

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Action

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During call by Embassy Officer yesterday to discuss recent Spanish-Portuguese meetings with Portuguese Ambassador Pinto Coelho, latter discussed in connection with possible Spanish-Soviet relations question of Portuguese ties with Chinese Communists (Lisbon's 574 to Department repeated Madrid as 23). Pinto Coelho said following his talks with Foreign Minister Franco Nogueira who was here last week he did not anticipate change in Lisbon's relations with Peking on grounds Chinese Communists not currently pressing for recognition. Ambassador thought satisfactory modus vivendi now exists which did not require Portugal take any action. In absence strong Chinese Communist initiative which not now apparent, he thought situation would continue as at present.

Hoffman incidentally confirms locally NEW YORK TIMES January 17 article reports precisely what Franco Nogueira told him.

Comment: Embassy of course not certain how well-informed Portuguese Ambassador here may be.

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WOODWARD

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By *je*, NARA, Date 5-16-04

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