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March 4, 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Visit by the Spanish Foreign Minister

Recommendation

I recommend that you receive Spanish Foreign Minister Fernando Castiella for a short courtesy call at a time convenient to you on either March 23 or 24.

Approve _____ Disapprove _____

Discussion

The Minister is now in the Far East as a guest of several governments in that area. He plans to return to Spain via the United States.

Although there is a basic ideological divergence between our two countries, our present relations with Spain are untroubled. Spain has fulfilled its commitments under our Defense Agreement in an extraordinarily cooperative manner. Spain has also lent its support to our position in the United Nations and to our policies in general, although Spain believes it must maintain diplomatic and commercial ties with Cuba.

Spain is now undergoing a rapid economic and social transition which is breaking down the decades of isolation. We want to encourage these changes. Minister Castiella himself has taken an active role in promoting greater religious liberty. Our trade relations with Spain are growing. While there will be no substantive issues to discuss, your reception of the Minister would help to consolidate further our present pre-eminent position in Spain and advance our policies.

The Minister speaks fluent English. His grandmother was born in Texas.

/s/

Dean Rusk

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E.O. 13292, Sec. 3.4
State Dept. Guidelines
By jc, NARA, Date 5-16-04

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