

# Spain's most successful political cartoonist

**POLITICAL CARTOONISTS**, muzzled for almost 40 years during the dictatorship of the late General Franco, have become best sellers in Spain's young democracy.

Names like Forges, Máximo and Mingote — the pseudonyms of cartoonists in three Madrid newspapers —

ingenious caricaturing of the country's leaders, as a fact recognised not least by the politicians themselves.

Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez, who engineered the transition and is therefore the protagonist of the collection writes in a forward: "Peridis has achieved what many of us thought im-

possible for him to climb on to the State-controlled television screen.

When the Armed Forces expressed disgust at the lifting in April 1977 of General Franco's ban on the Communists, Sr Carrillo was shown scurrying back into his manhole.

And not far behind, look-

ing at a cartoon in *Informaciones* dealt with former US President Richard Nixon and the Watergate scandal.

At that time it was impossible for him to caricature Spanish politicians — so he practised on foreigners. "When I glimpsed a little freedom and that political life was going to be resurrected, I began to do car-

**KEVIN DUNN in Madrid**

toons. They are all present, from the fierce-looking right-wing leader Manuel Fraga Iribarne to the tousle-haired boyish socialist Felipe González.

And the ed and loved and loved. As Sr Suarez don the ha because of give me."