

Agnew at Fete Honoring Franco Revolt



Associated Press

Vice President Agnew, left, with Generalissimo Franco, right, and Spanish Foreign Minister Lopez Bravo.

By Miguel Acoca

Special to The Washington Post

MADRID, July 18 — U.S. Vice President Spiro T. Agnew today attended the annual reception celebrating the anniversary of Generalissimo Francisco Franco's successful 1936 military uprising against the Spanish Republic.

Agnew is the highest Ameri-

can official ever to attend the National Day celebration.

Agnew mingled with Franco, his designated successor, Prince Juan Carlos, and Spanish generals and members of the diplomatic corps at the reception which was attended by about 3,000 guests.

Victor Gold, the Vice President's press secretary, said the date of Agnew's visit to Spain

on his current tour of Asian, African and European nations had been planned so that he could meet with Franco and members of his cabinet before they leave Madrid for the annual summer vacation.

Informed Spanish sources, however, said Franco will not leave Madrid until later this month. The same sources reported that Agnew had ar-

ranged his trip to Madrid to comply with a Spanish request that he be with Franco on July 18 at the celebration.

Gold said: "We wanted to be here on National Day. If we didn't want to be here, we wouldn't be here."

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Agnew Attends Party Honoring Franco Revolt

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Observers have noted that ever since President Richard Nixon came to Spain last fall, more and more members of his administration have come to Spain to visit with Franco. They pointed out that last June Adm. Thomas Moorer, the U.S. chief of staff, attended Franco's annual victory parade in Madrid.

The visits, mainly ceremonial, appear designed to bolster Franco in the eyes of the

world and to show that the Nixon administration approves of his regime.

Agnew's presence at the anniversary of the uprising, according to observers, is another link in this policy of image-building.

Before donning frock-coat and striped pants for the reception, Agnew played golf in a Madrid club with American friends in his party.

He is scheduled to travel to southern Spain Tuesday for a four-day vacation.