

Madrid Hard-Pressed at Home, Seems Bolstered by U.S. Treaty

NYTimes

By HENRY GINIGER JAN 26 1976

Special to The New York Times

MADRID, Jan. 25—The Spanish Government entered an important political week today with what was considered well-timed support from the United States.

The support came yesterday in the form of a treaty signed for the United States by Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, who accompanied this act with clear backing for Spain's "hopeful political evolution."

The fact alone that the United States had agreed to a treaty instead of the executive agreements of the past was seen by the Spanish press today as a sign of support for the Spanish monarchy and its efforts to bring about change. One of the most satisfied men of all was Foreign Minister José María de Areilza, who signed for Spain.

Press coverage of the event was extensive and the state-run television network devoted an hour and a half to the treaty and the activities surrounding it. Clearly Spanish officials were attaching considerable importance to their enhanced relationship with the United States and the Western community at a time when they were running into trouble on the domestic front.

Pressure From Right

With leftist pressure for an immediate break with the past still strong, taking the form of strikes and demonstrations, the Government has found itself squeezed on its right, where there is resistance to even cautious and gradual change. A major move toward a representative parliament was blocked Friday in the country's highest consultative body, the strongly rightist Council of the Realm. The Government is expected to try to remove this obstacle before Wednesday when Prime Minister Carlos Arias Navarro reveals his program for change in an address to Parliament.

The council is holding back its necessary agreement to a proposal by which King Juan Carlos I would postpone parliamentary elections for a year while measures are drawn up to provide for a parliament freely elected by universal suffrage. If elections were allowed to proceed as scheduled in March, the country would have for four more years the same kind of unrepresentative and rightist parliament it has now.

The resistance in the council comes from rightists who were accustomed in the past to view

American policy as one of support for a regime they are now fighting to preserve.

Analyzing the effects of the new treaty were the United States, Luis Apostua, the political commentator of the Catholic daily Ya, said today. "It reinforces the Spanish Government in its internal struggle with groups of the Spanish conservative right because it shifts [American] support to the type of civilized right personified by the Minister of Foreign Affairs."

As for the left, it is not expected to approve any kind of treaty that leaves foreign military bases in Spain. But much emphasis was placed by Mr. Areilza and by the press on the agreement by which the United States will remove submarines with atomic weapons from Rota naval base by 1979.

This so-called "denuclearization of Spain" was thought to remove one of the most unpopular aspects of the American military presence. On the American side, it was explained that the development of longer-range submarine-based missiles made the presence of such submarines in Rota less important.