

Message Text

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FOR THE SECRETARY AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST ONLY

E.O. 11652 XGDS-1
TAGS: MARR, US, SP
SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH THE KING: SPANISH INTEREST
IN F-16 AIRCRAFT

1. DURING MY CONVERSATION WITH THE KING AT THE ZARZUELA PALACE MARCH 7, ALSO COVERING OTHER MATTERS (SEPTELS), THE KING ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE UNITED STATES MIGHT FIND SOME WAY TO FACILITATE THE ACQUISITION BY SPAIN OF F-16 AIRCRAFT. HE THOUGHT THAT SUCH A DEVELOPMENT WOULD BE A VERY IMPORTANT PIECE IN OUR OVERALL POSTURE OF SUPPORT FOR SPAIN.

2. HE TOLD ME CONFIDENTIALLY, AND WITH THE REQUEST THAT I NOT LET THE GOVERNMENT KNOW HE TOLD ME, THAT EC COMMISSION PRESIDENT JENKINS HAD INFORMED THE SPANISH THAT PRESIDENT GISCARD HAD TOLD JENKINS THAT FRANCE WAS NOT ANXIOUS TO HAVE SPAIN IN THE COMMON MARKET. GISCARD HAD INDICATED HIS PREFERENCE FOR EARLY ENTRANCE OF GREECE, BUT THAT SPAIN AND PORTUGAL SHOULD WAIT MANY YEARS BEFORE ENTERING. WHEN JENKIN'S HAD BROUGHT THIS INFORMATION TO THE ATTENTION OF THE

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GOS, PRIME MINISTER SUAREZ HAD IMMEDIATELY STOPPED, AT LEAST UNTIL AFTER THE FRENCH ELECTIONS, THE ALMOST CONCLUDED DEAL WITH THE FRENCH TO PURCHASE FRENCH F-1 AIRCRAFT.

3. THE KING COMMENTED THAT CONTINUED EVIDENCE OF UNITED STATES SUPPORT WAS MOST IMPORTANT. HE VERY MUCH

HOPED THAT WE WOULD BE ABLE TO BE HELPFUL NOT ONLY ON AIR FORCE MATTERS BUT ALSO WITH REGARD TO THE NEEDS OF THE SPANISH NAVY AND ARMY.

4. I TOLD THE KING THAT, WITH REGARD TO F-16 AIRCRAFT, THIS WAS A COMPLEX MATTER WHICH INVOLVED NOT ONLY NATO COMMITMENTS, BUT ALSO THE DIFFICULT MATTER OF FINANCING. HOWEVER, I WOULD, OF COURSE, INFORM YOU OF HIS COMMENTS. I ALSO TOLD HIM THAT I WAS IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH OUR THREE SERVICES TO TRY TO RESOLVE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE PENDING PROBLEMS, SUCH AS SHIP CONSTRUCTION AND THE TERRITORIAL COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK (TCN). THE KING INDICATED THAT HE WAS FULLY AWARE OF THESE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS.

5. IN CONNECTION WITH ALL OF THIS THE KING CASUALLY REMARKED THAT IF THE PRESIDENT WERE NOT ABLE TO VISIT SPAIN (MADRID 2516) HE MIGHT CONSIDER SENDING AN QUOTE EMISSARY UNQUOTE TO SEE THE PRESIDENT IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO DISCUSS THE OVERALL QUESTION OF U.S.-SPANISH RELATIONSHIPS. I MADE NO COMMENT ON THIS AND HE DID NOT PURSUE THE MATTER. STABLER

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Message Attributes

Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014