



Franco Restores Madrid as Capital **by Stuart Cummings Ripley**

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All government bureaus except the Foreign Ministry are to be moved to their old Quarters. Reconstruction after the extended civil war is slow. Reasons vary from the standard lack of skilled labor and scarcity of materials to a silent resistance to Franco's regime. However, in view of the lack of security in most cities compared to the infrastructure left in the old government buildings in Madrid, Franco has made a decision that is said to be motivated more by practicalities than politics.

Franco, however, continues to make reference to his infamous Manifestos in order to find political sanction for his moves. The move to Madrid is seen by most as motivated by strategic defense, and alignment with Germany. The move will be

a major effort, and will temporarily disrupt the flow of services in Spain. The move to Madrid will be completed by January.

Francisco Franco has once again defied the popular opinions of the people, leaning ever more towards the Axis powers. In a recent meeting with Adolf Hitler in Berlin, Franco returned home with new resolve, issuing six new manifestos with a week that affected the military, the choice of capital, and the defenses of the country.

Meanwhile, Spain is facing a serious food shortage, and services to the population have been all but abandoned. Refusing to admit or discuss the fact that Spain is facing a serious food shortage in the coming Winter, Minister of the Interior Ramon Serrano Suner announced last night that the government already was importing some products, planning an "unlimited drive" against food profiteers and considering other emergency measures. The move back to Madrid will also help the efficiency of food distribution.

Within the next few weeks the Spanish Government is expected to take its most important decision on whether to continue the informal embargo on exports to Great Britain and France of articles they need for carrying on the war.

Pushing on with his work of completing the peacetime reorganization of the Spanish Government, Generalissimo Francisco Franco tonight appointed General Carlos Asensio High Commissioner for Morocco. A veteran aide for many years to the Franco government, Asensio is well qualified for the job. However, German troops surround the capital complex in Morocco, not as invaders, but as a “peace time” protection force, according to Asensio.

Meanwhile, Germany is preparing to negotiate with Spain for an economic and commercial pact similar to that with Italy. The accord will be similar to the Berlin-Rome Treaty/ The Axis powers seem to be strengthening alignments, much to the consternation of Britain and France.