



Zapatero's Two Faces

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There is no doubt: Prime Minister Rodríguez Zapatero has two faces to show the United States: the bad and unsociable one, acid and, above all, critical of any and everything. This is his Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos' face; then there is the affable, good face, smiling and comprehensive. This is the friendly one of his Defense Minister Jose Bono. While the former insults and taunts the Bush administration, the latter parades among American military commanders and praises the US flag (a flag which his boss, not too long ago, refused to honor).

The Americans, pursuing their own interests, have played along. While Mr. Moratinos is treated to stiff politeness and received as little as diplomatically possible, Mr. Bono is happily greeted by the head of the Pentagon. It is possible American diplomats think this will accurately reflect their President's position: he has yet to return Prime Minister Zapatero's phone call and pays him less and less attention. From seven minutes in Istanbul to seven seconds in Brussels and a quick "hey, how are you?" Now, in Moscow, a simple, wordless gesture.

In any case, Mr. Moratinos is thrilled to feel himself a victim of Yankee imperial-

ism, which is what every anti-American dreams of. But, Mr. Bono is even happier. He let it be known that Defense Secretary Rumsfeld had given him much more time than his fellow cabinet member. Mr. Bono's gaiety during his recent trip to the US was made plain among the jumble of journalists he took along with him. Jose Bono is really not the Spanish Defense Minister. For the United States, he is the Spanish Foreign Minister. He makes and breaks with Venezuela and Washington more than the man in Santa Cruz Palace. Like with Cuba.

It is possible Mr. Bono holds a hidden wish, or hope, to represent Spanish diplomacy in his long political trajectory toward higher goals. Those aspiring to the post of Defense Minister (and in the Socialist Party there are plenty of people who deem it a highly respectable job) want to interpret things this way. But why would the Prime Minister change Moratinos? His policy needs two faces: to get on poorly with the Americans, but to be able to show off a friendly photo once in a while. And this is why he has his two ministers. Of course, at the next summit, Bush might not even look at him.

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