SPANIARDS SEE NIXON VISIT AS AIDING FRANCO REGIME

by Richard Eder Special to The New York Times

Madrid, Oct. 1 - For three days, bare flagpoles have been standing next to Spanish flags along the route President Nixon will follow into Madrid tomorrow. On the overpasses, bare billboards have been hanging beside giant portraits of Generalissimo Franco.

This afternoon, workmen began running up American flags on the poles and placing pictures of Mr. Nixon on the billboards.

Although no serious trouble [is] expected tomorrow, the decision to hang the American decorations only at the last minute was a precaution.

"Nobody with any sense is going to burn down a Spanish flag," one Spaniard said. "But the American flag is another question."

(Clipping not kept.)