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Departure Statement for Prime Minister Gonzalez of Spain 10/19/89 [OA 6270]

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**GONZALEZ DEPARTURE / EAST ROOM
Oct. 19, 1989 / 12:30 P.M.**

IT IS A PLEASURE TO HAVE PRIME MINISTER GONZALEZ AND THE SPANISH DELEGATION AS OUR GUESTS IN THE UNITED STATES. OUR DISCUSSIONS AT THE NATO SUMMIT IN MAY WERE AN EXCELLENT START TO A DIALOGUE WE HAVE CONTINUED IN WASHINGTON. AS BEFORE, OUR TALKS HAVE BEEN FRIENDLY AND CONSTRUCTIVE -- ANOTHER SIGN THAT OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS -- OUR PARTNERSHIP -- IS HEALTHY AND GROWING STRONGER.

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WE DISCUSSED, EXTENSIVELY, THE WAYS IN WHICH THE WEST CAN BEST SUPPORT THE HISTORIC REFORMS TRANSFORMING EASTERN EUROPE, ESPECIALLY IN POLAND AND HUNGARY, AND OUR HOPE THAT THESE REFORMS WILL LEAD TO A EUROPE WHOLE AND FREE.

I INFORMED PRIME MINISTER GONZALEZ OF THE STEPS THE UNITED STATES HAS TAKEN TO SUPPORT THIS ECONOMIC REFORM AND DEMOCRATIC CHANGE IN POLAND AND HUNGARY.

I TOLD HIM ABOUT MY REQUEST THAT CONGRESS APPROVE \$200 MILLION IN ECONOMIC STABILIZATION GRANTS TO ASSIST POLAND IN IMPLEMENTING ITS BOLD NEW REFORM PROGRAM -- THE U.S. CONTRIBUTION TO POLAND'S \$1 BILLION REQUEST. I HOPE THAT ALL OF THE MAJOR INDUSTRIALIZED DEMOCRACIES WILL ALSO CONTRIBUTE TO THIS REQUEST.

I ALSO EXPLAINED THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL SOON BE EXTENDING MOST FAVORED NATION STATUS TO HUNGARY ON A CONTINUING BASIS -- MAKING IT THE FIRST EASTERN EUROPEAN NATION TO EVER RECEIVE SUCH TREATMENT. THIS WILL STRONGLY ENCOURAGE TRADE AND INVESTMENT IN HUNGARY.

PRIME MINISTER GONZALEZ AND I AGREED THAT THE FUTURES OF POLAND AND HUNGARY DEPEND ON SUSTAINED WESTERN ACTION, COORDINATED WITH THE I.M.F. AND THE WORLD BANK AS PART OF A LONG-TERM ECONOMIC RECOVERY PROGRAM.

WE DISCUSSED THE IMPORTANT PROGRESS MADE BY THE 24-NATION "GROUP FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO POLAND AND HUNGARY," WHICH HAS ALREADY MET THREE TIMES UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE EC COMMISSION, AND HAS ENCOURAGED THE COMMITMENT OF HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN NEW ASSISTANCE TO BOTH COUNTRIES.

WE ALSO AGREED THAT SPAIN'S SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION TO A STRONG AND FLOURISHING DEMOCRACY MAKES IT A POWERFUL MODEL FOR EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES NOW ATTEMPTING SIMILAR TRANSFORMATIONS.

WE ALSO REVIEWED WAYS IN WHICH WE CAN HELP SUSTAIN THE GROWTH OF DEMOCRACY IN LATIN AMERICA -- AN AREA OF TRADITIONAL CONCERN TO BOTH OUR NATIONS.

AND WE EXCHANGED VIEWS ON THE SERIOUS INTERNATIONAL CHALLENGE THE DRUG MENACE REPRESENTS TO CONSUMER AND PRODUCER NATIONS ALIKE. AND WE AGREED ON THE NEED TO GIVE PRESIDENT BARCO AND THE BRAVE PEOPLE OF COLOMBIA OUR FULL BACKING IN THEIR STRUGGLE AGAINST NARCO-TERRORISTS.

OUR TALKS ALSO INCLUDED PROGRESS IN ARMS-CONTROL NEGOTIATIONS, WHILE UNDERSCORING THE NEED TO KEEP OUR MUTUAL NATO DEFENSES STRONG.

THROUGHOUT OUR DISCUSSIONS, THERE WAS A SHARED BELIEF THAT SPAIN IS EMERGING WITH A NEW VITALITY, NOT JUST IN EUROPE, BUT ON THE WORLD SCENE. IN SUPPORTING DEMOCRATIC CHANGE IN EASTERN EUROPE, LATIN AMERICA AND ELSEWHERE, I BELIEVE SPAIN CAN PLAY A UNIQUE ROLE, FOR SPAIN PROVIDES THE WORLD WITH A VERY SPECIAL EXAMPLE.

PRIME MINISTER GONZALEZ, YOU HAVE SAID THAT YOUR NATION IS BOTH A VERY OLD COUNTRY, AND A VERY YOUNG COUNTRY -- AN AUTHORITARIAN GOVERNMENT REBORN AS A CONSTITUTIONAL DEMOCRACY; A SHELTERED, STATE-DOMINATED ECONOMY NOW REORIENTED TO THE MARKET, AND PROSPERING. IT IS NO EXAGGERATION TO SAY THAT SPAIN TODAY IS LIVING A RENAISSANCE OF LIBERTY, PROSPERITY AND CULTURE.

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IT NOW SEEMS THAT THE ROLE OF SPAIN, AS THE MOTHER OF SO MANY NATIONS, PROVIDES A MODEL OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REFORM -- A MOVE AWAY FROM THE DEAD HAND OF STATE CONTROL -- TOWARD GREATER FREEDOM, OPPORTUNITY AND ADVANCEMENT.

PRIME MINISTER GONZALEZ, I COMMEND YOU FOR YOUR IDEALISM. I VALUE YOUR PARTNERSHIP.

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MISTER PRIME MINISTER, THANK YOU FOR YOUR VISIT TO THESE SHORES AND MAY YOU HAVE A SAFE JOURNEY HOME.

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Davis/Martin
Oct. 16, 1989
Title: Spain
Draft: One

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: GONZALEZ DEPARTURE, SOUTH PORTICO
THURSDAY, Oct. 19, 1989, 1:15 p.m.

It was a pleasure to have Prime Minister Gonzalez and the Spanish delegation as our guests in the United States. Our discussions at the NATO summit in May were an excellent start to a dialogue we have continued in Washington. As before, our talks have been friendly and constructive -- another sign that our bilateral relations -- our partnership -- is healthy and growing stronger.

We reviewed recent international developments: ways in which we can help sustain the growth of democracy in an area of traditional concern to both our nations -- Latin America. We also discussed how the West should actively support the historic reforms transforming Eastern Europe, especially in Poland and Hungary.

I informed Prime Minister Gonzalez of the steps the United States has taken to support this economic reform and democratic change in Poland and Hungary. I briefed him on my request that Congress approve a \$200 million economic stabilization grant to assist Poland in implementing its bold new reform program -- the U.S. contribution to Poland's \$1 billion request. I hope this contribution is matched by Spain and all of the major industrialized democracies.

And the United States will also lend a hand to the people of Hungary. As Hungary moves toward market reforms, the United States will strongly encourage trade and investment in that land by granting Most Favored Nation Status.

Prime Minister Gonzalez and I agreed that the futures of Poland and Hungary depend on sustained Western action, coordinated with the I.M.F. and the World Bank as part of a long-term economic recovery program. We discussed the important progress made by the 24-nation "Group for Economic Assistance to Poland and Hungary," which has already met three times under the chairmanship of the EC Commission, and has encouraged the commitment of hundreds of millions of dollars in new assistance to both countries.

We exchanged views on the serious international challenge the drug menace represents to consumer and producer nations alike. And we agreed on the need to give President Barco and the brave people of Colombia our full backing in their struggle against narco-terrorists.

Our talks also included progress in arms-control negotiations, while underscoring the need to keep our mutual NATO defenses strong.

But throughout it all, there was a shared belief that Spain is emerging with a new vitality, not just in Europe, but on the world scene. In supporting democratic change around the world, I believe Spain can play a unique role, for Spain provides the world with a unique example.

Prime Minister Gonzalez, you have said that your nation is both a very old country, and a very young country -- an authoritarian nation reborn as a constitutional democracy; a sheltered state-dominated nation reoriented to the market. It is not exaggerating to say that Spain today is living a Renaissance of liberty, prosperity and culture.

It now seems that the role of Spain, as the mother of so many nations, provides a model of political and economic reform -- a move away from the dead hand of state control -- toward greater opportunity and advancement. Today, Spain -- once an empire of armadas -- is now part of an Hispanic commonwealth of culture, commerce and democratic ideals.

Prime Minister Gonzalez, you were a young man when you came to office, very much like another young man in America -- John F. Kennedy -- who, like you, also sought to spark a peaceful revolution of hope. I commend you for your idealism. I value your partnership. And I look forward to working with you in the years ahead.

Mister Prime Minister, thank you for your visit to these shores and may you have a safe journey home.

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