



## Foreign and Commonwealth Office London SW1A 2AH

20 December 1982

Panie Minister

Jew John.

A. J. C. 20.

## Gibraltar

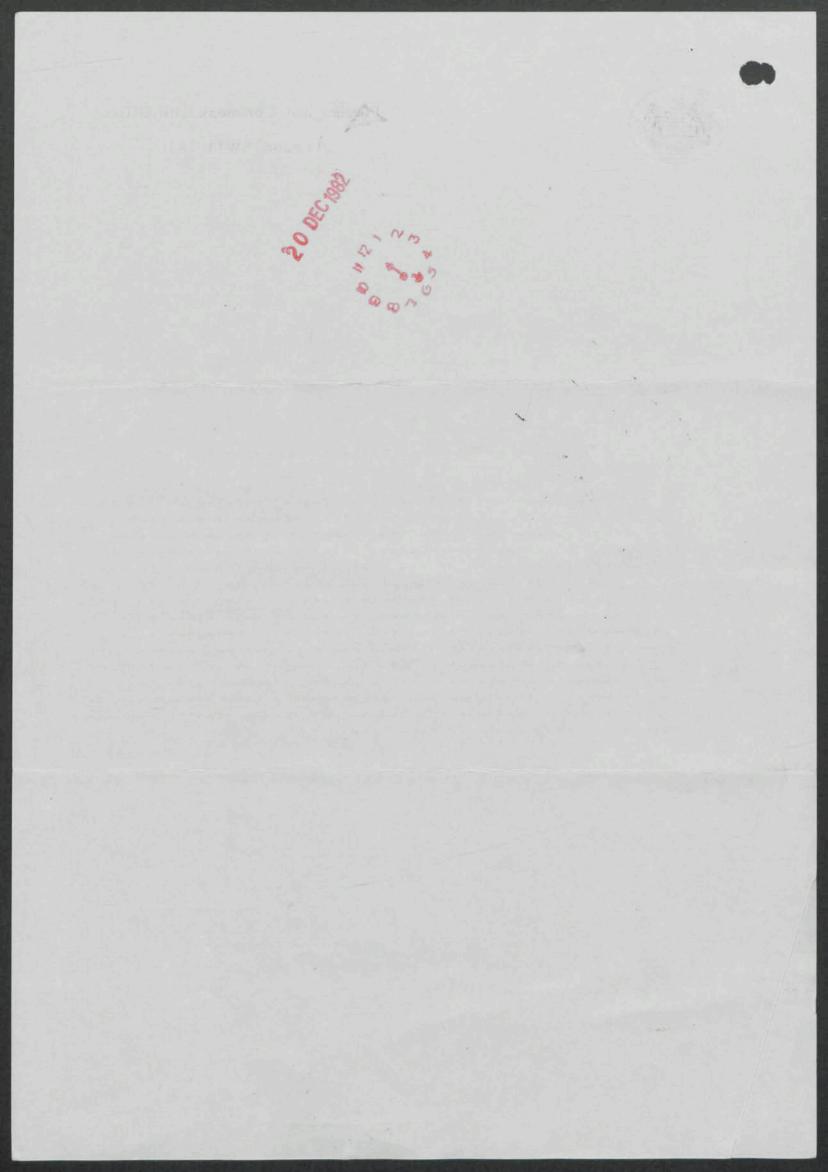
The Secretary of State has noted your letter of 15 December.

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 committment to respect the freely and democratically expressed wishes of the people of Gibraltar.

Yun un.

(R B Bone) Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq 10 Downing Street



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.

up