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097/017,020

Sr. D. Marcelino Oreja Aguirre
Gobernador General del Pais Vasco
Residencia "Los Olivos"
Altos de Olate
Vitoria

Dear Marcelino:

The Council on Foreign Relations will invite you for May 28. By the time you receive this letter their invitation should have arrived. They requested a tentative title for your remarks and I suggested the following: Spain -- New Directions and the Basque Question. Such a title is general enough to allow you total freedom of presentation. If you have any question the person to contact is:

Ms. Margaret Osmer
Council on Foreign Relations
58 East 68th Street
New York, New York 10021
Tel. (212) 734-0400

I hope very much you are able to come since it is necessary to do something to help improve the present image of Spain in this country. The aftermath of the "tejerazo" has been terrible here. The king has emerged as a hero but at the expense of creating a dismal picture of the country and its political future. Both the New York Times and Time magazine have published recently very negative articles about democracy in Spain. I am enclosing a copy of the most recent piece in the New York Times to give you an idea of what has been appearing in the American press.

If you come, your time should be organized in the most efficient possible way to help improve the present perception of Spain in this country. It would be to everybody's advantage if you could meet with the editors of the New York Times, Newsweek, and Time and if you could appear on television. Given enough time I (with the help of our old friend Marvin Frankel) could arrange for the meetings and the television interview. In my opinion it would be a serious mistake for the Spanish government not to seize this opportunity of presenting a more positive view of the political situation in Spain. In any event, I am willing to help in any way I can such an effort, if the effort is undertaken, to achieve the best possible results.



I am very glad you were able to discuss my proposed research project with the Minister of the Interior. I think the idea of doing the work for the whole of Spain and not only for the Basque provinces is an excellent one. I ~~have~~ have no doubt of the practical value of such a study and the sooner the work can begin the better. Under the present circumstances we have no time to waste, the sooner the study is done the greater its benefits. As soon as you know something definite on this matter, please inform me so I can start preparing the work and alerting my collaborators.

I will telephone you around May 1 to see how these matters are progressing.

~~Con un fuerte abrazo,~~



Francisco Jose Moreno, Ph.D.
Professor of Political Science

FJM/js