

GRS 360

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

FM MADRID 221120Z DEC 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 705 OF 22 DECEMBER

INFO IMMEDIATE GOVERNOR GIBRALTAR(PERSONAL)

MY TELNO 701 : GIBRALTAR FRONTIER

1. I TACKLED MORAN ABOUT THE REPORT IN MY TUR LAST NIGHT DURING THE COURSE OF A RECEPTION HE WAS OFFERING FOR THE MADRID DIPLOMATIC CORPS. HE CONFIRMED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HOPED TO BE ABLE TO ANNOUNCE SHORTLY A FURTHER EASING OF RESTRICTIONS. HE TOOK MY POINT THAT FOR COMPASSIONATE REASONS THERE WOULD BE ADVANTAGE IN ANNOUNCING A FIRM DECISION BEFORE CHRISTMAS. MORAN SAID HIS IDEA WAS TO ALLOW PASSAGE BOTH WAYS FOR THOSE WITH 'RELATIVES OF THE FIRST DEGREE' (PARIENTES DE PRIMER GRADO) LIVING ON THE OTHER SIDE. HE SAID THAT THE REFERENCE TO 'FIRST COUSINS' HAD OF COURSE BEEN A PRESS ERROR. HE WOULD BE DISCUSSING THIS TODAY WITH THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR AT THE CURRENT CABINET MEETING. HE WOULD LET ME KNOW OF ANY FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS AT LUNCHTIME WHEN I AM SEEING HIM AGAIN. I WILL TELEGRAPH FURTHER THEN.

2. CUENCA SUBSEQUENTLY EXPLAINED TO ME THAT RELATIVES OF THE FIRST DEGREE IS A PRECISE LEGAL TERM IN SPAIN. IT IS DEFINED IN ARTICLES 915-923 OF THE CIVIL CODE AS COVERING FATHER, MOTHER, SONS AND DAUGHTERS. ARIAS, THE HEAD OF THE NEWS DEPARTMENT IN THE MFA, HAS ALSO CONFIRMED THAT THE EASING WOULD EXTEND TO SPOUSES (PARA 2(A) OF MY TELNO 701). HE WAS UNABLE TO CONFIRM WHETHER THOSE IN PARA 2(C) WOULD BE INCLUDED.

3. I ALSO RAISED WITH THE MINISTER THE QUESTION OF CUSTOMS, POINTING OUT THE CURRENT IMBALANCE WHICH WAS CAUSING DIFFICULTY IN GIBRALTAR. MORAN THOUGHT THAT THIS WOULD HAVE TO BE LEFT UNTIL THE NEXT ROUND. BUT THIS I TOOK HIM TO MEAN AS PART OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LISBON AGREEMENT, THOUGH THIS WAS BY NO MEANS EXPLICIT. CUENCA, TO WHOM I REPEATED THIS CONVERSATION, COMMENTED IN A RELAXED MANNER THAT WE HAD ALREADY SAID THAT OUR MEASURES WOULD MATCH SPANISH ONES. HE SEEMED TO BE IMPLYING THAT, SINCE SPAIN COULD NOT AT PRESENT MOVE ON CUSTOMS, THEY WOULD HARDLY BE SURPRISED IF GIBRALTAR FELT OBLIGED TO INTRODUCE WHATEVER REGIME WAS NECESSARY TO PROTECT ITS OWN ECONOMIC INTERESTS. I THINK THIS IS THE ONLY WAY TO TACKLE THE PROBLEM FOR THE TIME BEING. BUT WE SHOULD NOT(NOT) BE TOUGHER THAN THE SPANIARDS THEMSELVES.

CONFIDENTIAL

14.

CONFIDENTIAL

4. I DETECT NO SIGNS OF FOOT-DRAGGING ON THE PART OF THE SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER. RATHER THE REVERSE. HIS ONLY RESERVATION WAS THAT IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO GO TOO FAR TOO FAST (EG ON CUSTOMS) AND THEN HAVE TO CLAW IT BACK. YOU WILL APPRECIATE THAT MANY GROUPS HERE (INCLUDING MINISTRY OFFICIALS) ARE UNENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE SOCIALIST UNILATERAL MOVE. MOREOVER, THERE ARE HEAVY PRESSURES ON THE NEW MINISTER. HE GOES TO MOROCCO TOMORROW. HE IS UNDER FIRE OVER NATO. AND THERE IS NOW A CRISIS WITH THE COMMUNITY OVER FISHERIES.

PARSONS

GIBRALTAR LTD

SED
DEF DEPT
NEWS D
PUSD
ECD(E)
PLANNING STAFF
PS
PS/MR HURD
PS/LORD BELSTEAD
PS/PUS
SIR J BULLARD
MR GOODISON
MR GILLMORE
MR HANNAY

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION
GIBRALTAR

- 2 -
CONFIDENTIAL