

Gen. Walters Makes Quiet Visit to Spain

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MADRID, June 23—Lt. Gen. Vernon C. Walters, deputy director of the CIA, met here last week with a controversial Spanish general who was ousted from his post last year for advocating reforms of the Spanish dictatorship.

Although it could not be learned whether Walters met with any members of the tolerated Spanish opposition, a number of them had been quietly alerted that the American general would be in Spain June 15, 16 and 17 and would like to discuss current Spanish developments and what to expect when head of state Francisco Franco resigns or dies.

The United States is concerned about the transition, to whatever government follows Franco and the future of U.S. military bases here.

Informed sources confirmed that Walters talked at length with Lt. Gen. Manuel Diez Alegria, former head of the High General Staff. Franco, 82, relieved Diez Alegria of his key intelligence and planning position last summer following reports that the general felt the time had come to dismantle Franco's authoritarian government.

Walters also had talks with U.S. Ambassador Wells Stabler and with an undetermined number of Spanish officials, including Lt. Gen. Carlos Vallespin, who succeeded Diez Alegria as chief of staff.

Gen. Walters, who speaks Spanish and Portuguese, has been taking an active interest in the Iberian peninsula since last year's military revolution in Portugal. Last August he visited Portugal to assess for Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger the left-wing thrust of the Portuguese revolution.

Walters' three-day visit to Madrid came amid deep concern here about the succession to Franco. The generalissimo, who recently played host to President Ford, is being pressed to step down in favor of his designated successor, Prince Juan Carlos de Borbon,

The prince's 62-year-old father, Don Juan de Borbon, who has never renounced his claim to the vacant Spanish throne, recently reasserted his right to be Spain's king.

Diez Alegria, a close friend of Don Juan, has been traveling throughout Spain for meetings with dissident groups.

Sources said that Walters and Diez Alegria are old friends. There have been hints that the Spanish military collaborate closely with U.S. intelligence, and that the CIA has obtained information from Spanish sources on Latin America, particularly Cuba and Chile.

In recent months U.S. press reports of CIA activities have made Spaniards increasingly wary of the CIA presence in Spain. Important liberal corporate lawyers have gone so far as to charge that the U.S. Chamber of Commerce here is a CIA vehicle.