

The right wing will take their money out of Spain, and put it less into Ibero-America, more into Europe and the U.S.A. The PSOE will have the government but not the power. There will be a powerful opposition. The PSOE's historical tasks are to modernize the public administration and justice.

EIR: Will terrorism stop with a PSOE victory?

De Polanco: [laughing slightly] Why should it? Terrorists are far right and far left, so they are opposed to moderates like the PSOE. I am sure it will not let up.

EIR: Whom do you like in politics today?

De Polanco: I am friends with everybody. I like [Socialist leader] Felipe [González], [UCD president] Landelino [Lavilla] and Adolfo [Suárez], but Adolfo will not win anything. Internationally, I liked Giscard d'Estaing, Aldo Moro, and Ugo La Malfa, but I don't like Strauss. What I really find amusing are small, elitist radical parties, but unfortunately there are none in my country. I describe myself as a "libre pensador" [freethinker]; probably you noticed that religious practice has dropped greatly here, and dogmatism like that of the Christian Democracy is out of style.

EIR: What do you think about the Pope?

De Polanco: This Pope is very curious. So conservative on ecclesiastical questions, but disproportionately advanced in social matters. He is much more interested in the Third World and the East bloc than in countries he doesn't understand, like France.

EIR: What do you think about King Juan Carlos?

De Polanco: The King would not mind a Socialist victory at all. If it were not for the King, the Socialist victory would not occur. His role is to do nothing at all.

EIR: Could there be a coup d'état attempt if the PSOE wins?

De Polanco: [looking worried for the first time] I may be wrong, but I really do not think there will be another 23-F [the attempted coup on Feb. 23, 1981].

EIR: Who is close to Henry Kissinger in Spain?

De Polanco: When he was here last year I had dinner with him. I was supposed to dine with him again this year, but unfortunately I was out of town. My friend Ricardo Diez Hochleiner of the Club of Rome. . . . Marcelino Oreja [Basque government delegate] and José María de Areilza [President of the European Parliament and UCD member] who knows him well.

EIR: Is it true Kissinger had [nationalist former Spanish President] Carrero Blanco killed?

De Polanco: [laughing] Don't jump to conclusions! All I can say is that they talked the day before the Prime Minister's death [at the hands of ETA terrorists].

Interview: Santiago Foncillas

Spain could export nuclear technology

Santiago Foncillas, president of the board of Westinghouse-Spain, granted the following interview to EIR in late September.

EIR: Do you agree with the concept advanced by the Club of Rome that economic growth can be decoupled from energy growth?

Foncillas: These two things are totally interrelated. Economic growth is based, among other factors, on energy growth; to the degree energy is more abundant and cheaper, economic growth is more intense and more stable. Consequently, the possibility of improving general well-being rises.

EIR: What would a truly ambitious nuclear program be for Spain?

Foncillas: In the crisis we now live through, energy demand and consumption, especially for electrical energy, are not growing according to forecasts made in the first Spanish national energy plan, around 1970. All production forecasts are being revised downward; while energy production itself is being revised downward due to extremely high crude oil prices over the whole period, the orientation toward economic growth is also being reconsidered.

The original, in my view very correct, proposal, was to develop nuclear plants intensively. Later, that was partly stopped, because fewer political problems were created by coal-burning plants. But our coal is too low in quality, and therefore must be combined with higher-quality imported coal.

This is where things stand now; coal-burning plants are also tapering off, because with Spain's production capacity and economic growth at minimum, not to say zero, growth—which is being forecast for the next years, this is thought to be sufficient. Whatever the case, I consider it vital to stress nuclear energy and alternative energy sources.

In nuclear energy, Spain already possesses technology advanced enough to be exported to Ibero-America. Our initial hopes were dashed by Mexico's present situation: we made, for the first time in Spanish history, an offer for a turnkey nuclear plant, which was cancelled. We can make the same offer to Pakistan, or to any other country for that matter.

But in my opinion, the future obviously lies in thermonuclear fusion. It is not yet very advanced, but I think investments now to develop fusion will be absolutely decisive to the future of humanity where energy is concerned.

EIR: What is the effect of the present high interest rates on investment in nuclear fission and fusion research?

Foncillas: In the case of private business, their investment plans have to be partly financed with foreign money. Public sector investment plans obviously benefit from privileged conditions which the government affords them. But with private firms, the fall in profits suffered by the world economy, not just Spain, since 1975, has led to a steep fall in self-financing.

To the extent interest rates have been very high, in many cases exceeding the very profitability of the attempted enterprise, it is obvious that these rates have cut investment in deals which were otherwise reasonably profitable. Only speculative undertakings can carry such financial burdens. In order to survive, most firms have gone into debt far beyond what is advisable from an orthodox standpoint, leading to financial charges which have practically eliminated profit from the operating account. Since much of that debt is owed in foreign currencies, this situation has become an unbearable situation relative to both interest and principal repayments.

EIR: The PSOE has stated clearly in its program that it plans to cut or stop the nuclear program. Your opinion?

Foncillas: I think cutting the nuclear program is contrary to the national interest. This has been carefully studied: the nuclear program is the only means of guaranteeing a basic level of energy independence so Spain can face the instabilities created by rising oil prices.

In addition to ensuring energy independence, we gained a key technology which was even cheaper than now, since such programs call for tremendous investments made far more costly by today's high interest rates. Despite that, a nuclear calorie is still cheaper than a fuel-produced calorie. As I said earlier, economic growth, and thereby the real solution to unemployment, is in part determined by the availability of abundant, cheap energy. I therefore conclude that a negative approach to the plan for expanding nuclear energy production greatly reduces the possibility of fighting unemployment in Spain. To fight unemployment by reducing the work week, increasing vacations, and promoting early retirement, as the PSOE proposes, is an error based on the notion that there is an eternally fixed number of jobs available. The real question is to increase the number of total jobs, which will happen only through investments by the private sector,

and the private sector will invest only when cheaper financing and cheaper energy are at its disposal.

EIR: In the midst of a gigantic world financial and economic crisis, we are still facing the most revolutionary scientific tasks: eliminating hunger, solving the energy problem through fusion, conquering space. I assume Spain wishes to play an important role in these future tasks.

Foncillas: The notion of future industrial development cannot be solely centered on the so-called "service society" or "post-industrial society." Conventional industry the world over continues to be absolutely indispensable. An immense number of human beings are still in so backward a stage of development, that it is utterly unrealistic to attempt to solve their problems in the manner proposed by those advocates of the "service-industry post-industrial society." We must still develop the economies of many countries that lack infrastructure the most, which must be built with precisely those industries already developed.

EIR: The Lemoniz Basque reactor has been the target of ETA, and two of its directors have been murdered by terrorists. We consider this a war, both anti-industrial and anti-national, highly organized and linked to international warfare against industry. Your opinion?

Foncillas: I am not particularly well informed about matters more directly of concern to nations' intelligence services, but it does seem to me that this is the case. Lemoniz is a symptom of such a war, and it is not insignificant that the struggle against nuclear plants occurs only in the West.

The U.S.S.R. is involved in an intense program of inaugurating nuclear reactors, and resistance to this is totally unknown in any East bloc country—even though some of these countries have available coal and crude oil reserves. This is a much more effective weapon than most of the conventional ones available to armies, to weaken the economic situation of the West.

EIR: Is Westinghouse-Spain involved in any large-scale basic research projects in nuclear energy or thermonuclear fusion with other countries?

Foncillas: Nuclear fusion in Spain is dealt with almost exclusively from a scientific standpoint. Spain has not yet developed significant means to collaborate in that process in the way France, for example, is doing so actively, or even Britain, though the latter seems to be changing its mind. But I find this an extremely interesting subject. Westinghouse-Spain is working closely with Westinghouse in the U.S.A., and all Westinghouse's American technologies are put at the disposal of Westinghouse-Spain.

At this point, we lack only one small step for Spain to gain independence in the field of nuclear energy, but unfortunately the Spanish government has not yet wanted to go that small additional step, that further 10 percent, which would allow us to build a nuclear plant using Spanish means alone.