

## Carta de Frode Jakobsen a Struye (8 mayo 1962)

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# COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 8th May 1962.

Confidential  
AS/Pol (13) 101  
Or. Eng.

## CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY

### POLITICAL COMMITTEE

The situation in Spain  
(information visit of a delegation  
from the Committee)

Letter from Mr. Frode Jakobsen  
to Mr. Struye

Copenhagen, 14th April 1962.

Dear Mr. Struye,

You asked me to send you the conditions under which I would be willing to participate in the proposed journey to Spain in order to - in the words of the Spanish government - "get a clear picture of the real situation in Spain".

May I first, with the greatest respect to your decision as Chairman, repeat my objections to the journey : 1) It is either an investigation - as the words quoted above indicate, 2) or it is the establishment of a contact, as was suggested by some members of the Committee.

In the latter case it would in my judgement be a political decision beyond the competence of any of our committees; I must still maintain that at least a decision of the Assembly is required to establish contacts with states not adhering to the Council of Europe. If the proposed visit should have that character it is clear that I would not be able to participate, but, on the contrary, would feel bound to criticise the decision in the Assembly.

Monsieur Paul Struye,  
Ministre d'Etat,  
79, rue Washington,  
Bruxelles.

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In the former case - a journey of investigation - I see enormous difficulties. How can half a dozen parliamentarians go to Spain - a dictatorial country - for a short while and come back able to advise their colleagues as to the state of human rights in Spain? I find it a most unwise idea, but because I agreed with your suggestion that if this plan should be carried out those critical should also be represented I told you that I would accept to go, if certain fundamental conditions could be fulfilled. These conditions have one aim only - I can again quote the Spanish invitation - "to get a clear picture of the real situation in Spain". That means real contacts not only with Spanish official sources, but with the Spanish people and the Spanish opposition. Therefore my conditions would be :

1) As I am not able to speak Spanish and do not have a sufficiently detailed knowledge of Spanish conditions I must demand the right to take with me a Spanish interpreter of my own choosing, familiar with conditions in Spain and completely at my disposal. This man I would be able to find myself.

2) After the official programme, I must insist on having two weeks for myself, with the right to go with my interpreter anywhere I choose, to speak alone with whom I like, regardless whether they are free or in prison. I must be guaranteed the possibility to speak alone (through my interpreter of course) to a certain number of prisoners, whose names I will give at a later date.

3) It is a matter of course that my interpreter must be granted safe-conduct and that anybody whom I meet during my stay in Spain must be guaranteed not to be persecuted in any way because of contact with me.

Dear Mr. Struye, I do not know whether this will be acceptable to the Spanish government. But as I, even with these conditions fulfilled, regard the value of such a short investigation of not-trained persons as limited, it is not possible for me to accept any reduction of these conditions for my participation in the proposed journey to Spain.

Yours sincerely,

Frode Jakobsen

c.c. Mr. Schlösser