

GRS 300  
CONFIDENTIAL  
FM MADRID 251627Z NOV 82  
TO PRIORITY FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 622 OF 25 NOVEMBER  
INFO PRIORITY GOVERNOR GIBRALTAR (PERSONAL)

CONFIDENTIAL

PS, NO 10, DOWNING STREET.

MY TELNO 613: GIBRALTAR FRONTIER

1. I UNDERSTAND THAT MORAN HAS SAID SOMETHING TO BELGIAN RADIO AND TV WHICH IMPLIES THAT THE SOCIALISTS PLAN TO OPEN THE FRONTIER BEFORE CHRISTMAS; AND THAT THIS WILL HAVE NO EFFECT ON THE CONTINUED NEED FOR NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE UK AND SPAIN.

2. WE SHOULD NOT TAKE TOO LITERALLY COMMENTS BY MORAN AND OTHER SOCIALISTS BEFORE THEY GET INTO THE SADDLE. BUT WE UNDERSTAND FROM THE SOCIALIST PARTY THAT IN GENERAL THEY ARE LOOKING FOR SOME SPECTACULAR EARLY GESTURES. WE SHOULD ACCORDINGLY BE PREPARED FOR SOME RAPID MOVE ON GIBRALTAR DESIGNED TO:

- A) SATISFY LOCAL SOCIALIST PRESSURE IN THE CAMPO,
- B) TAKE THE WIND OUT OF OUR SAILS,
- C) SHOW MOVEMENT IN AN AREA WHERE THE UCD GOVERNMENT HAD BECOME STALLED.

3. THE MOST LIKELY POSSIBILITY, IF THERE IS ACTIVITY AT ALL, WOULD BE THE OPENING OF THE FRONTIER FOR PEDESTRIANS ONLY. WE WERE WARNED OF THIS CONTINGENCY BY THE OUTGOING UCD FOREIGN MINISTER.

4. BUT WE CANNOT ENTIRELY RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE SOCIALISTS MIGHT DECIDE TO OPEN THE FRONTIER ALTOGETHER AND CALL ON US TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS AT AN EARLY SUBSEQUENT DATE. IN EFFECT THIS WOULD NOT BE A UNILATERAL OPENING OF THE FRONTIER BUT ACCEPTANCE OF THE LISBON AGREEMENT, WHICH REMAINS ON OFFER AS MR HURD TOLD THE HOUSE ON 22 NOVEMBER. SUCH A TACTIC WOULD NOT BE INCOMPATIBLE WITH WHAT MORAN SAID TO ME ON 16 NOVEMBER (MY TELNO 599). BUT IT WOULD BE A LONG SHOT AND OPENING FOR PEDESTRIANS ONLY SEEMS MORE PROBABLE.

5. NEEDLESS TO SAY, I SHALL PURSUE THE MATTER WITH THE NEW FOREIGN MINISTER ONCE ESTABLISHED. BUT IT IS HARDLY FOR US TO MAKE THE RUNNING.

THIS TELEGRAM  
WAS NOT  
ADVANCED  
ADDITIONAL DIST:  
GIBRALTAR

PARSONS

LIMITED  
SE.D  
DEF.D  
NEWS.D  
PS

PS/MR HURD  
PS/LORD BELSTAD  
PS/PUS  
SIR J BULLARD

MR GOODISON  
MR GILLMORE  
LORD NG. LENNOX

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