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12 DE MARZO DE 1981

THE NEW YORK TIMES DE HOY MARZO QU, PUBLICA CRONICA DE JAMES M MARKHAM, TITULADA "COMMENT BY HAIG DRAWS FIRE IN SPAIN", FECHADA EN MADRID Y QUE TRANSCRIBO A CONTINUACION:

MADRID, MARCH 11 - A REMARK BY SECRETARY OF STATE ALEXANDER H HAIG JR THAT THE SEIZURE OF PARLIAMENT BY REBEL CIVIL GUARDS ON FEB. 23 WAS A SPANISH "INTERNAL MATTER" HAS DRAWN HARSH CRITICISM FROM BOTH THE RIGHT AND THE LEFT HERE.

MR HAIG MADE THE TERSE OBSERVATION JUST AFTER THE PARLIAMENT WAS OCCUPIED, AND, AMERICAN DIPLOMATS INSIST, DID NOT INTEND IT TO BE A STATEMENT OF POLICY. BUT IN SPITE OF A SERIES OF WARM LETTERS FROM PRESIDENT REAGAN CONGRATULATING KING JUAN CARLOS AND THE GOVERNMENT AFTER THE FAILURE OF THE COUP, SPANIARDS HAVE PERSISTENTLY VIEWED THE HAIG COMMENT AS SUGGESTIVE OF TRUE AMERICAN ATTITUDES.

YESTERDAY, ON AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO BRITAIN AS PART OF A WESTERN EUROPEAN TRIP, FELIPE GONZALEZ, THE SOCIALIST LEADER, CONTRASTED SUPPORTIVE EUROPEAN ATTITUDES TOWARD SPAIN WITH PURPORTEDLY INTENSITIVE AMERICAN ONES.

"THE INHIBITION OF THE UNITED STATES AFTER WHAT HAPPENED IS INEXPLICABLE IN DEMOCRATIC TERMS", SAID MR GONZALEZ IN A SPEECH AT OXFORD, "ALL THE MORE SO SINCE THE POSTURE OF ITS GOVERNMENT IS NOW TOTALLY INTERVENTIONIST, AS IN THE CASE OF EL SALVADOR".

THE BASIC PROBLEM IS ONE OF PERCEPTIONS, A SPANISH OPINION IS EXTREMELY SENSITIVE TO AMERICAN POLICIES TOWARD THE NATIONS OF LATIN AMERICA, MANY OF WHICH ARE FORMER SPANISH COLONIES. AT THE SAME TIME, SPANIARDS BELIEVE, WITH A MIXTURE OF HURT PRIDE AND INDIGNATION, THAT WASHINGTON'S ATTITUDES TOWARD LATIN AMERICAN PROBABLY APPLY TO THEIR OWN COUNTRY AS WELL.

MANY SPANISH POLITICIANS, EDITORS AND JOURNALISTS BELIEVE THAT THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION CARES LITTLE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES IN LATIN AMERICA AND WILL BE SUPPORTIVE OF RIGHT-WING MILITARY DICTATORSHIPS. WHAT APPLIES ACROSS THE ATLANTIC MUST LOGICALLY, THEY FEEL, APPLY HERE AS WELL. MOREOVER, SINCE MR REAGAN'S ELECTION, THE NEOFASCIST PRESS, WIDELY READ IN MILITARY CIRCLES, HAS BEEN ASSIDUOUSLY CULTIVATING THIS IDEA WITH THE CLEAR AIM OF MAKING A COUP EASIER.

THE MONARCHIST DAILY ABC, WHICH HAS FIRMLY SUPPORTED KING JUAN CARLOS IN OPPOSITION TO THE ATTEMPTED COUP, PUBLISHED SUNDAY A SERIES OF REPORT FROM ITS OVERSEAS CORRESPONDENTS ON WHAT, HYPOTHETICALLY, WOULD HAVE BEEN THE POLICIES OF THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES IF THE COUP HAD SUCCEEDED.

THE NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT, JOSE MARIA CARRASCAL, HIGHLIGHTED THE HAIG COMMENT, SAYING IT, RATHER THAN THE SUBSEQUENT EFFUSIVE OFFICIAL SUPPORT FOR SPANISH DEMOCRACY, "WOULD POSSIBLY BE THE ATTITUDE THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN ADOPTED HERE HAD THE COUP SUCCEEDED, AS WAS THE CASE IN TURKEY".

"THUS: DON'T GET INVOLVED IN 'INTERNAL' AFFAIRS AS LONG AS THEY DON'T ABANDON THE WESTERN CAMP IS THE ATTITUDE OF THE NEW STATE DEPARTMENT", MR. CARRASCAL CONCLUDED.

BAFFLED AT FIRST BY THE INSISTENCE WITH WHICH THE HAIG REMARK HAS BEEN RECYCLED HERE, SOME AMERICAN DIPLOMATS HAVE BECOME DEEPLY WORRIED ABOUT ITS POSSIBLE LONG-TERM EFFECTS. THEY SUGGEST THAT SOME VISIBLE DEMONSTRATION OF SUPPORT FOR SPANISH DEMOCRACY -- PERHAPS A SPECIAL REAGAN ADMINISTRATION ENVOY -- IS NEEDED TO UNDO THE POSSIBLY MALIGN EFFECTS OF THE HAIG COMMENT.

THE VIEWS OF THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION WEIGH HEAVILY IN SPAIN, PARTICULARLY SINCE THE TWO COUNTRIES ARE BOUND BY A DEFENSE TREATY THAT COMES UP FOR RENEWAL IN SEPTEMBER. THE TREATY GIVES THE UNITED STATES ACCESS TO SPANISH BASES AND STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES, AS WELL AS CONSIDERABLE CONTACT WITH THE SPANISH MILITARY. THE FIRST SUCH AGREEMENT, SIGNED IN 1953, ENDED YEARS OF OSTRACISM OF THE FRANCO REGIME BY WESTERN NATIONS.

ONE WESTERN EUROPEAN DIPLOMAT CALLED THE FUSS "UNFORTUNATE, PARTICULARLY IF THE GENERALS PERSUADE THEMSELVES THAT WHAT THEY READ IN THEIR OWN PRESS ABOUT THE UNITED STATES IS TRUE".

"THAT MIGHT PERSUADE THEM THAT NOTHING WOULD BE LOST IN TRYING AGAIN".

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