

GRS 290
CONFIDENTIAL
FM MADRID 221740Z DEC 82
TO PRIORITY FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 710 OF 22 DECEMBER
INFO PRIORITYPGOVERNOR GIBRALTAR(PERSONAL)

Gibraltar

MIPT: GIBRALTAR

1. IT IS NOT(NOT) UNSATISFACTORY THAT MORAN SHOULD HAVE TOLD THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENT AND THE PRESS THAT AFTER TABLING THE PROBLEM OF SOVEREIGNTY IN THE PROPOSED NEGOTIATIONS WITH HMG, IT WOULD BE SUFFICIENT FOR HIM THAT GREAT BRITAIN TOOK NOTE OF THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT'S POSITION (MY TELNO 704).
2. I HAVE RECENTLY HAD MORE THAN ONE CONVERSATION WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER ON THIS SUBJECT, THE LAST BEING AT TODAY'S LUNCH. I HAVE TRIED TO PERSUADE HIM AND CUENCA THAT, IN PRESENT POLITICAL CIRCUMSTANCES, IT WOULD BE A GREAT MISTAKE FOR THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT TO OPEN THEIR JAWS TOO WIDE ON THE ISSUE OF SOVEREIGNTY. I HAVE TRIED TO REINFORCE YOUR COMMENTS TO MORAN IN BRUSSELS BY EXPLAINING THAT HIGH PUBLIC EXPECTATIONS MUST NOT BE AROUSED: AND THAT POPULAR INTEREST OUGHT NOT TO BE CONCENTRATED IN ADVANCE ON THE EXACT METHOD BY WHICH THIS SUBJECT IS BROACHED IN THE PROPOSED NEGOTIATIONS. ONE WOULD LIKE TO THINK THAT MORAN'S PUBLIC ATTITUDE TAKES ACCOUNT OF THESE CONSIDERATIONS AND THAT, AS YOU SAID IN YOUR TELNO 354, HE IS ADOPTING A REALISTIC ATTITUDE.
3. THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAS ASKED ME TO CALL ON HIM IN EARLY JANUARY TO DISCUSS THE MATTER FURTHER, ON A PURELY PERSONAL BASIS ON MY SIDE. I SHALL NATURALLY NOT COMMIT YOU IN ANY WAY. I PROPOSE TO LISTEN TO HIS IDEAS AND TO TRY TO RIDE HIM OFF ANY WHICH SEEM CLEARLY UNACCEPTABLE.
4. IN FACT MORAN'S PUBLIC FORMULATION SEEMS BY NO MEANS REMOTE FROM THE IDEAS UNDER DISCUSSION WHEN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LISBON AGREEMENT SEEMED IMMINENT LAST SUMMER. IT WOULD NOT BE UNREASONABLE FOR THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT TO TABLE THE QUESTION OF THE FUTURE STATUS OF THE TERRITORY (A MORE ACCEPTABLE PHRASE PERHAPS THAN THE PROBLEM OF SOVEREIGNTY) AND FOR YOU TO TAKE NOTE OF THAT POSITION.
5. I HOPE IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO DISCUSS THE MATTER FURTHER WITH YOU AND YOUR OFFICIALS IN LONDON IN MID-JANUARY AFTER I HAVE HEARD MORE OF MORAN'S OWN IDEAS.

PARSONS

[THIS TELEGRAM WAS NOT ADVANCED]

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