

National Intelligence Daily

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OVERNIGHT REPORTS

(The items in the Overnight Reports section have not been coordinated within the intelligence community. They are prepared overnight by the Office of Current Operations with analyst comment where possible from the production offices of NFAC.)

Spain

According to official projections of results of yesterday's legislative election announced late last night, Prime Minister Suarez' Union of the Democratic Center will win about 170 of the 350 seats in the lower house of the legislature—five seats more than it won in 1977 but short of a majority. The Socialists of Felipe Gonzalez have about 116 seats. As anticipated, abstentions rose to over 30 percent, giving a boost to the Communist Party, which will probably increase its 20 seats in the current legislature to about 25. The rightist Democratic Coalition may slip from 16 to eight seats.

COMMENT: Suarez' party appears to have won a surprisingly clear victory. King Juan Carlos is virtually certain to nominate Suarez to form another government. Parliament must approve Suarez' appointment; because he lacks a majority there, Suarez may delay government formation, perhaps until after the municipal elections on 3 April.

UK

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The opposition Conservative Party yesterday won two byelections held in districts traditionally "safe" for the Tories. The Conservatives promptly called for a general election. According to Western news services, official results of the referendum on devolution in Scotland and Wales will not be known until tonight. A poll conducted after the referendum by Britain's commercial television network indicated that voters in Wales overwhelmingly rejected devolution. Those voting in Scotland approved devolution, but voter turnout was low. The network projected that the measure would consequently fail to meet the requirement that 40 percent of the electorate approve it.

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