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02
(S) BLASH

TO Chief, **NS**

DATE 21 February 1956

FROM Chief of Station, **()**

15-2

SUBJECT | GENERAL Operational
| SPECIFIC Conversation between Don Juan and Ambassador Luce

INFO: **()** **15-15**

Headquarters Action Required: For information.

Forwarded herewith for your information is a memorandum of comments by Spanish pretender DON JUAN to Ambassador LUCE on 16 February. It is suggested that this be shown to the Embassies in Madrid and Lisbon.

WCP
RUSH G. PAIGRE

Attachment: memo of Conversation h/w

Distribution:

- Wash - 3 w/attach as noted
- Madrid - 2 w/attach
- Lisbon - 2 w/attach
- Rome - 1 w/attach

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Comments by Don Juan to Ambassador Irujo on 15 February 1954

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... the recent disturbances in Madrid everything was going very well. Liberals, Catholics and monarchists were working smoothly and harmoniously against the Falangists. The recent incidents have shown how bitter the feeling is against the Falangists. However, a communist cell penetrated the Liberal Party and as a result, a split has occurred among the Catholics. As a result, the Catholics, Liberals and monarchists are now working against the Falangists. A showdown is bound to come. Spain since the 1930's has been critical of the opposition to the Falangists. But a number two under Franco to seize power for himself. Don Juan feels that he has three total possibilities. He would like to see the Falangists in the districts of Madrid, Barcelona and Valencia. He would like to see the Falangists in the Catalonia area. He recently stopped in his airplane for a conference which took place on the airfield for two hours.

Don Juan said that no one is pleased with the present law of succession. He stated that his son is a fine boy, but not disciplined and honest, but the coming to power of an 18 year old could not prevent a severe law discussion. Don Juan plainly felt that his son would be subject to discussion if any difficulties arose.

Don Juan said that the Falangists could be regulated very well. He queried as to what would be the world have. Don Juan stated that the Falangists must govern with the people which have to govern with the left. He said that the Falangists however he excluded the communist party and stated that the Falangists would be out of the communists. Don Juan said that he would put it out of commission. Don Juan said that he would be prepared to see Don Juan felt that the Falangists could be regulated very well simply if the British would not state the matter out with Franco. If he had anything to do with it he would settle for having the Spanish flag on Gibraltar but the British had control of the rock. He said that he would put the Falangists out of commission. Don Juan would also be prepared to negotiate with the British for two Moroccan ports on the other side of the straits.

The French have put the Spaniards in a box by the rapidly with which they are proceeding to grant independence to Morocco. Two years ago the Spanish seemed liberal and the French appeared to be reactionary. Today

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the situation is reversed in the eyes of the Spaniards. Don Juan feels that he has excellent contacts with the American Embassy in Lisbon through Mr. Brown (presumably Mr. John S. Brown, Secretary of the Embassy). He feels that he has been of some service to Americans because Spaniards otherwise have "an unfortunate tendency to call anything they do not like in Spain either communist or monarchist". Americans seem to him more pro-Franco now than they were ever before and are increasingly reluctant to call any threat to stability monarchist. Don Juan commented that Americans opposed Franco when he was strong but now are pro-Franco despite the fact that the opposition cause is rising. Don Juan hopes that Americans do understand that sooner or later they must face the problem of Spain if the political situation there grows worse or Franco dies. He hopes the Americans have a policy thought out in advance for these eventualities.

Don Juan plans to go to the U.S. next year. He would like to visit Detroit, Pittsburgh, etc. He would like to call on the President at the White House. He remarked that he had called on President Roosevelt even during the Spanish civil war and so he sees no reason why President Eisenhower would not receive him. However he does not know how quite to act on an American trip and would appreciate American guidance.

Don Juan stated that the situation is bad but that he does not believe the republicans will come back. The export of Franco's love letters and other reminiscences has done him too much damage. He remarked that he did not like the "unshirked ones" but even if a free election they would not win. The danger is not the Peronistas, it is the right communist cells which are working within them.

Don Juan had a talk with Umberto. Umberto has a little doubt in the possibility of his restoration and, what is worse, he will do it at a very little later in the final outcome. He quoted Umberto as saying, "There is a little doubt about anything for Umberto's son, the police, is still in existence and has no sense of duty. He lives with a little of an influence by his mother. He is a little bit of a man but he is not in the state of duty. Recently a number of officials requested him to see with him to Geneva, but he refused to see them because he had an appointment for some treatment. Don Juan is a little bit of a man but he is not in the state of duty. He does not believe that the republicans will come back."

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