

U.S. AND SPAIN NEAR NEW BASES PACT

JAN 23 1976

Madrid Hopes Accord Aids Entrance Into NATO, But Allies Remain Wary

NY Times

By HENRY GINGER

Special to The New York Times

MADRID, Jan. 22—Spanish and American negotiators were believed to have reached virtual agreement today on a new defense accord that would allow continued United States use of military bases here in return for increased military and other credits.

The aim is to complete the accord by Saturday, when Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger is to arrive here for a signing ceremony.

There are hopes on the Spanish side that the final accord will not be another executive agreement, but will be given the stature of a full treaty to be ratified by the United States Senate and the Spanish Parliament.

The accord was expected to include a clause that recognizes Spain's contributions to Western defense and that might be used as an argument for Spanish membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organizations.

Western Europe Is Wary

But while Washington was prepared to give the new Spanish Government a vote of confidence through the increased credits, Western Europe was still displaying a wait-and-see attitude on whether Spain should be integrated militarily and economically into the Western community.

The current Spanish-American talks were undertaken to revise and complete a framework agreement reached last October when Franco was still in power and Spain had accepted \$500 million to \$600 million in military credits over five years in return for continued American use of the bases. These are the Torrejón air base near Madrid, the Zaragoza air base near Seville and the Pólaris submarine base at Rota. An air base at Morón has been inactive.

Under the new accord, it was believed, the American credits may double, to a billion dollars or slightly more.

The framework agreement on extending American rights to the bases, first granted in 1953 and renewed at intervals of four or five years, was worked out at a time when Spain was isolated and under attack in Western Europe on the ground that it was harshly repressing internal opposition.

Spain Seeks Integration

Soon after King Juan Carlos I came to power, Spain decided to capitalize on the relative good will shown it by striving to improve the terms of the agreement with Washington and by opening the way toward integration in the European Economic Community and in the North Atlantic Alliance.

But it appeared that Spain could not hope to follow up the accord with Washington quickly with the start of talks for an agreement with the European Common Market. The best Spain could get out of a Common Market council of ministers meeting in Brussels Tuesday was to resume technical negotiations on the present trade agreement, which had been suspended after five convicted terrorists were put to death last fall.

For the long term, it has been made plain that Spain has to move much farther toward democracy before talks on integration can be initiated. Recently, Foreign Minister José María de Areilza indicated he hoped for an agreement on negotiations by June and that the subsequent talks could lead to Spain's integration into the Common Market by 1978 or 1980 at the very latest.

But the other countries apparently are waiting for Prime Minister Carlos Arias Navarro to present his much heralded political program Jan. 28 as well as for subsequent moves to carry it out. At the moment, widespread strikes, which yesterday caused the coal mines in Asturias to be closed, have created considerable political tension within Spain and unfavorable repercussions abroad. The strikes are aimed at both defeating a wage holddown and furthering political aims, such as free trade unions and public liberties.