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# Weekly Summary

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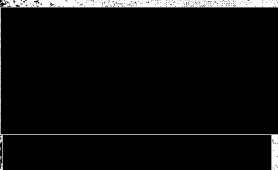
The WEEKLY SUMMARY, issued every Friday morning by the Office of Current Intelligence, reports and analyzes significant developments of the week through noon on Thursday. It frequently includes material coordinated with or prepared by the Office of Economic Research, the Office of Strategic Research, and the Directorate of Science and Technology. Topics requiring more comprehensive treatment and therefore published separately as Special Reports are listed in the contents.

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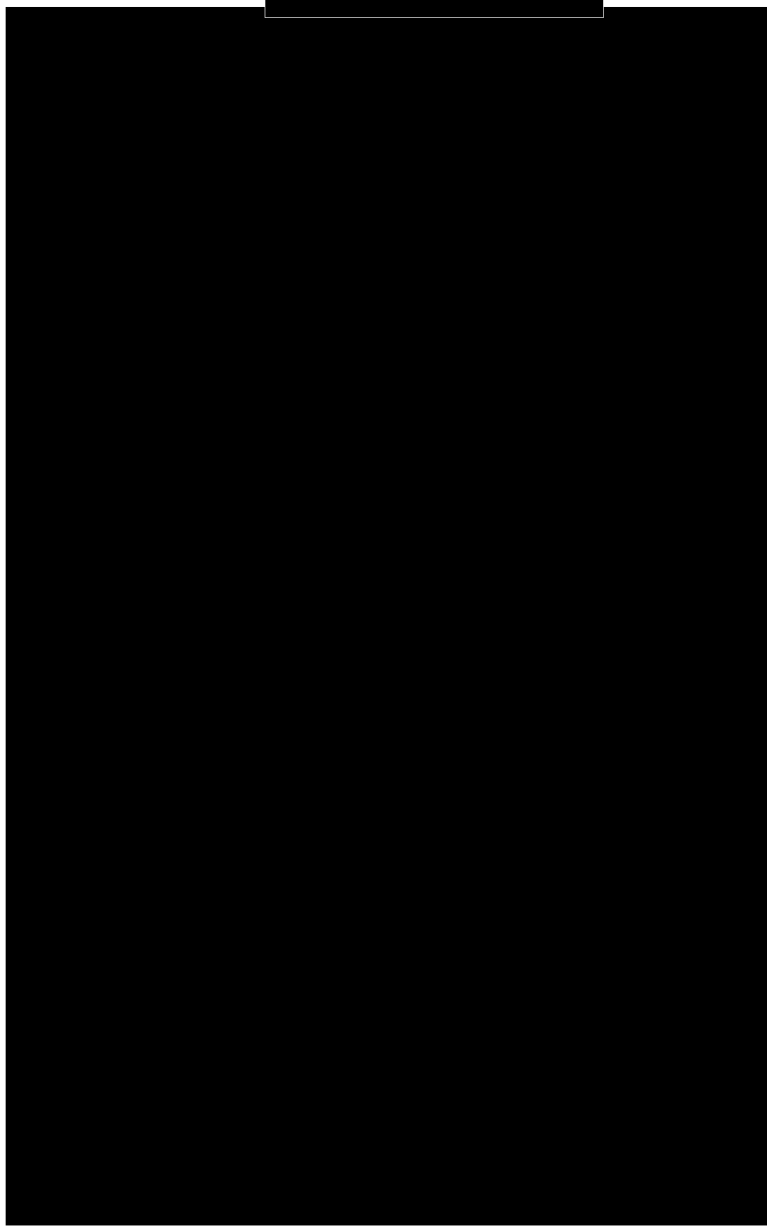
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**EUROPE**

4 [REDACTED]  
6 Spain: Assassination Attempt



## SPAIN: ASSASSINATION AND ITS AFTERMATH

The slaying last week of Premier Carrero Blanco complicates General Franco's carefully laid succession plans and compounds the uncertainties of the post-Franco era. Although emotional crowds of far rightist groups turned Carrero's funeral procession into a pro-regime demonstration, the general atmosphere elsewhere has remained calm.

Vice Premier Fernandez-Miranda, who automatically became acting premier, is a leading candidate for a permanent appointment. As a close associate of the murdered leader and an advocate of his restrictive political policies, Fernandez-Miranda can be expected to carry on the regime's policies. He lacks the prestige Carrero had as Franco's long-time choice as a successor, however, and he is more likely to be challenged by others wanting the post. Although Franco could delay his decision, he is expected to follow the constitutional provision that calls for naming a new premier within ten days—informally interpreted to mean working days.

In view of the possible threat to law and order implicit in the assassination, Franco may conclude that the premiership should go to someone further to the right than Fernandez-Miranda. A possible compromise choice would be the president of the Cortes, Rodriguez de Valcarcel. If a military choice is deemed advisable, General Manuel Diez-Alegria, chief of the High General Staff, is a possibility, but more conservative military leaders are available. Other possible civilian choices are former information minister Fraga (now ambassador to London), one-time labor minister Giron, former minister of the National Movement Cuesta, and the present foreign minister, Lopez Rodo. Franco might even decide to reassume the post himself.

The other part of Franco's succession plan remains intact. Prince Juan Carlos, whom Franco named in 1969 as king-designate, is still slated to become chief of state when Franco dies or is incapacitated.

The police have identified the assassins as six Basque terrorists, who are still at large. All reportedly are members of an outlawed separatist organization known as ETA, which stands for Basque Fatherland and Liberty. ETA has sought to dramatize its demands for a separate state and to raise funds to continue its struggle by carrying out a number of bombings, kidnappings, and bank robberies in northern Spain.

Meanwhile, the trial of the "Carabanchel Ten" dissident labor leaders, which began the day



General Franco leading the Carrero funeral procession

of the assassination, was concluded last week in spite of the three-day mourning period. The prosecution has demanded 12-to-20 years for "illegal association," and a verdict of guilty is expected, possibly before the end of the year.

The Spanish Communist Party, of which most of the Carabanchel Ten reportedly are members, and other anti-regime elements had expected to use the trial to publicize the absence of human rights and free trade unions in Spain. Their hopes were dimmed by the assassination, which stole the headlines. Nevertheless, a number of foreign observers at the trial held a press conference in Madrid at which they issued a statement attacking the government for rigging the trial and for restricting political rights. After the verdict is made known, Franco may reduce the sentences in order to minimize the impact on Spain's image abroad. (CONFIDENTIAL)

