

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

188

130

Approved in S: 1/8/66 *JMM* Memorandum of ConversationDATE: December 16, 1965
Vice President Munoz Grandes'
Office, Madrid

SUBJECT: Tour d'horizon

Spain

 PARTICIPANTS: Vice President Munoz Grandes
Sr. Angel Sagaz, Foreign Office

United States

 Secretary Rusk
Ambassador Duke
Assistant Secretary Leddy
Minister-Counselor Walker
Major General Donovan, Chief, JUSMG
Mr. Sancho-Bonet, Consul General,
Bilbao (Interpreter)

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The Secretary, in responding to Munoz Grandes' congratulations on the success of the Gemini flights, said he was very pleased to receive the news in Spain because of the important role of the space facilities here which have been made possible through Spanish cooperation. Munoz Grandes said that Spain was always anxious to cooperate with the United States in every possible way.

The Secretary said that he had been watching with great interest Spanish relations with Europe, Africa and Latin America. As an example of how Spanish-Latin American relations have improved, he mentioned that when he was in Madrid four years ago he was strongly criticized for his visit but yet two years ago the OAS held a formal meeting to celebrate Spanish-Latin American relations. Munoz Grandes said that it was very important for both of our countries to develop closer relations with Latin America and the Arab World. Spain, he pointed out, has its limitations in Latin America because of the mother country complex. Some Latin Americans are proud of Spanish heritage but others are ashamed of it. He believes that with small support from the United States, Spain can do much to the advantage of both countries in Latin America. Spain must be very careful to avoid the impression that it wishes to re-establish its domination and must get across the point that the Spanish wish to help them as brothers. The Secretary remarked that it is very important for Spain to have 15,000 Latin American students studying here.

The Secretary

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3-61

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E.O. 13292, Sec. 3.4
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By *jc*, NARA, Date *5-16-04*

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-2-

The Secretary said that our problem in Viet Nam, although a very serious one, is in essence very simple. The United States has commitments in Southeast Asia which were made in the most vital interests of the United States. If Peking and Hanoi continue to push we can either get out of the way or meet them. We will meet them; but if they stop, we can have peace tomorrow. Munoz Grandes said he was pleased to hear the Secretary speak that way.

The Secretary said that we have not been able to get into the minds of the other side that the trail of aggression is utterly dangerous for the aggressor. In referring to the actions of the Greek guerillas following World War II, Korea, and the Berlin airlift, the Secretary pointed out that all of our aims have been directed towards peace. Yet we find those who say we are asking Hanoi for unconditional surrender. He emphasized that we are not asking for unconditional surrender; we are merely saying to them that if they will stop shooting their neighbors, then there will be peace.

Munoz Grandes in remarking that the war in Viet Nam is costing much in money and blood inquired whether other countries in Southeast Asia might contribute their blood to this conflict. The Secretary said we feel that there should be more flags and more people and pointed out that there are 20,000 Koreans plus combat forces from New Zealand and Australia. The Philippines are expected to send combat forces by the end of the year. However, the South Vietnamese are carrying the main fight.

The Secretary said that one of the surprises of the war in Viet Nam has been the ineffectiveness of the surface-to-air missiles which the Soviets made available to Hanoi. He said approximately 200 missiles have been fired but only 8 have killed a plane. Most of the aircraft losses have been from conventional ground fire.

Munoz Grandes thanked the Secretary very much for taking the time to call on him, and said he found the Secretary's remarks most interesting. He expressed his great admiration for the United States and his strong support of our efforts in behalf of the free world.

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