

# RESTRICTED

GRS 215  
RESTRICTED  
FM BRASILIA 191735Z MAY 83  
TO PRIORITY FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 161 OF 19 MAY  
INFO MADRID

YOUR TELNO143: GIBRALTAR/FALKLANDS

1. ON 17 MAY THE SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER GAVE A LENGTHY INTERVIEW TO THE PRESS IN BRASILIA IN THE MARGIN OF THE CURRENT STATE VISIT BY THE KING AND QUEEN OF SPAIN, IN THE COURSE OF WHICH HE REITERATED SPAIN'S SUPPORT FOR THE ARGENTINE CLAIM TO THE FALKLANDS, BUT DREW A CLEAR DISTINCTION BETWEEN ARGENTINA'S BEHAVIOUR LAST YEAR AND SPAIN'S PURSUIT OF HER OWN CLAIM TO GIBRALTAR.

2. MORAN IS QUOTED AS HAVING SAID: "WE DO NOT LAY CLAIMS BY FORCE. WE MAKE IT QUITE CLEAR THAT WE LAY CLAIM TO GIBRALTAR ACCORDING TO THE PROVISIONS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW. WE DO NOT PUT THE QUESTION IN TERMS OF FORCE, OF MILITARY PRESSURE. WE THINK THAT ARGENTINA HAS FULL RIGHTS OVER THE MALVINAS: BUT WE CONDEMN HER RECOURSE TO THE USE OF FORCE. ON THE LEGAL PLANE, WE RECOGNISE THAT ARGENTINA HAS SUFFICIENT TITLE TO MAKE HER SOVEREIGNTY PREVAIL: BUT WE CONDEMN THE MEANS USED BY THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT TO DEFEND HER RIGHTS AND INTERESTS".

3. ELSEWHERE IN THE INTERVIEW MORAN MADE CLEAR SPAIN'S DIS-SATISFACTION WITH THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT'S EXPLANATIONS OF THE "DISAPPEARED". IN SPAIN NO ONE "DISAPPEARS", HE SAID. THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT'S RECENT REPORT ON THE SUBJECT WAS INADEQUATE.

4. REPORT ON STATE VISIT FOLLOWS BY BAG.

HARDING

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