



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

20 December 1982

Prime Minister

New York

A.F.C. 20.12.

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Gibraltar

The Secretary of State has noted your letter of 15 December.

He agrees very much with the Prime Minister on the line we should take when the Spanish side refer to sovereignty. He made it clear to the Spanish Foreign Minister when they met on 10 December that the wishes of the Gibraltarians are crucial: it was encouraging that Senor Moran seemed to accept this point. Mr Pym also considers that we should continue to make clear to the Spaniards that it is up to the Spanish side, if they so wish, to demonstrate to the Gibraltarians the advantages of closer links with Spain, in particular in economic and commercial matters (eg the further development of tourism in the area). This is a useful way of reminding the Spaniards of the need for a constructive approach on their side, while in no way weakening the strength of our commitment to respect the freely and democratically expressed wishes of the people of Gibraltar.

Yours ever,

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

20 DEC 1982

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21 December 1982

Gibraltar

The Prime Minister has noted the contents
of your letter of 20 December.

JOHN COLES

Roger Bone, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

NR