

CONFIDENTIAL

Prime Minister  
To Mr



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

22/10  
22/10

22 October 1982

Will discuss  
as soon as  
A.G.'s opinion  
has arrived.

John T. ...

Spanish Construction in Gibraltar Waters

The Spanish authorities have constructed a Mole near La Linea which encroaches on Gibraltar's territorial waters. You may wish to have a note of the action in hand.

The enclosed sketch map shows the position of the Mole in relation to Gibraltar's territorial waters. Construction has proceeded rapidly in the period since Gibraltar first reported an encroachment in September. The length of that part of the jetty within Gibraltar's waters is now about 500m. In effect, the Mole cuts a slice about 150m wide off the northern-most edge of Gibraltar waters.

This encroachment is a serious and unwelcome development. A protest to the Spaniards is clearly necessary, if for nothing else, to protect our legal position. But we shall have to move fast, since we should if at all possible take action with the present Government, since the encroachment occurred under their administration. Elections take place, as you know, on 28 October. In order to show that we are not deliberately waiting until the eve of the elections before taking action, we have informally drawn the matter to the attention of the Spanish Embassy here. The Ambassador in Madrid has also mentioned the problem to the Spanish Foreign Minister.

We are considering what further action we might take. There are two complications. The first is that it is in our interest to avoid major controversy with Spain over Gibraltar at a time when a new Government might possibly be considering the lifting of restrictions on the Rock.

The second encroachment occurs inside 'the Loop', an area which both we and Spain claim as territorial waters, and to which our claim is somewhat vulnerable, depending as it does on a median line which takes into account the projection of the airport runway into Gibraltar Bay (second sketch map enclosed). In reinforcing our claim we should need to stress our historical right to the area in question. Our claim to territorial waters in the Loop has a complicated legal history, and we are therefore consulting the Law Officers about the terms of the protest



to the Spaniards. The papers are now with the Attorney-General.  
I shall keep you informed of developments.

*Your own*

*R B Bone*

(R B Bone)  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street



cc FCO  
TLOD

HU 26

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

Gibraltar - internal stability

The Prime Minister saw over the weekend the passage on this subject in JIC (82) (WSI) 42. I had informed her, on advice from the Cabinet Office, that OD were likely to consider plans for aid to Gibraltar in mid-November. The Prime Minister commented that it might be necessary to bring forward this date. Could you please take account of this in considering Cabinet Committee business.

I am copying this minute to Mr. Holmes (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and Mr. Mottram (Ministry of Defence).

E. J. COLES

25 October 1982

SECRET

S E C R E T

UK EYES

RH. 25



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG  
CABINET OFFICE

SPAIN/GIBRALTAR

Thank you for your minute of 21 October in which you state that the JIC believes that the Spanish Government could be expected to act with resolution if, between now and the Spanish General Election, it were to discover plotting within the Spanish Armed Forces against Gibraltar. You further state that the question of the resolution of whatever Government comes to power in Spain after 28 October must await the result of the General Election, and the JIC will be looking at the threat to Gibraltar once again when the result of the Election is known.

The Prime Minister has commented: "28 October is now close. We may need to act very quickly after that". I think that the Prime Minister will be grateful if you could arrange for a very early JIC assessment, after 28 October, of the new Spanish Government and the implications for the threat to Gibraltar.

I am copying this minute to Brian Fall (FCO) and Richard Mottram (Ministry of Defence).

A. J. COLES

25 October, 1982

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Mujeres & Chequers  
22/10

CONFIDENTIAL

Premi Minister  
To Mr



Foreign and Commonwealth Office *Andy Clark*  
London SW1A 2AH *22/10*

22 October 1982

*John*

*P. N. has seen. See  
my letter.*

*A.J.C. 3/11*

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Waters

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*complication is that the*  
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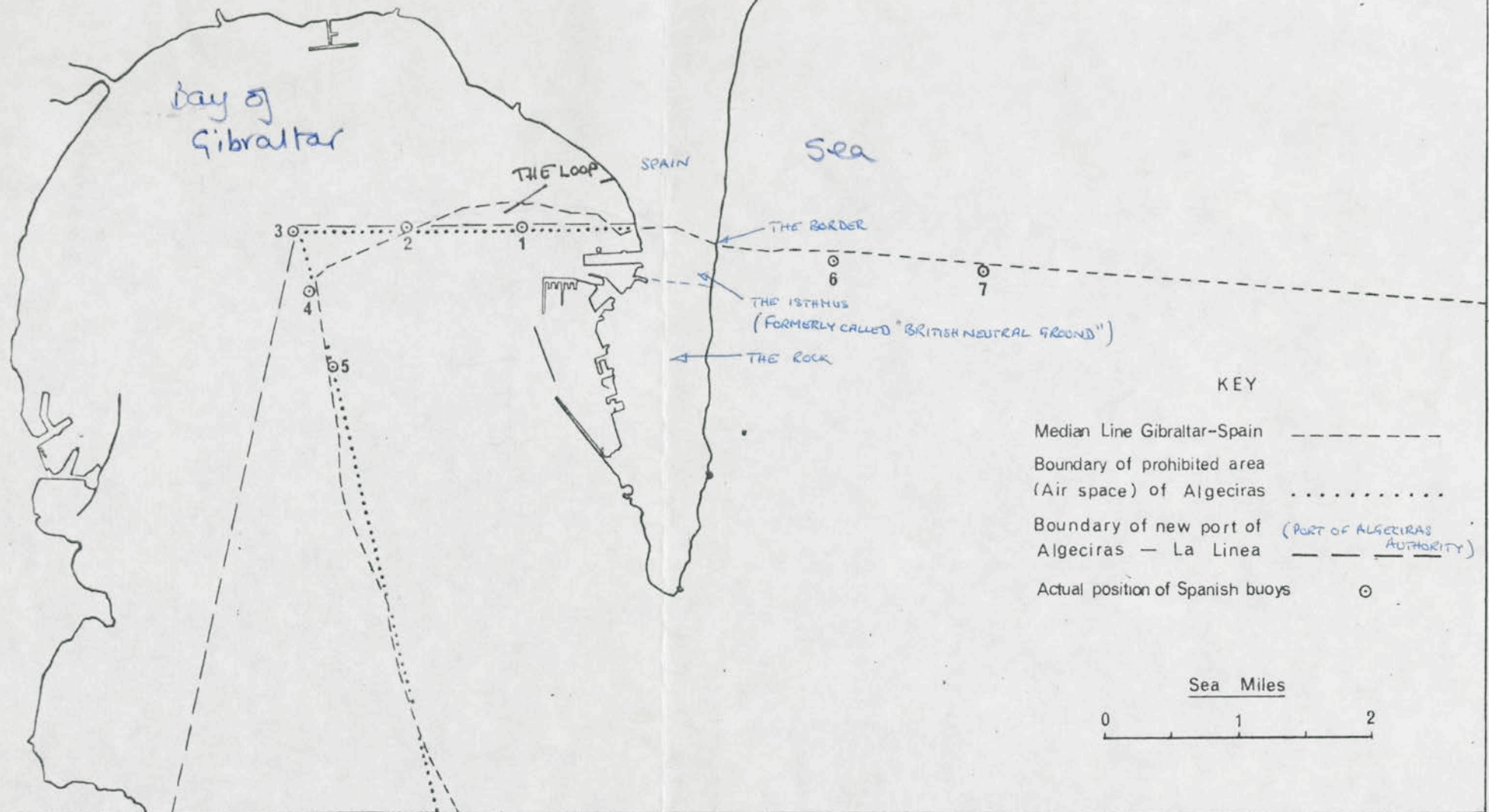
*Yours ever*  
*R B Bone*

(R B Bone)  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street

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Annexure A1 to Appendix 2 to Annex A of COS 76/68  
(Revised February 1969)



5° 22'



SEA

SPAIN

Terris Waters  
(MEDIAN LINE)

THE LOOP

NEW SPANISH MOLE

20.9.42 (790 METRES)

The British Lines (THE BORDER)

LIMITS OF  
PORT OF  
ALGECIRAS  
AUTHORITY

SEA

SEA

Airstrip

9'

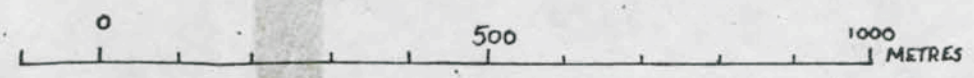


Dockyard

FARRINGTONS. O.P.

GIBRALTAR

SEA



SCALE

ADMIRALTY CHART No 144



24

RH

Gibraltar

FIVE



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

22 October, 1982

SPAIN/GIBRALTAR

The Prime Minister has asked whether, in view of the risk of Spanish military or other action against Gibraltar, we are taking all possible steps to secure advance warning of such action. In particular she has enquired whether we should not deploy a large number of agents to cover a wide belt on the Spanish side of the border. I should be grateful for an account of what is being done in this respect and what more could be done.

I am copying this letter to Richard Mottram (Ministry of Defence) and Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

A. J. COLES

B. Fall, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office