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CONFIDENTIAL
(Security Classification)

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

AIR POUCH PRIORITY

FROM : American Embassy, Madrid 200

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON. DEPT. NO.

REF : GA-3758, August 20, 1958 September 26, 1958

DATE

5 For Dept. Use Only	ACTION E-7	DEPT. IN OF OTHER	REP-1 RMIR-2 EUR-5 IRC-8 ICA-5
	REC'D 10/2		COM-12 CIA-22 TR-3 OSB-2 ARMY-3 IN- NAVY-3 AIR-1

SUBJECT: EROCH: A.G.C.O. Offer of Cobalt to HANKE-CHEMIE

The reference cited 1955 and 1957 Bonn despatches concerning the connections between Hanke-Chemie, of West Berlin, and a Rotterdam firm Pancomerg, S.L., owned by one Leo PRANTZ. It is noted that the main office of Pancomerg, S.L., appears to be in Madrid.

The Madrid firm referred to, without doubt, is Pancomerg, S.L., of Calle Alcalá 127, Madrid, a partnership organized in 1956 by Leo Prantz and Oscar HELMUTH. The Embassy submitted a World Trade Directory Report on the firm in July, 1956, listing its connections with firms in other countries, which are also noted at the end of this despatch. It is understood that Messrs. Prantz and Helmuth had previously been in business in Barcelona, under the name Pancomerg. Reference is also made to Madrid's D-1325, of June 6, 1956, which reported the results of an end-use check on a shipment of polyethylene imported by Pancomerg, S.L.

With respect to Leo PRANTZ, C.A.B. sources report that he was born in Vienna about 1916, that he was convicted for war crimes after World War II, and that he has been in Spain since 1953. Apparently he was for a time thereafter the principal agent for a ring supplying contraband ingredients to laboratories in Spain manufacturing penicillin illegally here. Some of the contraband was brought in with a bimotor English plane, based at Logroño, in North-Central Spain, which entered Spain on a troytic, flying from London and Paris. It is also reported that on one occasion, when Prantz was taken into custody on charges of smuggling, he was released on a bond of Ptas. 1 million (about \$25,000), which was supplied within 24 hours from sources in Switzerland.

The principal imports into Spain of Pancomerg, S.L., are listed as pharmaceutical products, oils and greases, chemical prime materials, public works, mining and textile machinery, and its principal exports from Spain as chemicals, cork, furniture, lamps, interior decorations, and gifts and novelties. No reports of involvement in shipments of controlled exports to satellite destinations by Pancomerg have been found by the Embassy, and the foregoing report of Mr. Prantz' involvement

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- EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)
- (2)(A) Privacy
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with the Spanish law for illegal pharmaceutical imports is the only derogatory information at hand. Following are the firms outside Spain with which Pancomerc is reported to have connections:

Vienna	F.G. HANKE
Brussels	HANNOCO, S.L.
London	JANNOCO of London
Zurich	PANCOMERC
Rotterdam	PANCOMERC, S.L.
Stockholm	A.B. BARI
Oslo	STOLBERG
Recife	Importadora NORDESTINA
Sao Paulo	DIQUE
Porto Alegre	ZOTEMANN

For the Charge d'Affaires, a.i.i.

Wayland B. Waters
Wayland B. Waters
Assistant Commercial Attaché

cc: AmConGen BARCELONA

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