Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 251738 TOSEC 160259

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S E C R E T STATE 251738 TOSEC 160259

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, SP

SUBJECT: REQUEST FROM JUAN CARLOS

REF: MADRID 7370

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM HARTMAN

1. YOU HAVE SEEN THE MESSAGE FROM STABLER RECOMMENDING THAT WE RESPOND FAVORABLY TO JUAN CARLOS' REQUEST FOR OUR HELP BY APPROACHING ARIAS.

2. THE SITUATION IN SPAIN IS COMPLEX AND WE HAVE NO CLEAR IDEA WHAT THE EFFECT OF SUCH AN APPROACH WOULD BE. THE POINTS IN FAVOR OF DOING IT WOULD BE:

-- WE WOULD IDENTIFY OURSELVES WITH A CHANGE DESIRED BY JUAN CARLOS, MANY CIVILIAN AND MILITARY LEADERS, AND THOSE WHO WILL NOW ASSUME LEADERSHIP IN SPAIN.

-- IF SUCCESSFUL, WE WOULD AVOID FRANCO LINGERING ON SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 251738 TOSEC 160259

AND SPAIN DRIFTING TOWARD A MORE DIFFICULT SUCCESSION

LATER.

THE CONS ARE:

-- EVEN THOUGH COUCHED AS FRIENDLY ADVISE NOT AIMED AT FRANCO, OUR APPROACH WOULD BE SEEN BY SOME AS INTER-VENING IN THE MOST SENSITIVE INTERNAL QUESTION.

-- THE APPROACH MIGHT NOT HAVE ANY EFFECT ON THE ACTUAL RESULT AND WE WOULD RISK OURSELVES FOR NOTHING.

3. AFTER WEIGHING THE POSSIBLE GAINS AGAINST WHAT I SEE AS LIMITED RISKS, I BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD RESPOND POSITIVELY TO JUAN CARLOS' REQUEST NOW, WHILE WE CAN PLAY A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN BRINGING ABOUT THE TRANSITION WE IN FACT FAVOR.

4. I RECOMMEND THAT YOU AUTHORIZE STABLER TO SEE ARIAS AND MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- OUR TWO COUNTRIES ARE AT THE THRESHOLD OF AN ENRICHED COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP.

-- WE BELIEVE STRONGLY THAT SPAIN HAS AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN THE WORLD AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING EVEN MORE CLOSELY WITH IT IN THE FUTURE.

-- THE PRESENT SITUATION REQUIRES THAT SPAIN BE LED VIGOROUSLY AND DECISIVELY AND NOT BE ALLOWED TO DRIFT.

-- THE SUCCESSION OF JUAN CARLOS NOW WOULD OPEN IMPORTANT NEW POSSIBILITIES NOT ONLY WITH THE US BUT WITH THE WESTERN WORLD AS A WHOLE. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED Concepts: HEALTH, POLICIES, TOSEC, REMOVAL FROM OFFICE, POLITICAL SITUATION, PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION, CAT-C Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 23 OCT 1975 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date: Disposition Authority: ElyME Disposition Case Number: n/a Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004 Disposition Event: Disposition History: n/a Disposition Reason: Disposition Remarks: Document Number: 1975STATE251738 Document Number: 1975STATE251738 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: MDURKEE Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: X2 Errors: N/A Film Number: P850011-1767 From: STATE Handling Restrictions: n/a Image Path: ISecure: 1 Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751028/aaaaaysk.tel Line Count: 94 Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Office: ORIGIN NODS **Original Classification: SECRET** Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS Page Count: 2 Previous Channel Indicators: n/a Previous Classification: SECRET Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS Reference: 75 MADRID 7370 Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: ElyME Review Content Flags: Review Date: 18 JUN 2003 **Review Event:** Review Exemptions: n/a Review History: RELEASED <18 JUN 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <29 OCT 2003 by ElyME> **Review Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JÚL 2006 **Review Media Identifier:** Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE Subject: REQUEST FROM JUAN CARLOS TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, SP, US, (JUAN CARLOS, PRINCE), (FRANCO AHAMONDE, FRANCISCO) To: SECRETARY Type: TE Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006