

The comparison between accession to NATO and accession to the Community is not possible on a practical level. It is nevertheless striking to note that this week, with the consensus of five States, governed by different parties or coalitions, Spain becomes de facto the 16th member of the Atlantic Alliance, whereas, simultaneously, the Governments of the member countries of the European Community, while multiplying their declarations of good will, practically blocked the process of negotiation on accession to the Community by refusing to discuss a deadline.

With regard to the Atlantic Alliance, accession will be completed on the legal and operational level, before the end of 1982. The importance of Spain's entry into the Atlantic Alliance is evident in terms of defence of Europe and Western strategy, but mainly because it shows Spain's will to integrate completely in the community of Western nations having a common understanding of what democracy and individual rights mean, and having as their aim, peace without supremacy. It is significant that Mr. Calvo Sotelo wished to reassure his countrymen, asking them to free themselves of the obsession of the "coup d'Etat". Of course, all democracies have to contend with threats, both internal and external. The episode of the statement of a large number of officers is worrying, but the scope of this must not be exaggerated. All that Spain's partners will do to prove, with facts, their democratic solidarity, will have an extremely important psychological effect.

Why, then, have the same countries that received Spain into the Atlantic Alliance with open arms, reacted so differently when it came to receiving it into the European Community? The "declaration", made public following the European Council in London (concerning both Spain and Portugal), is a monument of hypocrisy and the governments of the countries it is addressed to would be perfectly justified in sending it back to their authors. It is good to remember that the negotiations were "officially" opened on 5 February 1979, which is almost three years ago, and that in June 1980, the Vice-President of the Commission, Mr. Natali, considered that "the substance" could already be discussed in the autumn of the same year. However, this stage has still not been reached. Notes are being exchanged, details are being requested, demands are being underlined, but there are no negotiations. We have already said several times what we thought of the "negotiating" method. Today, it must be clearly stated that the palliative formulae do not succeed in camouflaging what appears to be a genuine sabotage, with France at its head, showing a remarkable continuity of policy in this affair, after the about turn carried off on 5 June 1980 by President Giscard d'Estaing, for reasons which "Le Monde" qualified at the time as "accessorily hexagonal, meridional, presidential, and pertaining to wine". This change in attitude with regard to enlargement to include Spain and Portugal obviously did not bear any fruit for the former President of France, all the more because it sparked off an out-bidding by the Socialists and the Communists, an out-bidding which continues now.

It is scandalous to note that the European Socialist Parties, meeting in Madrid at the end of November, did not dare to make an explicit statement on the date of 1 January 1983 for entry to take effect, and this was on the instigation of the all-powerful Mr. Lionel Jospin, who even took the liberty of making fun of the idealism of the Spanish and Portuguese Socialists. (cfr. Political Day of 30/II). Furthermore, Spain's intentions are being impugned (with the endorsement of Mr. Chandernagor) on the application of VAT, whereas it is quite well known that the Spanish authorities are doing everything necessary so that this will come into force on the planned date.

Certainly, having embarked on a controversial reform of its Agricultural Policy, the Community finds itself today somewhat embarrassed in the negotiations. Two things are necessary now: (a) speeding-up of a solution to the problems left unsolved in London (which could be done in a few weeks); (b) to demand that the putting into operation of decisions taken in London, be done parallel with a substantial negotiation on the same matters with the applicant countries.

Let us not forget, too, that Spain and Portugal both have a public opinion which is extremely anxious, which feels forgotten, even rejected, and we have a duty to provide this public opinion with serious answers.

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