

SPAIN

Date of Elections: September-October 1967

Characteristics of Parliament:

Under the provisions concerning the reform of the composition of the Cortes (Spanish Parliament) contained in the Organic Law of the State approved by referendum on December 14, 1966, four decrees were adopted by the Council of Ministers on August 18, 1967, fixing the date of elections between September 25 and October 21, 1967. For the first time since February 16, 1936, 108 of the 564 members* of the Cortes were to be designated on October 10 by direct universal suffrage. According to the Organic Law of 1967, the number of seats was also reduced while the proportion of elected parliamentarians to *ex-officio* deputies was increased. The remaining seats were to be filled either by indirect elections or by nomination by the Head of State or President of the Government; a last category of deputies was represented by *ex-officio* members.

As regards the duration of the mandate, that of *ex-officio* members expires when they cease to occupy the post which entitles them to sit in the Cortes; members nominated by the Head of State can be revoked by him. The remaining deputies are elected for a period of four years and can be re-elected; however, if they are representatives of the Provincial Council of a commune or local community, they lose their seat in the event of their ceasing to belong to the said Council.

* The number of seats in the Cortes varies in view of the fact that a single person may be a member in several capacities.

Electoral System:

Apart from the common general requirements for eligibility, namely, that the candidate be Spanish, adult and in full possession of his civil and political rights, the system naturally varies according to whether voting is direct or indirect.

1. Indirect vote:

(a) Local administration:

The municipalities of the fifty metropolitan provinces (including the Balearic and Canary Islands), together with the municipalities of Fernando Poo, Rio Muni and the Spanish Sahara, each elect a single deputy from among their members. The seven cities comprising more than 300,000 inhabitants — Barcelona, Madrid, Malaga, Seville, Valencia, Bilbao and Saragossa —, together with Ceuta and Melilla in North Africa, each send one member to the Cortes who represents and is chosen by the municipality. Thus 62 representatives in all are elected by the municipal councils.

The Provincial Councils of the fifty provinces and the territories of Fernando Poo, Rio Muni and the Spanish Sahara designate one of their members to represent them (53 in all).

Local administrations therefore send 115 deputies to the Cortes.

(b) 150 representatives of syndical organizations are elected by bodies which are themselves elected by the said organizations.

(c) Cultural institutions, associations, colleges and professional chambers elect deputies from among their members. 29 seats are reserved for these bodies in the Cortes.

(d) Local administrations designate colleges from among their members which elect 55 members of the National

Council of the Movement (which, including the 40 Councillors nominated by the President of the Government, and the Secretary General of the Movement, is therefore represented by 102 members in all).

2. Direct vote:

Two members are elected in each province, one in Ceuta, one in Melilla; the territories of Fernando Poo, Rio Muni and the Spanish Sahara also elect two deputies each.

Only heads of families, married women and widows are entitled to vote.

In order to be eligible, a candidate must be born in the province, resident in it for at least seven years since the age of 14, proposed by 1,000 electors or 0.5 per cent of the population of the province, unless he belongs, or has belonged, to the Cortes and is proposed by five of its members or by seven members of the Provincial Councils. Candidates are moreover required to swear allegiance to the regime and to the principles of the Falangist Movement.

General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections:

The campaign for the election of representatives of the family was relatively calm; it was restricted to two weeks and meetings were not permitted to last more than two hours. Candidates were given no financial assistance, and subscriptions and collections on their behalf were prohibited. The ban on political parties, except for the national Movement, and on electoral associations remained in force. For the most part, the 327 candidates belonged to the well-to-do classes or moderate Falangist circles. Participation in the elections, which averaged 64.3 per cent, varied from province to province; it was higher in Burgos and Avila (80 per cent) and in Madrid, where 13 candidates contested two seats, than in regions where separatist and republican elements exist, such as Barcelona (less than 50 per cent), San Sebastian in the Basque country (33 per cent) and the Asturias (30 per cent).

Statistics:*Composition of the Cortes*

<i>Nominations by the Head of State</i>	Number
Persons designated by virtue of their position in the ecclesiastic, military and administrative hierarchy.	25
<i>Ex-officio Members</i>	
University rectors.	12
Presidents of supreme State bodies.	5
Members of the Government.	18
<i>National Council of the Movement</i>	
Deputies nominated by the Head of State	40
Deputies nominated by the President of the Government	6
Elected deputies.	55
<i>Ex-officio</i> deputy: Secretary General of the National Council.	1
<i>Representatives of Syndical Organizations.</i>	150
<i>Representatives of Local Administration.</i>	115
<i>Representatives of the Family</i> *.	108
<i>Representatives of:</i>	
Cultural institutions.	6
Associations, colleges, professional chambers	23
	564

* These are the only deputies to the Cortes that are elected by direct vote.