview: Carlos Robles Piquer

Spain needs U.S. military presence

Mr. Piquer is a deputy in the European Parliament for the Popular Alliance Party and coordinator of this party's electoral campaign policy. He was interviewed by Katherine Kanter and Leonardo Servadio.

EIR: It seems that here in Spain there is a certain anti-U.S. ideology, obviously favored by the way the referendum on NATO was conducted. How can this be changed?

Robles Piquer: The anti-U.S. feeling is very generalized, unfortunately, in the Western world, which is sometimes a frivolous world and with little sense of its responsibility and its danger. In Spain this feeling has been exacerbated in recent times on two occasions: when President Reagan came on an official visit, and when, effectively, the government organized the nonsensical referendum on Spain's continuing to belong to the defensive organization of the Free World [NATO]. We think that the Socialist government has a big responsibility, because the control of state radio and television depends on it. And since this television is the only one in Spain, the informational backing and enthusiasm with which the small anti-U.S. demonstrations were welcomed turned these, in public opinion, into very big demonstrations; it made them grow. We think that a different orientation, but conforming to the truth and less conforming to anti-U.S. propaganda, by the state-owned TV, is a decisive element to shift the status of opinion in a favorable direction.

EIR: What do you think can be done to keep from weakening Spanish defensive capability, which is in large part based on cooperation with the United States?

Robles Piquer: To attend, naturally, to the true reasons and interests of the Spanish state and its defense needs, and not to seek demagogically the applause of the more or less violent minorities, which make a permanent show of support to the anti-U.S. forces or those inimical to the defense of the West. I think that the Spanish bases, in which facilities are conceded to our U.S. allies, are assigned to strengthen Spain's defense and therefore that of the Free World to which Spain belongs.

I think that these bases could not be easily sustained if we had to pay the cost of their maintenance entirely by ourselves, and I think a good negotiation with the United States will

allow us to keep improving, as has been done in the last years, the control by the Spanish government over these bases, without renouncing the military, technical, and also financial support lent to us by the United States, which makes the Spanish bases better and more useful for the defense of Spain itself than they would be if we did not have this collaboration.

EIR: Recent paramilitary actions by the Green Party in Germany were evaluated as very dangerous, in the sense of actual

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military attacks. It is thought that behind these people in Germany is the indirect war strategy of the Soviet Union. Is there a similar problem here in Spain? And what perception is there of direct or indirect destabilization carried out by the Russians in Western Europe?

Robles Piquer: In Spain, as in all the countries of the Free World, this problem is posed with the same characteristics insofar as the *quality* of the phenomenon, but, fortunately so far, with less importance in terms of the quantity or volume of the phenomenon. It is undoubtedly true that there were various movements flowing together: In the first place, a legitimate one, the defense of nature, of true ecologism. We favor this movement, and we have nothing, of course, against the conservation of nature and the protection of the environment. But it is true that there are groups that use the flag of ecology and nature for political actions, and naturally it is within the possible, and I think also the probable, that the intelligence system of the Soviet Union, which as we know is at the service of a world imperialist type of design, is supporting movements of this kind. That is to say, the very country that has its own nuclear plants in conditions of very poor security, as unfortunately was just proven in Chernobyl, is a country that attacks the nuclear plants in the Western world and favors those who attack them, and we have to be

fully conscious of this. In Spain, there are so-called ecologist groups which organize big demonstrations against nuclear waste facilities, but then they don't move a finger against much more serious destruction of nature, e. g., forest fires—which these groups don't care about, even though the risk of deforestation is probably the most serious that Spain faces, because it is a country which is being left without trees, because of these fires, which are sometimes deliberate, other times accidental.

EIR: What does [Popular Alliance head Manuel] Fraga propose to improve diplomatic and military relations between the United States and Spain?

Robles Piquer: He proposes something very simple, to be loyal allies, and not reticent allies. We are neither pro-American nor anti-American; we are Spaniards and we are partisans of the integration of Spain into the political, economic, and military system of the Free World to which Spain belongs. And for this integration, it is necessary to count on the first power of the Free World, which is the United States, without any complex of any kind, neither of inferiority, nor of vanity or arrogance, and we think that a serious, friendly relationship with the United States must naturally mean a clear cooperation on all matters, starting with defense.

We don't believe, for example, that the Socialist policy could be serious, with its tremendous hypocrisy of de facto integrating into the NATO military organization, while de jure staying outside it. This is a falsehood which the Spanish people are recognizing, and it is only done for electoral and demagogic reasons. We naturally are not always in agreement with U.S. policy, and we think, for example, that a part of the truth, a part of the blame for what occurred in Central America is due to previous errors of the Americans, very serious errors, perhaps because they have a poor knowledge of the Spanish-speaking world, which we Spaniards believe we know better. We are willing at all times to speak our opinion loyally and, of course, to defend at all times our national interests. But we think that the best way to do it is to be sincere friends of the power on which, in reality, the guarantee of survival of the Free World rests.

EIR: Do you think that Mr. Fraga's defense policy allows the possibility of cooperating with the U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative?

Robles Piquer: That's a U.S. project, which the Americans have undertaken by exercise of their own sovereignty. We do not deny to the United States the right to mount a defense system as they think best. Once they take this decision, which seems to us, as I say, legitimate, perfectly logical, we believe, that Spanish business should be incorporated into this project. We are pleased that numerous Spanish firms are now in fact participating in projects promoted by the strategic defense system.