
Spain

González creeps toward 'dialogue' as terrorists escalate attacks

by Katherine Kanter

A scandal of great proportions has broken out in Spain, since the Aug. 3 court order of prison without bail for two high-ranking police officers, José Amedeo Fouce and Michel Domínguez Martínez, accused of having organized hit squads against the Basque terrorist group ETA. The press and the left wing, which maintain that all policemen are potential torturers and murderers, are having a field day with the Amedeo case. Is their joy justified?

It is no secret, that ETA and its political fronts like Herri Batasuna, which used to be run by rotten ruling circles in the West who wanted to have a lever to use against General Franco, have, in the last five years, been completely purged and retooled as a strike force by the Soviet Union. Herri Batasuna is now holding anti-American demonstrations, and demanding that the U.S. bases and all U.S. troops be pulled out of Spain. In June, the Portuguese police leaked to the press that a Soviet citizen, Serguei Yegorov Aranceta, was heading an ETA commando unit hiding out somewhere in their country. Terrorism is no longer a police security matter, it is a military matter.

Pattern of escalation

Let us glance through a partial list of the incidents involving terrorists that have occurred since July 12, the day the two officers were first jailed. It is partial, because the daily press reports do not mention all the "minor" bomb attacks, industrial sabotage by "ecologists," and so forth, unless there are victims.

- July 12: Anti-tank grenades, weapons, munition, and 100 kgs of the high-explosive amonal are found in an ETA cache near Bilbao. Also found is a vehicle fitted out with grenade-launchers, and equipment for faking license plates. The ETA cell was preparing an attack on the San Sebastian naval headquarters, an attack on the civil governor of that City, and a car bomb attack on a police van, according to notes found in the cache.

- July 13: French police discover in a cache set up by the

ETA member Julen Madariaga, a machine to make grenades, grenade-launchers, and equipment to fix bombs to the chassis of police cars. Julen Madariaga was one of the darlings of the international left scene in the 1970s.

- July 15: It is made public that unnamed Spanish banks offer to guarantee the payment of the huge ransom which ETA is demanding for the industrialist they kidnaped on Feb. 24, Emiliano Revilla, to the tune of well over \$3.8 million. "Control Risks," a branch of Lloyds' Insurance, is called in by the industrialist's daughter to figure out how to get the money into the hands of ETA, by tricking the French and Spanish police who have been working closely to stop the ransom being paid. It does seem, that Lloyds', Control Risks, and the "unnamed" banks may be conniving to pay into the hands of murderers, a sum of money enough to keep ETA going for one full year. (When the Italian Instructing Magistrate Alessandrini once publicly mooted the role of Lloyds' Insurance in affairs involving the Red Brigades in the late 1970s, he was shot down and killed on the streets of Milan.)

- July 15: Twelve masked individuals take a supermarket in Guipuzcoa province by storm, and destroy all the French products to protest cooperation between French and Spanish police.

- July 18: Instructing Magistrate Luis Lerga, a specialist in flight capital cases and money-laundering, is held up by armed individuals in the garage under his apartment and robbed of all his funds just as he was leaving for a vacation.

- July 18: Pierre Joxe, the new Socialist interior minister of France, announces that the judicial procedure known as "extreme urgency" started by Chirac's minister Charles Pasqua, to expel ETA members from France onto Spanish soil, has been ended, in favor of a "case by case" approach.

- July 18: Miguel Pérez Curto, a Galician industrialist, is fired on at point-blank range by two GRAPO terrorists, when he refuses to pay the 4 million pesetas "revolutionary head tax" that GRAPO is demanding from all businessmen in the province, on the model of ETA. Though severely

wounded, Pérez was able to identify one of the attackers as Laureano Ortega, a GRAPO member freed shortly before from jail, presumably for "good behavior."

- July 19: Severe violence breaks out during a strike of seamen in Las Palmas; riots break out at so many points at once, that the police lose control; barricades are set on fire, and several policemen are wounded by stones and projectiles. The civil governor states that the violence was instigated by cell members of a group called "Cultural Revolution" who do not belong to any of the striking trade unions; several are arrested. Las Palmas is the largest Soviet merchant marine base outside the Soviet bloc.

- July 19: Police are ordered to call off the *cordon sanitaire* around a factory occupied by "squatters," called Metal Mazda, near Madrid. As soon as the police leave, the squatters cover the walls with graffiti like "Bourgeois pigs, you will soon all be dead," and photographs of the Hafenstrasse occupation in Hamburg, West Germany. A German "adviser" to the squatters left the factory on or about the day a terrorist attempt failed against the NATO meeting near the naval base of Rota, in mid-June. The Socialist municipality of Madrid, is now "negotiating" with the squatters to give them a "permanent home" in the center of Madrid.

- July 19: The president of the Basque Provinces, José Ardanza, meets in Strasbourg with members of the Council of Europe, to plan a Council of Europe/European Tribunal conference in those provinces, this year, whose object is to protest so-called violation of "rights of national minorities in Europe," and "torture" by police officials in Spain. Virtually every ETA member arrested today claims, with the help of high-priced lawyers like Fernando de Salas, that he has been tortured by police.

- July 23: The ETA front Herri Batasuna, expresses joy at the jailing of Amedeo, which, they say, will "lead to the Watergate of Felipe González," the Spanish prime minister.

- July 25: 1,500 people, including members of the ETA front Herri Batasuna, demonstrate in Santiago de Compostela, demanding that members of the Galician terrorist group EGPB be freed.

- July 26: The new secretary of interior to the Basque government, Juan Lasa, says he believes that political negotiations with ETA are a good thing. Txema Montera, Herri Batasuna deputy to the European Parliament, says the same.

- July 26: A French car is incinerated in San Sebastian by terrorists.

- July 27: The Spanish Communist Party announces that they are preparing "mass demonstrations" against the new anti-terror draft legislation.

- July 28: The new Spanish interior minister, Corcuera, says that "dialogue with ETA could become a fact, if they free Revilla."

- July 31: Carlos Buñuel García, a peasant, loses both legs when a bomb goes off in a field he was ploughing near Saragossa. The bomb was left behind by ETA members setting up a grenade attack against a playground for Civil Guard



Spanish Prime Minister Felipe González: Will he let Spain slide into the abyss?

children inside a barracks.

- July 31: *El País* in a euphoric half-page article, "After Barrionuevo, Dialogue with ETA," reveals that the Spanish Socialist Party wished for positive, open mediation with ETA following political rather than security imperatives, and therefore, on July 7, reshuffled the government.

- Aug. 1: The chief officer of the Barcelona police brigade in charge of protecting endangered individuals, is charged with accepting tips and small gifts from an Arab princess the brigade was watching over, strongly smacking of FBI "stings" against the police in the United States.

- Aug. 2: Thirty masked individuals organized by Herri Batasuna, screaming atheist slogans, attack Basque government officials entering the High Mass in the order of Saint Ignacio, in the Church of Loyola.

- Aug. 2: Terra Lliure, a Catalan terrorist group which works with ETA, announces that their congress in southern France has just voted up the same platform as ETA, the so-called "KAS," which calls for armed struggle until "the territory is totally liberated."

- Aug. 3: The Spanish High Court ratifies the order of prison without bail for Amedeo and Domínguez, who were involved in the "Operations" division of the fight against ETA.

- Aug. 3: The Santander courts refuse to allow charges to be dropped against the eight Civil Guard members accused

of having used anti-riot gas against masked and armed "strikers," in a closed area, which led to the death of a rioter.

- Aug. 6: An Herri Batasuna leader says Revilla will be killed by ETA, unless the government allows his family to pay the ransom.

- Aug. 9: A ten-kilo bomb goes off in El Ferrol beside Franco's statue.

- Aug. 11: Herri Batasuna, which is helping the ETA campaign to kill off anyone who sells heroin outside ETA circuits, launches a lynch mob of several hundred people against five supposed small-time dealers in Pamplona.

- Aug. 12: A bomb explodes in front of the courthouse in La Coruña.

- Aug. 13: Twelve bombs explode in the provinces of Cantabria, La Rioja, and Alava, mainly against French automobile firms. Many more bombs are deactivated by the Civil Guard. All rail traffic in the Valley of the Ebro is cut through Aug. 12, due to bomb threats. Bombs cut the rails on the Agoncillo bridge in La Rioja. The Santander-Torrelavega highway is cut for one hour. The fact that so many bombs had been planted in such a short time, and over such a large geographical area, would seem to indicate a new logistical capability of terrorism in Spain.

- Aug. 13: In the Basque city of San Sebastian, dozens of persons are injured in a street battle between Herri Batasuna and local police. Two hundred persons throw themselves on the policemen, who are forced to turn and flee.

Government backs down

Prime Minister Felipe González's government reshuffle on July 7 bodes absolutely no good. The new interior minister, Corcuera, is a Basque electrician, with no known experience of security matters, and replaces José Barrionuevo, who had stuck to the line that to negotiate with terrorists is to negotiate the end of the Spanish nation. The signing of the Gorbachov-Reagan agreements to disarm Western Europe meant the end for Barrionuevo and fellow hard-liners like Ricardo Damborenea, who was just expelled from his post as head of the Socialist Party in the Basque Provinces and replaced by another man who has faith in "dialogue" with ETA, Ramón Jauregui.

The new Spanish justice minister, Enrique Mugica Herzog, also a Basque, is thought to be part of those U.S. Justice Department circles who bent to Soviet demands, by stripping Arthur Rudolph, Karl Linnas, and John Demjanjuk of their American nationality, and setting up the June 1988 FBI raid on the U.S. Pentagon. The new minister of culture, Jorge Semprún, has shuttled continuously between France and the East bloc, and is said to be very close to French Interior Minister Pierre Joxe, who also believes in "amnesty" for "political" crimes like terrorism. Semprún was for 20 years, on the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Spain, responsible for running underground networks against Franco. Many of these "underground railways," still work and are used by ETA.

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