

U.S. PACT ON BASES FAULTED IN SPAIN

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Government Changes May
Force Renegotiation of
Newly Drafted Accord
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MADRID, Oct. 26 — The changes here may force a renegotiation of the freshly drafted agreement renewing for five years the right of the United States to use military bases in Spain, according to senior officials.

The agreement was initialed earlier this month by Secretary of State Kissinger and the Spanish Foreign Minister, Pedro Cortina Mauri. Supplementary texts, however, have not been completed and the main document has not been signed or published. The Administration, however, has already decided to submit the agreement to Congress for a joint resolution of approval.

Some key parts of the supplementary texts, including the one on economic aid, have been set aside for the time being, a top official said. Others, on scientific, cultural, technological and education aid, are being negotiated by experts.

An authoritative diplomatic source said, however, there were secret "verbal understandings" that the negotiators were simply supposed to put into official language.

Criticism of the pact has been widespread here by officials who argue that it gives away "too much too cheaply." Several important sources said there was some doubt whether it would be approved by a new Madrid Government.

Officers Profess Ignorance

Several high-ranking Spanish officers who ought to know what the secret "understandings" are have told American officials that they have not been informed. This is considered a diplomatic way of not saying at this point that they are opposed to the terms.

The United States uses three air bases and a naval base at Rota, on the Atlantic, that services Polaris and Poseidon nuclear submarines. One of the air bases, at Torrejón near Madrid, serves fighter planes, tankers and airlift facilities. Another, at Zaragoza, is used mainly for training and the third, at Morón, is on a standby basis.

Spanish complaints over the new agreement focus on two points—that there is not enough money and that too many Americans will remain close to the capital and Zaragoza.

Although details have not been officially disclosed, the agreement is understood to provide for \$500-million a year in sales of weapons on low-interest credits plus about \$250-million in economic assistance.

The previous agreement expired last month. Negotiations for renewal had been dragging on until the Spanish Government suddenly said it wanted a quick solution. This came after the execution of five guerrillas last month and the subsequent stern condemnation of Spain by virtually all of the West except the United States.

A Crucial Moment

Many people here feel the Spanish Government "gave away" the continuation of rights to the United States in return for an American declaration of friendship at a crucial moment of isolation for the Franco regime.

In effect, the United States will gain no more from the agreement than it received before but, as one ranking American said, "prices generally do go up elsewhere."

Renegotiation of the new agreement, some American officials feel, could also serve American interests.

At Madrid's request, the United States tried to win for it some relation with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization during the alliance's meetings this spring, but failed. The allies have indicated, however, that after the Franco era they may be disposed to accept new links with Spain. It is not considered likely that a new Spanish Government will seek to become a formal member of the alliance.

Some officials, however, feel that a NATO role for the Spanish bases used by the United States would be preferable to the present arrangement because it would reduce American responsibility.

The importance of the bases to the United States is subject to varying interpretations even among American officials.

Rota is generally considered essential as support for the United States Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean and for the strategic deployment of American nuclear missiles. It is also the base least challenged by Spanish critics of the agreement.

All the bases are officially Spanish and fly the Spanish flag. The air bases are also used by the Spanish Air Force, and United States officials consider that maintenance of the runways at Morón, for example, is a real contribution to the Spanish defense budget since no American planes are stationed there.

These officials say that the air bases are valuable to both the United States and NATO, but do not claim that they are indispensable.