

Trilateral banks seek to control outcome of Spanish general elections

by Leonardo Servadio

On June 1, Spain's general election campaign officially opened. Party leaders posed to be photographed pasting up the first campaign posters, sporting the slogans that will bombard Spanish citizens from now till June 22.

The governing Socialist party, the PSOE, proclaims, "Por buen camino," which means something like "Keep going on the right path." The main opposition grouping, Popular Coalition, calls for "para salir adelante" ("To get ahead"). The extreme left alliance screams, "Nos van a oír," ("They will hear us"), obviously without any expectation of significant gains.

In terms of internal politics, the word coming down from the top is: liberalization of the economy—of the labor market, the capital market, and so forth. It is repeated by the banks, the research institutions, the ministries. The true fight in the Spanish election campaign will thus not be among the parties, but between those who support this "Big Brother" policy, and those elements present in both mass-based parties, the PSOE and Popular Alliance, which support the policy of Peru's President Alan García, to stand up against the supranational financial powers and take sovereign decisions on economic policy.

The fact is that at the top, the ruling PSOE's policy is dictated by the Trilateral Commission. The new "center" party, the PRD, is purely a creature of the Trilateral Commission. And as for the Popular Coalition, made up of three parties, the Popular Alliance, the Liberals, and the Popular Democrats (Christian Democrats): Although Popular Alliance is by far the biggest of the three, it allows economic policy to be dictated by the two smaller partners, which are both closely tied to the Trilateral Commission.

Banks pick their favorites

While the charade being offered to the Spanish voters includes several "novelties" (see box), what is the reality? The arrogance of power in Spain takes on a surprisingly open form. The Spanish Banking Association has delegated its president, Rafael Termes, to decide how much money should be given as "loans" to each party, through the seven "big

banks" of Spain. Termes has established that the PSOE will get 1.7 billion pesetas, the Popular Coalition 1.2 billion, the PRD (Democratic Reformists) 800 million, the Democratic and Social Center (CDS) of former Premier Adolfo Suárez 200 million, the United Left, 200 million, and Carrillo's Communist Unity, 100 million.

The CDS and PRD are competing for the "center." The PRD has no base and no seats in parliament. The fact that it would be granted the third largest banking support gives a measure of the power held by the highly centralized Spanish banks.

PRD's leader, Antonio Garrigues Walker, has been a member of the Trilateral Commission from the outset, and was the only Spanish representative at the Commission's 1974 Tokyo conference that handpicked Jimmy Carter for U.S. President. In other words, Garrigues is an expert in artificial political manipulations.

The Garrigues Walker family, closely linked to the Carpenter and du Pont dynasties in the United States, is a pivotal element in Spanish foreign policy. In the past, it oriented foreign policy toward the United States; more recently it has oriented toward Russia. Antonio's late brother Juan was not only the representative of Libyan interests in Spain, but played a pivotal role in opening relations with Russia in the mid-1970s.

A recent episode further clarifies what makes Garrigues Walker tick. When the Italian "one-world" ideologue Altiero Spinelli died this past May, Antonio Garrigues Walker wrote a eulogy for him in the press, in which he pledged to carry on Spinelli's work. Spinelli, an old European federalist, had a scheme for unifying Europe under a supranational oligarchy which would take over the political, strategic, and economic sovereignty now held by national governments—and give the Soviet Politburo free rein in Western Europe. It is significant that Spinelli was elected to the European Parliament on the slate of the Italian Communist Party.

This is the way Spain works: A few families, operating through technicians in the banking structure, decide who will or will not be elected. It is all done quite openly. So it is no

scandal that the clique of big banks decides how much each party is supposed to get for its election campaign, as it is no scandal that aside from the money officially given as loans, the parties will receive more funds, two to three times as much as the official funds, in the form of grants and donations.

For instance, everybody here knows that Felipe González and the group around him were hand-picked and assisted in the mid-1970s, when the elites in Spain were working to define what would happen after the death of Franco, the dictator who had ruled the country since 1939.

Trilaterals help Gorbachov

The Trilateral Commission met in Madrid on May 17-19, and the strategy which the Spanish banks are moving on, is the one discussed in the context of that meeting. To get an idea of how deep the connection is between the Trilateral discussions and current political events in Spain—besides the case of the artificial creation of the PRD of Garrigues Walker—suffice it to say that Felipe González offered a dinner to all 200 participants at the Trilateral meeting and their wives and friends, at the building of the central bank—which can hardly be conceived as a restaurant! It was an obvious symbolic gesture: That is the center of power, and there the Trilaterals had to dine, at “their” house.

One focus of the Trilateral agenda was the evaluation that after some years of relative superiority at the strategic level, now the power of the Soviet Union has declined, and the task of the Western world was therefore to maintain this re-acquired equilibrium. This assertion was made at the height of the Chernobyl affair, when the world was aghast at the cynical way in which the Soviet leadership dealt with the biggest catastrophe in the history of nuclear energy. Never was Gorbachov so isolated internationally.

Felipe González went to the Soviet Union. The trip had been organized months in advance, but the fact is, that he left the day after the dinner at the central bank with precise guidelines for the visit.

What González did, was to rebuild the image of the peace-loving Gorbachov, with whom one can sit down and reasonably discuss long-term peace and cooperation plans. The Spanish media underlined that González had to ask to be forgiven by the Soviets, because after having signed in Moscow, in December 1978, an agreement between the PSOE and the Soviet Communist Party “against the expansion of the political-military blocs,” i.e., against Spain’s entry into NATO, his government had taken a pro-NATO stand.

So here we have the image of the first Western leader visiting Russia after Chernobyl, who humbly begs the pardon of the Soviet Union. González met in a private talk with Gorbachov which lasted four and a half hours, asking the Soviet leader to reestablish the dialogue between the superpowers. So instead of the Soviets asking please to be readmitted to a dialogue with the Western world, it was a supposed representative of the West who begged the Soviets.

Spinelli’s dream come true

More quietly, important economic agreements were made between Russia and Spain. Two Spanish firms have been invited to establish “joint venture” operations in the Soviet Union, according to a formula the Soviets are offering to other Western countries. The idea is to establish industries with Western capital, technology, and know-how, with the labor force and raw materials from the U.S.S.R. The joint venture would naturally be between the Soviet state and Western private corporations. In other words, Spain would lead a project which is tantamount to a full integration of the Eastern and Western economies.

This occurs in parallel with the announcement by Jacques Delors, the president of the European Community, of a project to fully liberalize the movement of capital within the EC countries, to be completed by 1992. This would include the complete deregulation of financial operations, including stock exchange and bank deposits in the different EC currencies.

The electoral line-up

The overall impression is that the PSOE will keep its relative majority in Spain, perhaps with modest losses which might make it a bit more susceptible to influence by other parties. It has governed alone since 1982, with 202 representatives in the lower house, and an opposition of 141 representatives from the center-right and 7 from the left. In the Senate, the PSOE has had 134 senators, the center-right parties 72, and the left wing 2.

The novelty of the June 22 elections is that the leftist parties, dominated by the Spanish Communist Party, have formed an electoral pact, United Left, which includes the variety of regional communist parties, the Socialist Action Party (PASOC), plus the “quaint” phenomenon of the Carlist Party, a hyper-religious and monarchist party, which has been accepted by the left. Popular Coalition is not attacking United Left, hoping that this aggregation of leftist parties will take some votes away from the ruling PSOE, which Moscow currently views as its favorite interlocutor in Spain. Popular Coalition is concentrating its fire on the “Communist Unity” of Santiago Carrillo, the former head of the Communist Party, who decided not to participate in the left-wing coalition, and who is accused of acting on behalf of Moscow.

The other novelty is the attempt to create a “center,” i.e. a third political group in the style of the German FDP, which although small, could either ally with the left or right and play a kingmaker role in forming governments.