

Spain  
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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

Held on Tuesday, May 24, 1966  
at the White House

1. Mr. Smith  
2. file

Participating:

Spanish Embassy:

His Excellency

The Marquis de Merry Del Val,  
Ambassador E. and P.

and

Mr. Nuno Aguirre de Carcer,  
~~Minister Counselor.~~

*Asst Secy of State for North American  
& Latin American Affairs, Spain*

The White House:

Mr. Rostow  
Mr. Bowdler

SUBJECT: Anglo-Spanish Talks on Gibraltar

The Ambassador said he had asked for the appointment to inform Mr. Rostow of the status of the Anglo-Spanish talks on Gibraltar.

He gave Mr. Rostow a copy of the study (copy attached) which the Spanish Foreign Minister presented to British Foreign Secretary Stewart, calling special attention to the Spanish recommendations for resolving the Gibraltar question.

The Ambassador noted that Secretary Stewart had made the following preliminary observations on the study:

1. He objected to the manner in which the Spanish study described the legal title to Gibraltar (the Spanish Ambassador noted that the study made a distinction between the fortress covered by the Treaty of Utrecht and the "neutral zone" on which the British had been gradually encroaching to build their airstrip.)

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 13292, Sec. 3.4  
NSC Memo, 1/30/95, State Guidelines  
By jc, NARA, Date 5/6/04

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2. He took exception to the description of Gibraltar as a NATO naval base. (The Ambassador observed that Gibraltar is used by NATO forces.)
3. He disagreed with the implication that the Treaty of Utrecht prevented the U. K. from taking part in alliances such as NATO.
4. He asked the Spanish Government to abolish its restriction on Gibraltar (a theme which the British Foreign Secretary made repeatedly, the Ambassador observed.)
5. He observed that proposals as important and serious as the ones advanced by the Spanish Government merited careful consideration and he did not want to make a quick reply.

The Spanish Ambassador noted that the Ministerial talks ran from May 18-20. The second-round at the Under-Secretary level began on May 20. This round is focusing on the Spanish recommendation relating to the Base and the status of the inhabitants.

The Spanish Ambassador asked Mr. Rostow if he had any views on this matter. Mr. Rostow expressed appreciation in being informed; noted that this is obviously a question involving two of our friends which they will need to work out; and expressed pleasure that it was under rational discourse.

William G. Bowdler

Attachment

cc - Mr. Rostow

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