The diplomatic effort

The Alquerian Parliament wrote to all the countries listed in Poyato's Junior Book of World Flags. This was to ask their Foreign Ministers to present their credentials at a reception held in the village's Ayuntamiento on the Calle Horno. The worthies of Alqueria wanted to establish the Republic in the ranks of the world's nations and this was to be the initial diplomatic offensive.

Very few countries replied and even fewer accepted. The Americans accepted because the Iranians did and the Iranians because the Americans did. The Spanish accepted as the ex-colonial power. The British accepted because the Americans told them to and because the US ambassador needed someone to carry his briefcase.

Rodriquez's white Mercedes was pressed into service ferrying the delegates from their accommodation at the Bar La Casa Devante to the Ayuntamiento. To create the illusion of having a fleet of white Mercedes the car was driven in endless circles. A dignitary would be collected from the Bar and driven sedately to the town-hall. The car would then race back taking corners on two wheels to collect another foreign minister.

The red, white, and green horizontal tricolour of Alqueria with its Remitroot rampant charge hung everywhere. Trestle tables offered the finest local cuisine including vol-au-vents filled with Alquerian truffles and Knurled Río Verde Trout. A famous TV chef once said he would rather eat the toenails of an Ethiopian camel driver than these delicacies.

Manuela, resplendent in a body hugging flamenco dress which gave the impression of having been sprayed on dominated the reception. A high peineta protruded from her tightly tied raven black hair. Her soulful almond eyes flashed with a seductive warmth that could melt a heart at a hundred metres. As Alqueria's secret weapon, she charmed and captivated the collected dignitaries.

Most of the foreign visitors had never been exposed to Remitroot in any of its varied forms. If the food was vile then the Remitroot based beverages were a revelation and enjoyed in vast quantity. All the ambassadors soon became worse for wear.

The American ambassador drunkenly threatened to invade Iran while the Iranians in a red mist of intoxication threatened US interests in Asia. The Spanish delegate tried to seduce Manuela and was never seen again. The British ambassador sank slowly to the floor, eyes glazed and legs buckling. He muttered over and over again “It's a good deal for Britain”. Why was not clear, however he was probably working on the theory, if you say something often enough people will start to believe it.

They arrived with dignity but left a drunken giggling rabble. They all however signed large contracts to supply Remitroot Liquor to their respective embassies. It indeed was a good deal for Alqueria.