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# Imminent U.S.-Spanish Treaty Raising Issue of Timing

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MADRID, Sept. 24—Spain and the United States are reported here to be close to agreement on five more years of "friendship and cooperation" just at the time of one of the strongest campaigns to be mounted in the West against the Franco Government.

The case of 11 political terrorists awaiting execution after much-contested military trials has raised strong tensions in Spain and provoked a new wave of resentment in Western Europe. The imposition of a modified state of emergency, to combat terrorist attacks on the police, has created the feeling that the Government is under siege and has few if any friends at home or abroad.

France has let it be known that she is seeking to organize an appeal to Spain by the European Economic Community to seek clemency for the condemned. The move would ostensibly be on humanitarian grounds but would reflect the strong Western Europe hostility to Generalissimo Francisco Franco's authoritarian system.

### Wide Resentment Likely

A Spanish agreement with the United States, after months of stalemate, is expected to be widely resented among op-

ponents of the Spanish Government here and elsewhere in Europe, particularly if it comes, as expected, in the midst of the current repression.

From the American point of view the prospective agreement is primarily intended to assure continued use of four military bases. Like the one now expiring it is already being interpreted as an expression of political support for General Franco, particularly if it should bear the same title—"agreement on friendship and cooperation."

Spanish officials are believed to have retreated considerably from the conditions they put at the beginning of the talks. After having asked for \$1.5-billion to \$2-billion in military equipment, it is said, they are reported to be ready to compromise on \$750-million, the figure the United States came up to from \$500-million.

Madrid has apparently dropped demands that there be a full-fledged treaty approved by the Senate and containing defense guarantees similar to those extended to members of the Atlantic alliance.

If the present treaty expires at midnight Thursday without a new one, the United States is theoretically committed to withdraw from the air and naval bases within a year. In

a further conciliatory move, it is believed, Spain is not insisting on this clause to allow time for further talks.

The Government, faced with hard political decisions on the terrorists is reported to be deeply split, with about six Cabinet members opposed to carrying out the executions. On the other hand, strong rightist elements are continuing to exert pressure for a show of toughness.

Account has to be taken of the consequences of too much

rigor both at home and abroad. One consequence could be negative reaction in the United States Congress when funds have to be appropriated for military assistance. Another would be a further stiffening in the Common Market against a new trade agreement with Spain and against her application for admission.

Opposition in Gibraltar to agreement to place that British colony back under Spanish sovereignty would also stiffen.