

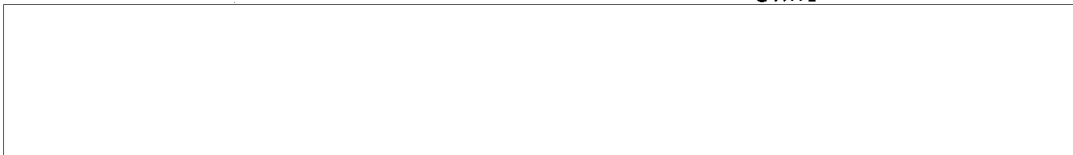
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 INFO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4523  
 RUEHMD/AMCONSUL SEVILLE 2755  
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*file: Sen. Mathias*  
*Sen. Percy*  
*Sen. Nunn*  
*Sen. Specter*  
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E.O. 12356 N/A  
SUBJECT: PRESS SUPPORT TO CODEL MATHIAS

1. CODEL MATHIAS, CONSISTING OF SIX SENATORS AND TWO CONGRESSMEN VISITED SPAIN NOV. 19-23 TO CONSULT ON PLANS FOR THE 500TH ANNIVERSARY OF COLUMBUS' DISCOVERY OF AMERICA AND ON OTHER BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL ISSUES. THE VISIT WAS QUITE PRODUCTIVE FROM A PUBLIC DIPLOMACY STANDPOINT AND PRESS COVERAGE WAS AMPLE AND FAVORABLE. THE POST TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE VISIT TO HIGHLIGHT EXCELLENT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND SPAIN JUST A FEW DAYS BEFORE A NEW SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT ASSUMES OFFICE HERE.

2. IO GUY FARMER ACCOMPANIED THE GROUP (SENATORS MATHIAS, PERCY, NUNN, SPECTER AND ROTH) IN GRANADA NOV. 19-21, PROVIDED INFORMATION TO THE LOCAL PRESS, SECURED TV COVERAGE OF A MAJOR 500TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT IN THE OFFICES OF THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT, INTERPRETED FOR THE SENATORS AND ARRANGED EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS FOR THE LEADING DAILY, "IDEAL," WITH SENATOR MATHIAS AND AMBASSADOR TODMAN. FARMER ACCOMPANIED SENATOR PERCY ON A FLIGHT FROM GRANADA TO MADRID ENROUTE TO LONDON AND CHICAGO AND, AT THE REQUEST OF THE SENATOR, ARRANGED FOR PHOTOGRAPHIC COVERAGE OF A MEETING AT THE MADRID AIRPORT BETWEEN PERCY AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SPANISH 500TH ANNIVERSARY COMMISSION.

3. IN MADRID NOV. 21-23, THE CODEL CONSISTED OF SENATORS MATHIAS, NUNN, HATCH, SPECTER AND ROTH AND CONGRESSMEN BURTON AND GARCIA. THE POST PROVIDED MEDIA SITE OFFICERS FOR MEETINGS WITH FUTURE PRIME MINISTER FELIPE GONZALEZ, MAIN OPPOSITION LEADER MANUEL FRAGA AND MEMBERS OF THE SPANISH SENATE. POST ALSO SET UP AN INFORMAL PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE

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FOR SENATORS MATHIAS AND NUNN, WHICH RESULTED IN EXTENSIVE COVERAGE ON SPANISH NATIONAL RADIO'S LEADING MORNING NEWS PROGRAM AND NEWSPAPER HEADLINES AND STORIES QUOTING THE SENATORS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE NEW NATO PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN SPAIN AND THE U.S. AND THEIR FRIENDLY DISPOSITION TOWARD GONZALEZ AND THE NEW GOS. THERE WERE WIDELY PUBLISHED NEWS PHOTOS OF THE SENATORS' MEETING WITH KING JUAN CARLOS AND AN "ABRAZO" BETWEEN AMBASSADOR TODMAN AND GONZALEZ.

4. FINALLY, THE AMBASSADOR ATTENDED A COMBINATION DINNER/ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION WITH SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION AT THE INVITATION OF THE LEADING DAILY, LEFTIST "EL PAIS." THERE WAS A FRANK GIVE-AND-TAKE DISCUSSION ON SEVERAL HIGH PRIORITY ISSUES INVOLVING BILATERAL RELATIONS, NATO, THE NEW BILATERAL DEFENSE AGREEMENT AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, STRONG U.S. SUPPORT FOR SPANISH DEMOCRACY. THE LATTER POINT WAS MADE FORCEFULLY BY BOTH THE SENATORS AND THE AMBASSADOR TO THE PUBLISHER AND KEY STAFFERS OF AN INFLUENTIAL DAILY THAT HAS EXPRESSED OCCASIONAL DOUBTS REGARDING THE DEGREE OF U.S. COMMITMENT TO THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS IN SPAIN.

RUSSELL  
END OF MESSAGE

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