

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

Spain

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Control: 21555
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BRUSSELS FOR USEC

In conversation with Foreign Minister Castiella May 25 he alluded to his conversation with Secretary Rusk about GOS application for association Common Market and said he was very anxious that GOS receive a hospitable reply. I commented that I supposed he would consider a trade agreement with the Common Market a useful next step if formal association were not possible. Castiella said "not at all"; that the GOS would roundly reject the idea of a trade agreement; that this would be no better than present trade arrangements through GATT etc. I commented that I was surprised to learn this, and he then repeated himself, again unequivocally rejecting the idea of a trade agreement and said that there would be a very disagreeable situation in trade relations between Spain and the Common Market countries that may block discussion of GOS association. He said that he understood the Common Market Representatives will decide upon their reply to GOS June 2 and that he thinks the Italian attitude is now better than it was.

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WOODWARD

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