



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Prime Minister

I asked for a report on this incident, which was briefly referred to in a telegram some days ago.

2. The Foreign Secretary and Sir A. Atwood are

Dear John, coming to discuss Gibraltar with you on Wednesday.

A.J.C. ^{21.}/₆

We spoke about the incident in Gibraltar waters on 19 June involving the Spanish Corvette Cazadora and a British submarine (FCO telno Personal 54 to Gibraltar).

Flag Officer Gibraltar reported the incident to MOD Navy on 19 June and, in response to MOD Navy's request, supplied further details on 24 June. The facts so far established are as follows. The British conventional submarine, HMS Otter, was conducting operations 2.8 miles South South-East of Europa Point, the southern-most tip of the Rock. The Cazadora approached from the east, entered the edge of Gibraltar waters and lingered in the vicinity for about fifteen minutes before proceeding westwards through the Straits. During this period, when the Cazadora was just inside Gibraltar waters and about fifteen hundred yards from HMS Otter (which was also inside Gibraltar waters) Cazadora called up HMS Otter on the under-water telephone. The message was unreadable. HMS Otter responded by VHF radio with the message: 'I am exercising in declared naval exercise areas. Request you keep clear'. Cazadora replied: 'You are operating in Spanish territorial waters and I shall report you to my superior authorities'. HMS Otter acknowledged the message and Cazadora proceeded on her way. The Cazadora intruded into Gibraltar waters by no more than a quarter of a mile. Neither vessel was in danger. The Spanish press, picking up MOD confirmation that an exchange took place, have played up the story, with one right-wing paper insisting that Spain should make British use of Gibraltar as costly as possible (Madrid telno 370, attached).

We are currently considering what further action should be taken with the Spaniards in the light of the Governor of Gibraltar's telno 40 which has just been received in response to FCO telno Personal 54. I attach copies of these telegrams for ease of reference.

Yours ever

John Holmes

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street

Gibraltar

2 July, 1982

GIBRALTAR

The Prime Minister has noted the contents of your letter of 25 June about the incident in Gibraltar waters on 19 June involving the Spanish Corvette Cazadora and a British submarine.

A J COLES

J E Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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FM FCO 281830Z JUNE 82

TO PRIORITY MADRID

TELEGRAM NUMBER 226 OF 29 JUNE

INFO PRIORITY GOVERNOR GIBRALTAR (PERSONAL), MOD (DS5)

GIBRALTAR TEL NO 40 - INCIDENT IN GIBRALTAR WATERS

1. PLEASE DRAW THIS INCIDENT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE SPANISH MFA, INFORMING THEM OF OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE FACTS. FOGIB'S SIGNAL 241233Z, NOT TO MADRID, REPORTED THAT CAZADORA APPROACHED GIBRALTAR WATERS FROM THE EAST, ENTERED THE EDGE OF THEM, AND LINGERED IN THE VICINITY OF HMS OTTER IN POSITION 160 EUROPA POINT LIGHT 2.8 MILES BETWEEN 1156 AND 1211 LOCAL TIME ON 19 JUNE BEFORE MOVING OFF TO THE WEST THROUGH THE STRAITS. CAZADORA INITIATED THE EXCHANGE OF MESSAGES BY CALLING OTTER ON UNDERWATER TELEPHONE. THE MESSAGE WAS UNREADABLE AND OTTER CALLED ON VHF RADIO.

2. YOU SHOULD MAKE CLEAR TO THE SPANIARDS THAT WHILE YOU HAVE NOT (NOT) BEEN INSTRUCTED TO MAKE A FORMAL PROTEST WE CONSIDER CAZADORA'S ACTIONS TO BE ILL-SUITED TO THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TWO FELLOW-MEMBERS OF NATO AND SHOULD EXPRESS THE EXPECTATION THAT THERE WILL BE NO REPETITION OF SUCH INCIDENTS. YOU SHOULD REMIND THEM THAT WE HAVE RECENTLY HAD TO DRAW THEIR ATTENTION TO ANOTHER INCIDENT INVOLVING THE CAZADORA (MYTEL NO 178). YOU MAY ADD THAT WE SEE IT AS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT TO AVOID ANY INCIDENTS OF THIS SORT WHEN POSTPONEMENT OF THE SINTRA TALKS HAS LED TO INCREASED SENSITIVITY ON BOTH SIDES ABOUT GIBRALTAR.

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GRS 210
UNCLASSIFIED
FM MADRID 250906Z JUNE 82
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 370 OF 25 JUNE
INFO IMMEDIATE GIBRALTAR

GIBRALTAR: SPANISH PRESS COMMENT

1. THE SPANISH PRESS, THE TV AND RADIO TODAY MAKE MUCH OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE'S COMMENT THAT THERE HAD BEEN AN EXCHANGE OF MESSAGES BETWEEN A BRITISH SUBMARINE AND A SPANISH CORVETTE ON 19 JUNE AND THAT THE MATTER IS BEING INVESTIGATED. IT IS ALSO REPORTED THAT THE SPANISH MINISTRY OF DEFENCE WAS UNAVAILABLE FOR COMMENT ON 24 JUNE. ONE NEWSPAPER SUGGESTS THAT THEY WILL MAKE A STATEMENT TODAY.

2. THE CONSERVATIVE DAILY ABC PUBLISHES A STRONG EDITORIAL LINKING THE INCIDENT WITH THE PRIME MINISTER'S WORDS ALLEGEDLY REJECTING NEGOTIATIONS ABOUT SOVEREIGNTY AND CONSIDERING THE WISHES OF THE INHABITANTS OF GIBRALTAR PARAMOUNT. "WE SHOULD BE EQUALLY CLEAR. THE EPISODE INVOLVING THE CORVETTE AND SUBMARINE COMES WITHIN THE AREA OF OUR OWN RIGHTS WHICH IS NECESSARY TO EXERCISE AS A WHOLE. THE EXISTENCE OF OTHER 'BORDERS', THOSE WHICH CONCERN STRICT LIMITATIONS OF SEA AND AIR SPACE IN THE SPANISH ZONE AROUND THE ROCK SHOULD BE PUBLICISED. WE SHOULD MAKE THE USE OF THE COLONY AS COSTLY AS POSSIBLE" FOR THE BRITISH AS THEY UNDERSTAND NO OTHER LANGUAGE. IF THESE LIMITATIONS HARM THE INHABITANTS OR NATO'S INTERESTS, THE UK WILL BE RESPONSIBLE. IF WASHINGTON IS WORRIED THIS WILL BE HELPFUL TO SPAIN. ALL SPANISH POLICY SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE SPANISH INTERESTS IN RECOVERING GIBRALTAR EVEN IF THIS TAKES GENERATIONS.

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FM FCO 241330Z JUNE 82

TO IMMEDIATE GOVERNOR GIBRALTAR (PERSONAL)

TELEGRAM NUMBER 54 OF 24 JUNE

INFO IMMEDIATE MADRID, MOD (DS5)

FOGIB'S SIGNAL 192033Z JUNE: INCIDENT IN GIBRALTAR WATERS

1. WE ARE INCLINED TO VIEW THIS INCIDENT SERIOUSLY AND TO PROTEST TO THE SPANIARDS. BUT WE NEED FIRST TO BE ABSOLUTELY CLEAR ABOUT THE FACTS. MOD HAVE ASKED FOR FURTHER DETAILS ON THEIR CHANNELS (231400Z TO FOGIB). GRATEFUL FOR AN EARLY REPLY TO THIS AND FOR YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS ON ACTION WITH THE SPANIARDS INCLUDING, IF NECESSARY, FURTHER BACKGROUND ON WHICH TO BASE A PROTEST (EG HOW FAR WAS CAZADORA INSIDE GIBRALTAR WATERS).

2. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE INCIDENT HAS BEEN PICKED UP IN THE SPANISH PRESS ON THE LINES THAT CAZADORA WAS INTERCEPTED BY A BRITISH SUBMARINE. IN RESPONSE TO ENQUIRIES FROM THE PRESS, MOD ARE CONFIRMING THAT AN EXCHANGE TOOK PLACE ON 19 JUNE BETWEEN A SPANISH CORVETTE AND A BRITISH SUBMARINE IN THE GIBRALTAR AREA AND THAT THE FACTS ARE BEING INVESTIGATED. WE ARE NOT COMMENTING FURTHER.

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FROM GIBRALTAR 251030Z

TO IMMEDIATE FCO TEL NO 40 OF 25 JUNE

INFO IMMEDIATE MADRID, MOD (DS5)

YOUR TELNO PERSONAL 54: INCIDENT IN GIBRALTAR WATERS

1. YOU WILL HAVE SEEN FOGIB SIGNAL JOA/EBA/EBL OF 241233Z GIVING FURTHER DETAILS OF THE INCIDENT. THE ACTION OCCURRED AT THE MARGINS OF THE GIBRALTAR TERRITORIAL WATERS AND CAZADORA INTRUDED NO MORE THAN A QUARTER OF A MILE. AT NO TIME WAS THE FRIGATE OR SUBMARINE IN DANGER. THE MAIN ISSUE APPEARS TO BE THE SPANISH COMMANDERS INSISTENCE THAT OUR SUBMARINE WAS OPERATING IN SPANISH WATERS.

2. CAZADORA WAS SUBJECT OF THE PREVIOUS SIGN

FICANT INCIDENT

(MY TELNO 30) AND IT MIGHT BE THAT ITS CAPTAIN IS A PARTICULARLY HARD-LINER. I THINK IT IS THAT KIND OF ATTITUDE THAT WE WANT TO TRY AND CORRECT AND RECOMMEND THAT ANY ACTION BY HM EMBASSY IN MADRID CONCENTRATES ON THAT RATHER THAN CAZADORAS OWN INCURSION WHICH WAS MINIMAL.

JACKSON

BT

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