

GRS 210
SECRET
DEDIP
DESKBY 091000Z

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Spain
PS/No 10 Downing Street

FM MADRID 082105Z JAN 81
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 5 OF 8 JANUARY
INFO ROUTINE MOD (STRICTLY PERSONAL FOR QUINLAN, DUS - POL)
INFO SAVING WASHINGTON (PERSONAL FOR SIR N HENDERSON), UKDEL NATO
(PERSONAL FOR SIR C ROSE)

ms

Read in full

SPAIN/NATO

AT THEIR MEETING TETE A TETE BEFORE THE TALKS TODAY, THE SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER TOLD THE LORD PRIVY SEAL IN STRICTEST CONFIDENCE THAT THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT PROPOSED DURING FEBRUARY TO ANNOUNCE THEIR INTENTION TO SEEK IMMEDIATE MEMBERSHIP OF NATO, INCLUDING MEMBERSHIP OF THE INTEGRATED MILITARY STRUCTURE. THE SPANISH AIM WOULD BE TO ACHIEVE THIS BY SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER. PEREZ-LLORCA STRESSED THAT THIS INITIATIVE WAS BEING TAKEN IN THE INTERESTS OF SPAIN'S SECURITY AND AS A CONTRIBUTION TO WESTERN DEFENCE AT A TIME OF SEVERE TENSION. BUT HE ALSO HOPED THAT IT WOULD HELP IN THE CONTEXT OF SPAIN'S APPLICATION TO JOIN THE EC AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LISBON AGREEMENT ON GIBRALTAR. THE SOCIALIST OPPOSITION WOULD MAKE A FUSS BUT FELIPE GONZALEZ QUOTE WANTED TO BE RAPED UNQUOTE.

2. SIR IAN GILMOUR ASSURED PEREZ-LLORCA THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WAS STRONGLY IN FAVOUR OF SPAIN JOINING NATO, AND THE SOONER THE BETTER. NATO MEMBERSHIP WOULD NOT AFFECT THE GIBRALTAR QUESTION EXCEPT OVER THE USE OF BASE FACILITIES : HOWEVER THE DECISION MADE IT ALL THE MORE IMPORTANT TO GET THE LISBON AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTED WELL AHEAD OF THE NATO APPLICATION.

3. PEREZ-LLORCA SAID THAT HE HAD SPOKEN IN SIMILAR TERMS TO THE FEDERAL GERMAN GOVERNMENT BUT TO NO-ONE ELSE. IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO LEAK, PARTICULARLY AHEAD OF THE UCD PARTY CONFERENCE LATER THIS MONTH. HE WOULD DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH THE NEW US ADMINISTRATION IN FEBRUARY AND THEN WOULD LIKE TO MEET YOU DURING MARCH.

4. PLEASE GIVE THIS TELEGRAM SUITABLY RESTRICTIVE DISTRIBUTION.

FCO PLEASE PASS SAVING TO WASHINGTON AND UKDEL NATO.

PARSONS

[REPEATED AS REQUESTED]

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MR BULLARD
MR FERGUSSON
MR P H MOBERLY

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