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BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Fernando CASTIELLA y Maiz
Foreign Minister of Spain

Fernando Castiella, while loyal to Franco, appears to have moderated the militant views which during World War II led him, as a volunteer with the Spanish Blue Division, to fight alongside German troops on the Russian Front in 1941-42. As Foreign Minister he has been especially friendly toward the United States. He has also concentrated on improving relations with France and Germany, as part of Spain's policy of strengthening its ties with Western Europe. During his term as Foreign Minister, Spain has agreed to participate in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and has applied for Associate Membership in the European Common Market.

The Minister has played an active role in improving conditions for religious minorities in Spain.

Castiella's grandmother was a Miss Nordhausen from La Grange, Texas, and the Minister's mother was also born in Texas. Mr. Castiella is married and is the father of four children. He has adequate facility in English.

Born in 1907, Castiella attended the Universities of Valladolid and Madrid, and studied in Paris, Geneva and Cambridge. A professor of international law at the University of Madrid from 1934 to 1948, he has held a seat on the Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague since 1939. In 1948 Castiella was appointed Ambassador to Peru, and in 1951 he became Ambassador to the Vatican. Upon his return in 1957, Castiella was named Minister of Foreign Affairs, his current position.

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