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Action

CONTROL: 16813

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Info

RECD: JANUARY 21, 1966 10:00 AM

FROM: MADRID

ACTION: SECSTATE IMMEDIATE 869

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ JANUARY 21

LIMDIS

REF DEPTTEL 838

1. WITH REFERENCE EFFECT OF B-52/KC-135 ACCIDENT ON US-SPANISH RELATIONS, WE HAVE BEEN IN CLOSE AND CONTINUOUS CONTACT WITH FONOFF SINCE MONDAY AND HAVE DETECTED NO APPRECIABLE TENSION SO FAR. ITEMS:

A. IN LONG DISCUSSIONS AT SAGAZ LEVEL JANUARY 19 AND 20 ON PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS ATMOSPHERE PRIMARILY ONE OF COMMON CONCERN OVER PROBLEM CONFRONTING BOTH COUNTRIES; NO EXPLICIT OR IMPLIED RESENTMENT DIRECTED AT US. FOCUS OF FONOFF INTEREST APPEARED BE EFFECT ON SPANISH OPINION OF PUBLIC REVELATION NUCLEAR-ARMED US BOMBERS OPERATING IN SPANISH AIR SPACE. SAGAZ ALSO MENTIONED, WITHOUT GREAT STRESS, THAT SENSATIONAL STORIES ABOUT MISSING BOMBS AND RADIATION COULD EXCITE SPANISH PUBLIC, WHICH UNSOPHISTICATED IN SUCH MATTERS, TO EXAGGERATED REACTION. SOME FONOFF OFFICIALS AT LOWER LEVEL DID EXPRESS SURPRISE THAT "RISKY" REFUELING OPERATION SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT OVER LAND RATHER THAN SEA.

B. AMBASSADOR WAS REQUESTED TO CALL ON FONMIN JANUARY 20 (EMBTTEL 865) AND HAD LENGTHY, UNHURRIED DISCUSSION. QUESTION OF NATO USE JOINT BASES HERE AND GIBRALTAR DEFINITELY DOMINATED CONVERSATION AND TOOK MARKED PRECEDENCE OVER REMARKS EXCHANGED ON BOMBER ACCIDENT. THRUST OF FONMIN'S COMMENT LATTER SUBJECT WAS CONCERN OVER EFFECT ON SPANISH PUBLIC OPINION OF NEWSPAPER STORIES AND HE SPOKE IN TERMS OF US-SPANISH COLLABORATION TO CONTAIN REPERCUSSIONS.

C. THERE HAVE BEEN NO OTHER APPROACHES ON PART SPANISH CIVILIAN AUTHORITIES (SUCH AS MININFO) TO EMBASSY ON THIS SUBJECT.

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By *isl*, NARA, Date *2-26-07*

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-2- 869 January 21 from Madrid

D. 1. NO ADVERSE REACTION REPORTED TO DATE FROM HIGH SPANISH MILITARY AUTHORITIES WITH WHOM CHIEF JUSMG IN FREQUENT CONTACT ON THIS SUBJECT.

2. LOCAL PRESS DEVELOPMENTS BEING REPORTED SEPARATELY. WORTH STRESSING HERE EFFORTS OF GOS TO STEM FLOW OF PRESS INFORMATION PARTICULARLY INTO SPAIN, AS EVIDENCED BY NON-APPEARANCE HERE OF EUROPEAN EDITIONS NYTIMES AND NYHERALD TRIBUNE JANUARY 20.

3. ONLY IMPLICIT GOS COMPLAINT HAS BEEN VICE PRESIDENT MUNOZ GRANDES' SUGGESTION TO CHIEF JUSMG THAT USAF REFUELING OPERATIONS OF THIS NATURE HENCEFORTH TAKE PLACE OVER WATER, NOT OVER SPANISH TERRITORY. MUNOZ GRANDES ALSO INQUIRED WHETHER US HAD ANY NUCLEAR DEVICES STORED ON SPANISH TERRITORY.

4. GOS, SPECIFICALLY FONOFF, EVIDENTLY IS BEING KEPT CURRENTLY INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS AT SITE AND IN INTERNATIONAL PRESS; IT THUS APPEARS BE OPERATING IN AWARENESS ALL ESSENTIAL FACTS, WHICH COMING FROM OWN SOURCES AS WELL AS FROM EFFORTS JUSMG AND EMBASSY.

5. OF RELATED INTEREST IS INQUIRY TO EMBASSY FROM LOCAL AP CORRESPONDENT AS TO WHETHER SOVIET TRAWLER, REPUTED TO BE IN ROTA AREA, HAD APPEARED ON SCENE. NO MENTION TO US SO FAR BY GOS OF THIS SUBJECT.

6. AGREE WE SHOULD KEEP DEVELOPMENTS UNDER CONSTANT AND CAREFUL REVIEW AND EMBOFF BEING SENT TO AREA. WE SHALL REMAIN IN CLOSE CONTACT GOS AUTHORITIES IN ORDER BE ABLE DETECT PROMPTLY ANY CHANGE IN ATTITUDE OR UNFAVORABLE TREND IN OPINION SUSCEPTIBLE TO REMEDY BY US. DO NOT BELIEVE ANYTHING FURTHER SHOULD BE DONE AT THIS MOMENT. SHALL KEEP DEPT. INFORMED AND SUBMIT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ANY ACTION CONSIDERED DESIRABLE AS SITUATION UNFOLDS.

GP-3 DUKE

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NOTE: Advance copy to S/S-0 at 10:20 AM, Passed White House at 10:25 AM, 1/21/66

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