

# Spanish foreign minister seeks approval of Europe

SAN SEBASTIAN, Spain (UPI) — Foreign Minister Marcelino Oreja Aguirre and his police escort were streaking along a superhighway outside San Sebastian at 100 miles per hour when both cars screeched to a halt. The drivers paid the 35 peseta charge at a toll booth and the cars roared off again at full speed.

It was one of the signs of Spain's move toward democracy. The Francoists wouldn't have paid.

In an interview conducted in his Spanish-made Dodge sedan as it roared along the Biarritz-San Sebastian highway from the airport behind a police car, it became quite evident that Oreja was a young man in a hurry to restore Spain to its rightful place in the post-Franco world.

Oreja, 41, a Basque and a millionaire, is considered by many Spaniards to be a key man in the effort to bring a freely elected government to Spain and to win the approval and trust of West Europe which, after 37 years of isolation under Francisco Franco, began to think that Europe ended at the Pyrenees.

He said one of his major aims is the reestablishment of Spain's close economic, political and cultural ties with South America where some nations have swung toward an alliance with the Third World. He said he plans visits to South America soon. King Juan Carlos plans visits later.

Political pundits in Spain say that Oreja has a built-in future and that he is the only person in the country who could walk a political minefield and escape destruction. He served in the National Council of the National Movement

Franco party and emerged not only unscathed but with his position as a "liberal" enhanced.

At one point Franco tried to push through a bill which would give the impression Spain had several political parties. Oreja was one of three members of the Council who had the guts to vote against it — although the official record showed that three men "abstained."

He and other liberal Christian Democrats formed a think tank called Tacito which had the temerity to write articles for the newspaper "Ya" giving Franco suggestions on how to democratize Spain. When the editor of "Ya" was arrested on the serious charge of advocating a change in the constitution, Oreja and his colleagues admitted they were the authors. The matter was quickly dropped.

Spanish political experts said the job of Premier Adolfo Suarez, 43, is open to Spain to democracy and that Suarez then probably will bow out. That is when Oreja is expected to emerge as one of the leaders of a democratic Spain.

In the meantime Oreja is in a hurry. In a typical week he was airborne aboard a jet plane for seven consecutive days — to Bonn, to Bern, back to Madrid, to Paris on Tuesday to set up a visit of the king, back to the summer capital of San Sebastian on Wednesday. Thursday to Madrid and then to Oviedo on Friday to drop off Suarez at his summer home and back to San Sebastian.

He rushes around the country in a Dassault twin-jet executive-type plane then roars off in a fast car to whatever meeting he has next. He is busy renegotiating a Spanish agreement with

the European Common Market and working constantly to improve Spain's image in Western Europe.

Oreja is a millionaire whose family has controlling interest in Agroman, one of Spain's two top construction companies, and other businesses. Agroman, among other things, is building a new toll road from San Sebastian north toward Victoria and Burgos.

Oreja is small — 5'-6½" — and dynamic. He is married and has two children. His father was a right-winger who was slain by Communists in the turmoil that preceded the civil war. His father-in-law is former Commerce Minister Manuel Arburua who is known to Spaniards as the father-in-law of the country Suegro de la Patria. Another of Arburua's sons-in-law is the present commerce minister, Jose Liado y Fernandez-Urrutia.

Oreja is considered far more liberal than members of the previous government Carlos Arias Navarro. His position might be likened in the United States to that of Vice President Nelson Rockefeller, leader of the liberal wing of the Republican Party, or in Britain to former Conservative Prime Minister Edward Heath.

"We must pass from a personal rule of 40 years to democratize the country," he said. "Election of a new chamber will be by universal suffrage in the general elections that must be held before June, 1977. During that time there will be time to ask everybody's economic and political views."

"The nations of the European Economic Community will watch with much interest the evolution of Spain

toward democracy. We are negotiating a new commercial agreement with the EEC because there are three new members (Britain, Ireland and Denmark) since the last agreement in 1970. When there are general elections we can apply for full membership. But it may take four or five more years until membership is granted."

Asked about the Communist party in Spain he replied:

"The government has stated that sovereignty lies in the hands of the people and that they will decide Spain's future course. There are new laws for the recognition of political parties and we expect these laws will be obeyed in recognizing these parties. It will not include the Communist party."

"The law excludes those who adopt violence and separatism, particularly those parties controlled from abroad. Finally, the judiciary will define which parties contravene the laws of Spain. We do not see any recognition of the legality of the Communist party. But first we must establish the rules — the judges

will decide."

What about the opposition — the Francoists, the military... ?

"There are forces in Spain that oppose democracy. I think a majority of the country favors democracy. We will know who opposes democracy when we hold this election campaign. Now it is very difficult to foresee — there are isolated groups... When the political parties are legalized we will know."

"Of course there are forces who want no change and some who want it instantly. I believe that the majority of the people want to see an orderly transition. Obviously there are pressure groups who want to avoid a new arrangement. We are looking toward the National Pact between the government and the opposition parties."

This is an unwritten pact put forward by former Foreign Minister Jose Maria de Arellano under which the government, which holds the power, and the opposition, which commands vast popular support, could get together and work out a formula for transition to democracy.

One of the major problems facing Spain is the demand by the Basque provinces of the north for a restoration of their special autonomous rights which Franco took away from them for having fought against him in the civil war. Oreja, as a Basque who was elected from the province of Guizpucoa to the National Council, is believed to have the support and admiration of many of the Basques who live in the shadow of the Pyrenees.

The solution? "We hope to solve this problem peacefully through regionalism — a good solution since it will involve the economic, political and cultural decentralization of the country."

"This would not be a government like the United States which is more a federalist system. It will be a certain amount of self-administration in economic and cultural matters. Spain has become too complex a country for everything to be run centrally from Madrid."

## 4 agents exchanged in 1968

# Israeli discloses espionage deal

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — A former Israeli secret service chief says Israel once offered Egypt \$1 million for each of four espionage agents captured in Cairo and also tried to negotiate their release through such figures as the Pope, Francisco Franco, Indira Gandhi and Marshal Tito.

The four finally were returned in 1968 in exchange for release of 5,000 Egyptian prisoners captured in the 1967 Middle East conflict, said Meir Amit, the official who arranged the return.

The Israeli agents had been jailed in Cairo in 1954 for their part in a bungled sabotage operation that has since been named Israel's "Bay of Pigs," after a failed U.S. attempt to land anti-Castro forces in Cuba. Over the years, various Israelis have dragged the affair into politics. Amit and former Defense Minister Moshe Dayan currently are feuding over it.

Amit said the Israeli agents were assigned to bomb American buildings in Egypt with twin aims — wrecking U.S.-Egyptian relations by

making the bombs look like the work of Moslem fanatics, and persuading the British occupation force that soon would withdraw that Egypt was too unstable to govern itself.

Some of those caught were executed in Egypt and the others were given long prison sentences.

Amit told of the Egyptian offer in a television interview Friday.

Nasser refused to negotiate but the 1967 war provided a fresh opportunity when Israel had 5,000 Egyptian prisoners, including several generals, to trade for just a few dozen Israeli POWs.

Nasser again refused to free the agents and Dayan favored abandoning the demand for their release, Amit said.

Amit added that his secret service then wrote a personal

letter to Nasser, "very carefully worded so as not to impugn his honor."

In the letter the Israelis said they would trust Nasser to free the agents within two weeks after all 5,000 of his prisoners came home.

"It was a gamble," said Amit, but Nasser agreed, and two weeks after the POWs were exchanged, in December 1968, the agents returned.

## Italians uneasy after quakes

UDINE, Italy (AP) — "There's no need to fear further quakes," the loudspeakers blare as they pass through Udine and surrounding villages. But the people don't buy the message.

In Udine, a provincial capital with 80,000 inhabitants, the parks and streets were filled with people who spent last night outside. In the villages, teams of rescuers continued the search for more possible victims buried by Saturday night's tremors.

Two shocks within four

minutes of each other Saturday reached 5.5 and 5.9 on the Richter Scale, compared to a 6.5 reading from a quake on May 6 in which nearly 1,000 persons died. They were the strongest of the 190 tremors recorded since the one in May.

On the Richter Scale, which is a measure of ground motion recorded on seismographs, a reading of 6 is severe and 7 is considered a major quake.

One man died when he fell while scrambling out of the bathtub Saturday night, and

about 40 people were injured by falling rocks and bricks. The real damage, though, can only be measured in terms of renewed fear.

"Maybe we should go to America. What good does it do to stay here?" Artico Urli said in nearby Magnano. "I had repaired my business after May 6, investing several million lire to put it back in operation. There was a bit of hope, but now that has crumbled with my business."

The apartment in which Urli lived also fell in the latest quake.

## Laborers work in Mao's memory

TOKYO (AP) — Chinese workers have begun giving up days off to do voluntary labor in memory of Chairman Mao Tse-tung now lying in state in Peking's Great Hall of the People, a Chinese broadcast said yesterday.

Another broadcast said President Ford, in a letter of condolence on Mao's death, had renewed a pledge to normalize U.S.-Chinese relations.

"The nationwide mourning activities have become a well-spring of strength for China's hundreds of millions of people," the official Hsinhua news agency said.

It said 8,000 workers of the Shanghai electric machinery plant held memorial services in an auditorium and gave up their day off Saturday to do

labor in honor of Mao, who died last Thursday at the age of 82.

Workers at the Peking Hsinhua printing houses "gave up all rest during the last few days to print portraits of Chairman Mao and fulfilled their task ahead of time," Hsinhua added.

The broadcast on Ford's letter said the President had written Premier Hua Kuo-feng that normalization of relations between the two countries "would be a fitting tribute to Mao's vision, and of benefit to the peoples of our two countries."

"Let me confirm now, as I did then, the determination of the United States to complete the normalization of our relations on the basis of the Shanghai Communiqué," the

broadcast quoted Ford as saying. Former President Nixon signed the Shanghai accord with Chinese leaders during his 1972 visit.

Ford expressed condolences from the U.S. government and people, saying, "Few men in any era achieve historic greatness. Chairman Mao was one of these men."

In line with the power struggle going on for the last nine months in China, Hsinhua said workers at a power plant in Tientsin held a special meeting Friday to criticize Teng Hsiao-ping.

Mao fired Teng in April as vice premier and Communist party vice chairman, accusing him of trying to restore capitalism in China. The power struggle is be-

tween those backing Teng's policies, which emphasized economic advance, and those upholding Mao's insistence on giving first place to nationwide class struggle.

Hua Kuo-feng, considered a compromise, was named in April as premier and party first vice chairman, making him China's No. 2 man.

Any move by the 195-member party Central Committee to designate Hua or anyone else as Mao's successor is not expected until after a massive memorial rally for Mao in Tien An Men Square.

Japanese observers said the number of Central Committee members who have come to Peking suggests that a meeting could be held soon.

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