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*From the Private Secretary*

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

Spain/Gibraltar

Thank you for your minute of 27 October in which you state that a new assessment of the Spanish threat to Gibraltar should be available before 4 November. You should know that the Prime Minister, when considering your business note of 29 October, minuted with reference to the OD discussion on Gibraltar: "We must also have a situation report on defence aspects following the remarks of Gonzales after the Spanish elections".

It may be that the JIC assessment will rehearse our defensive dispositions. If not, the Defence Secretary may wish to be ready to speak on this point at the OD meeting.

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

A. J. COLES

2 November, 1982

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