

DESKBY 150800Z DEC 82
UNCLASSIFIED ENCLAIR
FROM GIBRALTAR 142230Z DEC 82
TO IMMEDIATE FCO TEL NO 114 OF 14 DEC 82
AND INFO IMMEDIATE MADRID
MY TEL NO 113 GIBRALTAR FRONTIER

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF TELEVISED STATEMENT BY HASSAN MADE TONIGHT
FOLLOWING MEETING OF GIBRALTAR GOVERNMENT MINISTERS.

THE VIEWS OF MINISTERS ON THE QUESTION OF THE HOURS OF OPENING
OF THE FRONTIER WERE CLEARLY SET OUT IN THE PRESS RELEASE ISSUED
BY THEM ON 12 DECEMBER. THE POSITION ADOPTED BY MINISTERS WAS THE
RESULT, SOLEY AND EXCLUSIVELY, OF THE DISCRIMINATORY ATTITUDE OF
THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT IN REGARD TO THE CATEGORIES OF PERSONS
WHO WOULD BE ALLOWED TO CROSS THE FRONTIER. MINISTERS WERE PART-
ICUALLY DISTURBED ABOUT THE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST BRITISH SUBJECTS
IN SPAIN WHO WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED ACCESS TO BRITISH TERRITORY
WHILE SPANISH NATIONALS WOULD. THEIR RECOMMENDATION THAT THE HOURS
OF OPENING SHOULD BE THE SAME AS PREVIOUSLY WAS INTENDED AS A
GESTURE OF PROTEST WHICH WOULD NOT, IN PRACTICAL TERMS, MAKE ANY
SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE TO THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS.

2. WE ARE NATURALLY VERY DISAPPOINTED THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT
HAVE TAKEN A DIFFERENT VIEW AND WE BELIEVE THAT OUR DISAPPOINTMENT
WILL BE FELT GENERALLY BY THE PEOPLE OF GIBRALTAR WHO EXPRESSED
GREAT SUPPORT FOR THE STAND WE TOOK.

3. AS STATED IN THE CONVENT PRESS RELEASE THE CONCERN OF MINISTERS
ON THIS MATTER HAS BEEN FULLY NOTED IN LONDON AND IN A PERSONAL
MESSAGE TO ME THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAS INFORMED ME THAT HE
PROPOSES TO DRAW THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT'S ATTENTION TO THE
ANOMALIES OF THE SITUATION AND OF THE NEED TO CORRECT THEM IF
THE CHANGE IS TO BE SEEN AS A STEP FORWARD RATHER THAN AS YET
ANOTHER SETBACK. THE MATTER HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN TAKEN UP THROUGH
THE EMBASSY AND THERE IS SOME INDICATION THAT THE SPANISH
GOVERNMENT MIGHT BE PREPARED TO SHOW SOME FLEXIBILITY OVER THE
PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS.

4. AS WE ALL KNOW, THE CONSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE
CONDUCT OF GIBRALTAR'S EXTERNAL RELATIONS LIES WITH THE BRITISH
GOVERNMENT. SINCE THE RESPONSIBILITY IS THEIRS, SO TOO IS THE
DECISION.

5. BRITAIN HAS STOOD BY US OVER VERY DIFFICULT YEARS AND OUR
DIFFERENCE OF VIEW OVER THIS PARTICULAR MATTER SHOULD NOT BE
ALLOWED TO CLOUD OUR RELATIONSHIP TO OUR DETRIMENT. I ACCORDINGLY
HOPE THAT THE PUBLIC WILL TAKE THIS NEWS IN THE CALM MANNER WHICH
HAS CHARACTERISED OUR REACTIONS TO SERIOUS EVENTS OVER THE YEARS
THEREBY ENSURING THE PRESERVATION OF OUR WAY OF LIFE. YOU CAN
REST ASSURED THAT MY COLLEAGUES AND I WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS THE
BRITISH GOVERNMENT FOR AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE SITUATION. OUR STRONG
DISAGREEMENT OVER THIS MATTER DOES NOT ALTER THE FACT THAT BRITAIN
IS FUNDAMENTALLY ON OUR SIDE

WILLIAMS

LIMITED

SED

DEF D

NEWS D

PUSD

MAED

ECD (E)

PLANNING STAFF

PS

PS/MR HURD
PS/LORD BELSTEAD
PS/FUS
SIR J BULLARD
MR WRIGHT
MR GOODISON
MR HANNAY
MR GILLMORE

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION
GIBRALTAR

CONFIDENTIAL

DESKBY 150800Z

CONFIDENTIAL UK COMMS ONLY CYPHER CAT ALFA
FROM GIBRALTAR 141900Z DEC 82
TO IMMEDIATE FCO TEL NO PERSONAL 165 OF 14 DEC 82
AND INFO IMMEDIATE MADRID

YOUR TELNO PERSONAL 100: GIBRALTAR FRONTIER

1. I TOOK ACTION THIS EVENING WITH HASSAN AND LEFT WITH HIM A COPY OF THE ADMIRABLY CONSTRUCTED SPEAKING NOTES PROVIDED IN YOUR TUR.

2. HIS REACTION WAS ONE OF VISIBLE COLD ANGER. HE CHARACTERISED THE DECISION AS "ANOTHER PIECE OF APPEASEMENT TOWARDS SPAIN". HE WOULD NEED TO CONSIDER HIS OWN POSITION IN CONSULTATION WITH HIS COLLEAGUES AND WOULD BE OBLIGED TO ISSUE A STATEMENT OF COMMENT TONIGHT.

3. I ADDED MY VOICE TO YOURS IN URGING HIM TO USE HIS BEST OFFICES TO AVOID NEGATIVE REACTION IN GIBRALTAR. HE SAID THAT THIS HAD SO FAR BEEN HIS INTENTION AND HE WOULD NOT "FAN THE FLAMES" BECAUSE OF HIS REGARD FOR GOOD ORDER IN GIBRALTAR. BUT HE COULD NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SPONTANEOUS DEMONSTRATIONS OF ANGER WHICH WOULD BE LIKELY TO OCCUR TONIGHT OR TOMORROW. THIS FELL WITHIN MY AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY.

4. TEXT OF PRESS RELEASE ISSUED LOCALLY FOLLOWS.

WILLIAMS

LIMITED
SED
NEWS D
ECD (E)
DEF D
PUSD


LEGAL ADVISERS
PLANNING STAFF
PS
PS/MR HURD
PS/LORD BELSTEAD

PS/PUS
SIR J BULLARD
MR WRIGHT
MR GILLMORE
MR GOODISON

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION
GIBRALTAR

CONFIDENTIAL

OUT TELEGRAM


	Classification and Caveats	Precedence/Deskby
	CONFIDENTIAL	IMMEDIATE 141500 ¹⁶⁰⁰

ZCZC 1 ZCZC
 GRS 2 GRS
 CLASS 3 CONFIDENTIAL
 CAVEATS 4
 DESKBY 5 141500 Z
 FM FCO 6 FROM FCO
 PRE/ADD 7 TO IMMEDIATE PERSONAL GOVERNOR GIBRALTAR
 TEL NO 8 TELEGRAM NUMBER
 9 repeated for info IMMEDIATE MADRID DESKBY 141500Z M
 10
 11 Your telno 164: GIBRALTAR FRONTIER
 12 1. I have carefully considered the view of Gibraltar Ministers
 13 that, although the Spanish intention is to open their gates 24
 14 hours a day starting at midnight tonight, those on the Gibraltar
 15 side should continue to be closed for a period of several hours
 16 every night as hitherto. I have concluded that I cannot allow
 17 the Gibraltar gates to be closed while those on the Spanish side
 18 are open. This would be inconsistent with our position that
 19 restrictions on traffic through the Gibraltar frontier have all
 20 along been the fault of Spain, not of Britain or of Gibraltar.
 21 With the international press gathering for the opening of the
 22 gates, press accounts and photographs of closed gates on the
 23 Gibraltar side would present the colony in the worst possible
 24 light.
 25 2. I realise that this is a testing time for Gibraltar and for

Prime Minister
 I understand that Sir Joshua Hassan reacted
 rather coldly to this message. but on past forms
 he will probably acquiesce.
A.F.C. 14/12

NNNN ends telegram	BLANK	Catchword your
File number	Dept	Distribution
Drafted by (Block capitals)		Limited SED News Dept ECD(E) Defence Dept PUISD Legal Advisers Planning Staff PS PS!Mr Hurd PS/Lord Belstead PS/PUS Sir J Bullard
Telephone number		Mr Wright Mr Goodison Mr Gillmore Addl Dist Gibraltar
Authorised for despatch	<i>14/12</i>	
Comcen reference	Time of despatch	

OUT TELEGRAM

	↓ ▼	Classification and Caveats CONFIDENTIAL	Precedence/Deskby IMMEDIATE 1600 141500Z
--	--------	---	---

ZCZC GRS CLASS CAVEATS DESKBY FM FCO PRE/ADD TEL NO	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	<p>1 <<<<</p> <p>2 your relations with Hassan and that this decision may place you in</p> <p>3 a <u>difficult position personally</u>. But, despite the unreasonable</p> <p>4 and unbalanced nature of the <u>limitation on pedestrian traffic</u></p> <p>5 <u>across the border</u>, it is essential that the position of HMG and</p> <p>6 Gibraltar should look right in the eyes of the world at a time</p> <p>7 when considerable public attention will be focussed upon it.</p> <p>8 3. Please therefore speak to Hassan on my behalf in the</p> <p>9 following terms. Begins. It is most disappointing that the</p> <p>10 Spanish Government have decided to <u>limit</u> the categories of those</p> <p>11 who will be allowed to cross the border on foot from tonight.</p> <p>12 I realise that the Spanish announcement of these limitations has</p> <p>13 <u>been badly received in Gibraltar</u> and has placed you in a difficult</p> <p>14 <u>position</u>. I am nonetheless convinced that it would be a grave</p> <p>15 <u>mistake</u>, at a time when international attention will be focused</p> <p>16 upon Gibraltar, if the <u>gates on the Gibraltar side of the frontier</u></p> <p>17 <u>were to be shut</u> while those on the <u>Spanish side are open</u>. I have</p> <p>18 therefore instructed the Governor to ensure that Gibraltar matches</p> <p>19 <u>whatever Spain does in the matter of opening hours</u>.</p> <p>20 4. I should like to make it clear that I have taken this</p> <p>21 decision not for any reasons connected with Britain's relations</p> <p>22 with Spain, but in the interests of <u>Gibraltar itself</u>. To do</p> <p>23 otherwise would, I am convinced, invite ridicule and throw away</p> <p>24 at a stroke what has always been one of the strongest elements in</p> <p>25 our position, that it is not the UK or Gibraltar which is</p>
--	---	--

NNNN ends telegram	BLANK	Catchword responsible
File number	Dept	Distribution
Drafted by (Block capitals)		
Telephone number		
Authorised for despatch		
Comcen reference	Time of despatch	

OUT TELEGRAM

Classification and Caveats
CONFIDENTIAL

Precedence/Deskby
IMMEDIATE 141500Z



ZCZC
GRS
CLASS
CAVEATS
DESKBY
FM FCO
PRE/ADD
TEL NO

1 <<<<
2 responsible for any restrictions on traffic across the border.
3 5. The Governor has told you of my conversation with the new
4 Spanish Foreign Minister on 10 December, and of the possibility
5 that the Lisbon Agreement may be implemented in the spring of
6 next year. I have had a message from Moran today urging me to
7 do what I can to make a success of tonight's pedestrian opening
8 and indicating that Spain may be prepared to show some flexibility
9 over the practical arrangements. I propose to go back to him in
10 a day or two, when we have seen how the new arrangements are
11 working, drawing attention to the anomalies and to the need to
12 correct them if the change is to be seen as a step forwards rather
13 than as yet another setback. If there are any particular points
14 which you would like me to press, please let the Governor know.
15 Meanwhile I hope you will do all you can in Gibraltar, as I shall
16 be doing here, to present the Spanish move ^{as a step towards} ~~in as positive a light~~
17 ~~as possible, in the interests of~~ the real prize which the ^{full}
18 implementation of Lisbon would constitute. Ends
19 6. On the points raised by Moran today with Sr R Parsons (Madrid
20 telno 672):-
21 (a) Domicile: You should make whatever documentary arrange-
22 ments are most convenient to enable Gibraltar residents
23 to identify themselves at the border.
24 (b) Customs: You have discretion to impose restrictions
25 similar to any that Spain applies, but you will no doubt

///
//
/

NNNN ends telegram		BLANK	Catchword wish
File number		Dept	Distribution
Drafted by (Block capitals)			
Telephone number			
Authorised for despatch			
Comcen reference		Time of despatch	

OUT TELEGRAM

		Classification and Caveats <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">CONFIDENTIAL</p>	Precedence/Deskby <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">IMMEDIATE 141500Z</p>
--	---	--	--

ZCZC
GRS
CLASS
CAVEATS
DESKBY
FM FCO
PRE/ADD
TEL NO

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

<<<<

wish to see first what these are in practice.

PYM

NNNN

///
//
/

NNNN ends telegram	BLANK	Catchword
File number	Dept	Distribution
Drafted by (Block capitals)		
Telephone number		
Authorised for despatch		
Comcen reference	Time of despatch	