

**SECRET**

OCI No. 1542/63

**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Office of Current Intelligence  
3 May 1963**

**CURRENT INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT: Franco's Health**

1. The attached article from the 28 April 1963 issue of the London Observer on Franco's health runs counter to all intelligence available on the subject.\*

2. For several years there have been periodic reports that Franco's health was deteriorating. He has been said to be suffering from a variety of ailments, including prostate trouble, advanced arteriosclerosis, diabetes, and Parkinson's disease. There has never been any confirmation of these reports either by the US Embassy in Madrid, [REDACTED]

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3. Last December Franco's personal physician said that Franco was in excellent health for a man of his age; he made short shrift of the latest story that Franco had Parkinson's disease. When asked about the source of most of the rumors on Franco's health, he replied: "Foreign embassies."

4. In May 1962 the same physician, when explaining to an Embassy officer that Franco's hand (badly injured in a hunting accident the previous December) had completely healed, added that Franco's physical condition was that of a man of 35 years of age. He also produced the results of blood and other chemical tests run on Franco which were normal. One purpose of this was to scotch rumors at that time that Franco had diabetes.

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\*This view is concurred in by the State Department policy and research desks.

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6. On 29 April 1963 a Spanish government spokesman, asked to comment on reports that Franco was seriously ill, listed Franco's activities for the next three days and added that at the end of the week, Franco planned to take off on his usual spring salmon fishing trip to the Asturias.

7. The inference drawn in the Observer article from Franco's silence during the long cabinet meeting called to decide on Grima's fate should be treated with great caution. Franco is usually reserved during such meetings and makes the final decision after he has heard arguments pro and con from his various ministers.

8. There has been no other report to the effect that Minister-Under Secretary of the Presidency Carrero Blanco is heading a group of "old timers" who want to maintain the status quo at all costs. Nor has there been anything to indicate that Franco is being pushed into the hands of such a clique or that Vice-President Munoz Grandes is being pushed into the background by the old guard. In addition there has been nothing in the reporting regarding the possible establishment of a "Military Directory."