

TRANSLATION

My dear Mr. President:

I am taking advantage of the return to Washington of Ambassador Garrigues to express to Your Excellency the loyal friendship of the Spanish people for the people of the United States, and to renew my personal wishes of success in the arduous task that confronts you as leader of that great country on which rests the future of the free world.

Captain General Munoz Grandes, Vice President of the Spanish Government, had the sad privilege of conveying to you the sorrow of Spain in the tragic death of your predecessor, President Kennedy, a grief felt in our hearts as deeply as if it had been our own.

This loss to Humanity took place only a few weeks after the signing in New York of the renewal of the Agreements between our two Governments, which came to confirm a close cooperation, made evident in the course of the past ten years, during which our Armed Services have lived and worked together in perfect harmony in the jointly used Spanish bases.

At this time of deep readjustment that pervades the world, Spain wishes to express her full confidence in the Government of the United States, being quite disposed to cooperate toward the shaping of new formulas to resolve these problems. To this end, we can fortunately rely upon the talent, firmness and proven political experience of Your Excellency.

To His Excellency Lyndon B. Johnson
President of the United States of America
WASHINGTON.

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E.O. 13292, Sec. 3.4
NSC Memo, 1/30/95, State Guidelines
By jc, NARA, Date 5-16-04

The Spanish people and my government consider that the essential purpose of our foreign policy is to struggle for peace to the utmost of our strength, tightening bonds with those who are most close to us geographically or spiritually. Towards that purpose we are also endeavoring to put aside the differences which separate us from other countries, but in our contacts and discussions we are not losing sight of the cohesion and the unity of the West from which its strength derives.

Your Excellency is well aware of our ties with Spanish America, which bind us in a very special way to that continent. These bonds and our sincere friendship with the United States may represent a positive factor at this time of vital development of the Spanish speaking peoples.

The understanding and esteem of Your Excellency for my country, of which we have received so many proofs, open a bright perspective for an even closer cooperation between our peoples.

It gives me pleasure to have this opportunity to greet you very sincerely,

Francisco Franco

Madrid, 1 February, 1964.