

The following article appeared in the May 25 issue of the Spanish weekly Mundo.

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#### REPORT FROM BILBAO: NEW BASQUE CLANDESTIN GROUP

A new armed-action political group has come on the scene in the Basque country. It is the so-called ETA VI Asamblea/ICR (Euzkadi ta Azkatasuna VI/Liga Comunista Revolucionaria -- Basque Nation and Freedom/Revolutionary Communist League).

Its public armed debut was a failure; nonetheless, it still exists menacingly. On Thursday, May 9, a married couple, Gregorio Martínez, "Daniel," 27, and María Josefa Ana Lecertúa Goñi, "Fifi," 21, attempted to hold up the Bolueta Foundry, located on the outskirts of Bilbao.

The newly born violent version of the ETA VI/ICR needed money to pay for arms and hideouts and went into action. Its objective: the 5 million pesetas of the Bolueta Foundry payroll.

But "Daniel" and "Fifi" did not manage to even get into the factory. Almost at the door, they were discovered by the Civil Guard and their plans were spoiled. There was a struggle. Shots were fired. Though no one was wounded, it was enough to convince Daniel and Fifi to give up.

By 10:30 a.m. Thursday, May 9, the two were entering the general headquarters of the Civil Guard in La Salve (Bilbao), arrested and demoralized by the failure.

The two, along with another youth who was not arrested, formed the Fleming commando group, the first military commando group of the ETA VI/ICR.

#### Free Within Four Hours

But it did not take Fifi even four hours to get out of the La Salve headquarters. She did not go out the way she came in to be sure. Her exit was more risky, fantastic, and eventful. Fifi escaped jumping through a window while her hands were handcuffed. It seems unlikely, but that is the reality of the situation.

Carelessness and the tremendous audacity of the young wife did it all. The girl was in an office undergoing interrogation. When she was left alone for a minute, she climbed up to a window-- which was not barred -- and jumped from the ten-foot sill to an interior patio. Afterwards, though she was hand-cuffed, she began to run across an open area.

How did she manage, in spite of all that, to escape the pursuit of the police? Who released her from the handcuffs once she reached the street? It is not known....

Result: Fifi, mother of a four-month-old child, a resident of Bilbao, a revolutionist, and student of philosophy and letters, leader of the first military commando group of the ETA VI, managed to win her freedom, while her husband, a machinist from Baracaldo, remained a prisoner.

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### What is ETA VI/LCR?

As with all things, we must begin at the beginning.

Since its founding fourteen years ago, state its statutes, the ETA's highest controlling body has been the Blitzar Nagusia or General Assembly. All decisions and political positions are worked out by this body.

In all general meetings up to the time they held their VI Assembly, they had been zig-zagging from one position to another. However, they always came out ahead, apparently, at least, without too many problems.

Then came the VI Assembly (in September 1970) in the pretty French tourist fishing spot, San Juan de Luz. All the tensions, differences, and struggles, which were more or less dormant or slowed down, were raised in a chaotic manner.

And the VI Assembly marked the splitting of the organization into many groups. One of them, of course, was the ETA VI.

On the other hand, immediately after the fracturing of the organization produced by the assembly at San Juan de Luz, the so-called ETA V came to the forefront as the true representative of the ideological line hammered out at the preceding Blitzar Nagusia.

During recent years, for all practical purposes, ETA VI has been silent, or reduced to propaganda and proselytizing work.

On the other hand, ETA V has been the protagonist of almost all the activism which developed between 1972 and the present and which reached its peak with the death of Admiral Carero Blanco.

In reality, ETA V members had pushed ETA VI into the background. Nonetheless, the latter is now coming onto the scene hand in hand with the Liga Comunista Revolucionaria, and, in addition, via a struggle with military commando groups.

### A Team with the LCR

It was March 14, 1973, when the remains of the ETA VI Assembly and the Liga Comunista Revolucionaria signed the agreement on "joint work," based on the line of the Fourth International.

Are the ETA VI members "important" guests within the LCR? They do not seem to be. They are just ordinary types on "probation" in the lobby.

In the Basque country, the LCR at first brought two tendencies into play: the "encrucijada" (crossroads) -- for all practical purposes dismantled and in the ditch, and the "en marcha" (on the move) or "marchanges" (the marchers) -- who continue to be active and collaborate closely with ETA VI.

The initials ETA VI/LCR appeared on the walls in southwestern France for the first time at the end of 1973, in relation to trial No. 1,001. In Spain, their propagandistic debut took

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place in spring 1974 in Durango, Bilbao, and San Sebastián.

This new political group has a clearly Trotskyist line, which has thus accentuated still more its ideological differences with the official ETA, which came out for socialism at the Fifth Assembly.

#### A Weak Movement

It would clearly be premature to predict the future of this new armed political group, which has gone into action. However, what we can say is that even before picking up the gun, the group developed an intensive work of subversive propaganda and that it is thought that the group is very small.

In spite of all that, we cannot take lightly the obvious fact that there are new armed commando groups in the Basque country, which are willing to take their activism along the road of hold-ups, violent actions, and kidnappings. -- Jose Maria Portell.