

MADRID

Tues. NOV. 22, '66

In Madrid -- Generalissimo Francisco Franco today initiated a first step -- toward a long-promised liberalization of the Spanish political system. Calling for a Constitutional amendment -- to permit the appointment of a Premier to handle the routine affairs of government. Franco thereby signaling his first division of power -- after ~~Thirty~~ years of iron-handed, one-man rule.

At the same time -- the Generalissimo ^{the Madrid} urging Parliament to approve a bill -- guaranteeing religious freedom in Spain. Also calling for revisions in the Spanish worker's bill of rights -- ^{for} a number of reforms in the nation's government-controlled unions -- plus revisions in Parliament itself -- to permit more democracy within the legislative body. All quickly approved -- exactly as asked.

However, Franco ^{remains as} ~~remaining~~ chief of state. Reserving for himself -- the right to pick his own premier; also retaining the title -- of Supreme Commander of the Spanish Armed Forces.

GRANDES FOLLOW MADRID

Next question: Who will Franco pick as his premier -- and thus his heir-apparent?

No indication -- from the Generalissimo. But the man seen as the most likely candidate -- Seventy-year-old Vice President Austin Munoz Grandes.

Besides being a close friend of Franco -- Munoz Grandes is a former Captain General in the Spanish Army. Having served ^{as} a onetime commander of the "Blue Division" of Spanish volunteers -- who fought side-by-side with Nazi troops on the Eastern Front in World War Two.

FRANCE

That continuing exodus of American troops from France -- all but completed today. With the Pentagon ordering transfer of its last major Army headquarters in France -- to existing American facilities in West Germany. This in keeping with DeGaulle's demand for complete ~~evacuation~~ evacuation of U.S. forces -- by the end of the year.

U.S. Army Communications Headquarters in Europe --*now* shifted from Orleans, France, to Worms, Germany. Its main support force ~~equipment~~ -- ^{the} U.S. Army Supply and Maintenance Agency -- transferred from Verdun in France to Zweibruecken in Germany.

UNITED NATIONS FOLLOW FRANCE

Oh yes, and
~~Speaking of France~~ ^{was} a Gallic voice heard today at the

United Nations. French Ambassador Roger Seydoux -- flatly rejecting the idea of a year's study of the so-called "Two China" proposal. Declaring that Peking is entitled to a U.N. seat -- as of right now. Adding that, anyway, both Peking and Taipei -- have already rejected the "Two China" policy.

Seydoux concluding: "It is China's right to sit among us."
"And our sole duty" -- he went on -- "is to insure that China is enabled to exercise that right."

MOSCOW

Amid a background of mounting crisis in the Middle East -- a high-level Egyptian delegation arrived today in the Soviet Union. The visitors led by Field Marshal Abdel-Hakim Amer -- chief lieutenant to Egypt's President Nasser. Their announced purpose -- to conduct "military and political negotiations" ^{with} ~~and~~ the Kremlin.

Such negotiations -- expected to include a request for still more Soviet arms; in light of recent clashes -- along the Arab-Israeli border. Kremlinologists recalling, what's more, that Amer headed an Egyptian delegation to Moscow -- twice before in recent years. Returning home each time -- to be followed by massive Soviet arms shipments to Cairo.

KREMLIN FOLLOW MOSCOW

On another front -- the Kremlin refused today to back off from its request for a world Communist summit ~~meeting~~. Purpose: To ban Red China -- from the world Communist movement.

Lack of support for the proposed conference -- all too apparent at that Communist ~~meeting~~ ^{session} last week in Bulgaria.

Nevertheless, the Soviet Communist Party newspaper Pravda -- today ~~declaring~~ ^{stated} that such a meeting -- "is becoming a vital necessity." ~~It~~ should be held now more than ever -- said Pravda -- to bolster Communist solidarity in the face of tense and varied struggle in the world arena."

VIET NAM

~~Highway~~ ~~around the world~~ -- In Viet Nam -- another pair of skirmishes today in ~~steaming~~ ^{the} jungle near the Cambodian border, Not far from the spot -- where a U.S. Army platoon was all but wiped out in fighting yesterday.

Today's results, however -- considerably better. In the first clash -- American troops intercepting a band of Viet Cong stragglers, Killing at least Eleven -- and putting the rest to rout. In the second engagement -- American G.I.'s killing Three of the enemy -- before they faded into the jungle.

A U.S. military spokesman later asserting that the Viet Cong -- are apparently attempting to mass sufficient troops for a major ground offensive. Trying -- almost desperately, said he -- to score a big victory -- if only for propaganda purposes.

The building tempo of war on the ground -- farther reflected in increased air activity as well. U.S. Air Force pilots today flying a single-day record of nearly Three Hundred sorties -- in support of Allied ground forces.

SAIGON

From Saigon -- a final entry today -- in the case of former U.S. Aid official Robert Kimball who was convicted last year of killing his American supervisor -- ~~along with~~ ^{as well as} a pretty Vietnamese co-worker.

Kimball sentenced to Five years in a Vietnamese prison -- you may recall. But now, we hear, he's en route home -- a free man. Kimball released along with several Hundred Vietnamese -- under terms of a government amnesty; on the occasion of South Viet Nam's annual National Day -- November One.

ASSASSINATION

In Washington -- in Dallas, Texas -- in a long list of cities at home and abroad ^{today -- as you know there were} ~~of a series of~~ somber ceremonies, ~~today~~; commemorating the Third Anniversary -- of the assassination of President Kennedy.

Senator Robert Kennedy of New York and his wife, Ethel -- visiting the Kennedy Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery early this morning. A little later -- President Johnson's chief Naval aide placing a Presidential wreath on the Kennedy grave. The late President's ^{younger} ~~other~~ brother -- Senator ^{Ted} ~~Ed~~ Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts -- meanwhile, guest of honor at special memorial ceremonies in Algiers.

As for the President's widow -- Jacqueline Kennedy -- she remained in seclusion in her New York apartment. Maintaining her silence -- as ever -- on the assassination itself; as well as ^{the} growing demand -- for ^{and} new investigation of circumstances surrounding the President's death.

Friends saying that Mrs. Kennedy takes the attitude -- that "the case is closed -- at least for her -- forever."

WARREN FOLLOW ASSASSINATION

Similar sentiments voiced today -- by several members of the Warren Commission, ~~Despite~~ the recent flood of controversy -- surrounding the Commission's report on the ~~Kennedy~~ ~~assassination~~ assassination.

Allen Dulles -- former director of the Central Intelligence Agency -- asserting, for one, ^{that} there ^{is} no reason to reopen the investigation. ~~"There's"~~ "no new evidence to consider" -- said he.

J. Lee Rankin -- who was chief counsel to the Commission -- adding: "I am confident the Warren Report is valid -- and its conclusions will be sustained."

Chief Justice ~~Earl~~ Warren -- who headed the government investigation -- not available for direct comment. But he was recently quoted as having made the following remark -- to a member of the Johnson Administration:

"I was a district attorney in California for Twelve years -- and I tried a number of murder cases. And if I were still a district attorney and the case came into my jurisdiction -- given the same evidence, I could have gotten a conviction in

Two days -- and never heard about the case again."

That -- from Chief Justice ~~Earl~~ Warren.

WASHINGTON

Possibly safety defects in thousands of cars on the nation's highways -- disclosed today in Washington. ^{This} On the basis of official notification -- from the Big Four of the U.S. auto industry; also -- three major foreign automakers.

The cars in question -- mainly Nineteen-Sixty-Seven models -- from General Motors, Ford, Chrysler, American Motors, Rolls Royce, Volkswagen and Renault. More than Two Hundred Thousand -- in all. The automakers sending ~~defect~~ warnings to owners of the cars -- as required under the newly enacted Federal Traffic Safety Act.

Industry sources emphasizing -- that not all the cars are defective. But all must be checked -- to weed out the bad ones. In virtually every case -- the suspected difficulty involving possible throttle or brake defects.

UVALDE

Former Vice President John Nance Garner -- ~~good old~~
Cactus Jack -- Ninety-Eight years old today. ^{And} the occasion for
his annual get-together with well-wishers -- at his home in
Uvalde, Texas.

Cactus Jack -- still alert and chipper. Telling friends --
"I feel like kicking up my heels." And to prove it -- tapping
his feet together a couple of times. The former Vice President
adding: "I hope to be a hundred -- and maybe one or two more."
A later incident -- proving he just might make it.

Garner -- who has an aversion to having his picture taken--
spotting a group of photographers among the crowd. Turning to
his son, Tully, he demanded: "What's all this convocation
about?" Tully replying: "It's just some college girls -- here
to wish you happy birthday."

Said Cactus Jack -- a twinkle in his eye: "They don't
look like girls to me." As ever -- a shrewd ~~political~~ observer.