

Garrigues exit: a Trilatfall in Spain

by Mark Burdman and Leonardo Servadio

This is not a happy time for Antonio Garrigues Walker, the Spanish politician and wheeler-dealer who helped found David Rockefeller's Trilateral Commission in 1973-74. Over Aug. 8-10, two weeklies, *Cambio 16* and the liberal-Trilateral Commission-run *El País*, reported that Garrigues Walker had suddenly withdrawn from politics.

Cambio 16 said the withdrawal followed the humiliating defeat of his Reform Democratic Party in Spain's June 27 national elections. *El País* added some mystery and intrigue to the story, quoting an unnamed "close friend" of Garrigues Walker, affirming that the latter had retired from politics; the paper added that Garrigues Walker himself was nowhere to be found.

Other informed speculation in Spain holds that he has to find special ways to pay back his campaign debt. Garrigues Walker's much-touted Reform group had received the third highest amount of loans from Spanish banks, after Felipe González's Socialist Party and the chief opposition Popular Action group. The loans had been granted under the financing regulations of Spanish electoral law. The amount for Garrigues Walker's party had been about 800 million pesetas (roughly \$4 million).

Spanish sources report that the protagonist in this story is personally "devastated" by the voters' response. Garrigues Walker's Trilateral Commission-linked party had campaigned ambitiously, and, in the weeks leading up to the election, had been expected to achieve perhaps 20 seats in Spain's Parliament. The party received *no* seats!

It is not known whether some of Spain's political and financial insiders made a decision to pull the plug on Antonio, as the election approached. What is certain, is that the voters expressed their abhorrence with his party's International Monetary Fund-authored program, which included "liberalization" of the economy and large-scale cuts in social services.

What makes Garrigues Walker's humiliation all the more instructive, is that it conforms to a pattern of Trilateral Commission favorites doing miserably in democratic elections. Outside of the fraud that brought Trilateralist Jimmy Carter to the presidency in 1976, voters in Western democracies are eager to send Trilateralists into political oblivion, once these voters become aware of the Trilaterals' program.

There is the famous case of Walter Mondale's landslide

loss in the 1984 American presidential elections. More recently in Europe, France's Raymond Barre was trounced in France's mid-March national legislative elections. There is no question whatsoever that the issue that destroyed Barre was his Trilateral Commission membership and policies, an issue that had been brought to the fore by the Parti Ouvrier Européen.

In Spain, *EIR* held a press conference exposing the Trilateral Commission's global deal with Moscow, in Madrid in early May, days before the Commission summit of May 17-20. *EIR* drew attention to the shady activities of Garrigues Walker and other individuals, especially the descendants of deceased banker Juan March. Earlier in this century, Juan March was the chief Spanish representative of the East-West collaborative entity known as "The Trust," making his wealth in shady arms deals, smuggling, banking, and the tobacco trade.

The lesson of Barre and Garrigues Walker's humiliation should make other politicians in Europe hesitate—such as British Trilateralist David Owen, rumored to be making a power play to replace Margaret Thatcher, and the Trilateralists in West Germany who are colluding with Moscow, including Christian Democrats Kurt Biedenkopf and Volker Rühle, and Social Democrat Horst Ehmke, all of whom have political ambitions.

The Garrigues Walker clan is known among Madrid insiders as "Spain's version of the Boston Brahmins." The family is well connected into some of the more prominent U.S. families, including the du Ponts and the Carpenters. Antonio's father was formerly Spain's ambassador to the United States.

Antonio, who runs a consulting/deal-brokering/legal firm in Madrid, known as J&A Garrigues, has brokered some important deals between Spain and the United States, including the purchase by Spain of F-18s. He is a semi-official mediator between the two countries. He is also used for special missions on behalf of U.S.-based financial interests into Ibero-America. Antonio is also a very good buddy of Henry Kissinger.

Informed Mediterranean sources also insist that Antonio is a "special operations" front man for the March banking interests, particularly for March clan head Carlos March Delgado, a leader of the Spanish branch of the Trilateral Commission.

Antonio's recent problems are not the only ills to beset the Garrigues Walker clan. Brother Juan, who worked with Carlos March Delgado and others to build up quite a financial connection into the U.S.S.R. and who was intimate with Soviet intelligence operative Julian Semyonov, suddenly died earlier this year, after the exposés in the Spanish press identified him as a chief KGB link in Spain (see *EIR*, May 2). The consensus, now, among those in the know in Spain, is that Juan's death was not caused by a car accident, as originally reported, but was a suicide.