

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

Spain 85

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Action

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DATE: January 21, 8 p.m.

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Details latest developments possibility establishment Soviet-Spanish relations contained Embassy A-540 reports given by variety sources [REDACTED] last 48 hours lead us to following conclusions:

- 1) Given government control of press, current campaign suggest specific GOS goal, and numerous observers conclude objective is prepare Spanish public for some form Soviet recognition.
- 2) There are also reports that while many elements such as Foreign Ministry anxious "regularize" relations with Soviets, Franco remains extremely conservative this issue.
- 3) From above we conclude some type relationship in commercial field more likely than full diplomatic relations. Exchange of Ambassadors would establish, in Franco view, spy nest in Madrid. Therefore exchange of Trade Commissioners, or permanently established commercial missions appears most likely solution if acceptable to Soviets.
- 4) Spanish may not fully realize Soviets presumably also inhibited in establishing relations by antagonism to Franco regime on part western European Communist parties, especially Spanish.
- 5) Establishment more formal relationship with Soviets and doubtless subsequently others such as Czechs and Poles fits in with Spanish desire play increasing role in Europe and in East-West

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affairs generally. We doubt this would extend to Red China.

6) Therefore with usual caveat that none of Franco's advisers knows Chief of State's mind and we do not know he has made any decision, it appears more likely than in past that some such form relationship as indicated above now under study, especially in light government-controlled press campaign.

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WOODWARD

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