

GRS 250  
UNCLASSIFIED  
DESKBY 041500Z  
FM MADRID 041355Z FEB 83  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 70 OF 04 FEBRUARY  
INFO IMMEDIATE GIBRALTAR

*mf*

*Lead in line.*

GIBRALTAR

1. AS PART OF A WIDE RANGING ADDRESS TO THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE ON 3 FEBRUARY, WHICH COVERED RELATIONS WITH FRANCE, THE MAGHREB AND PORTUGAL, MORAN ALSO TOUCHED ON GIBRALTAR. HE DEFENDED THE DECISION TO OPEN THE GATE FOR PEDESTRIANS ONLY ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE YEARS OF ISOLATION HAD FERMENTED AMONG GIBRALTARIANS NOT SO MUCH A WISH TO REMAIN BRITISH AS A TREND TOWARDS INDEPENDENT NATIONALISM. THE PEDESTRIAN OPENING HAD BEEN A HUMANITARIAN MEASURE TO "ENCOURAGE OSMOSIS BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES".

2. AS REGARDS THE FUTURE HE SAID THAT NO SPANISH MINISTER WOULD START NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE UK WITHOUT PUTTING ON THE AGENDA THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE ROCK. WITHOUT THIS, THERE COULD BE CONVERSATIONS, BUT NOT (NOT) A NEGOTIATION: NOR COULD THERE BE A FULL OPENING OF THE FRONTIER. HE ADDED THAT IT WAS A PITY THAT THE FLOOD WATERS OF THE FALKLANDS HAD ERODED MUCH OF THE PROGRESS MADE OVER GIBRALTAR.

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*Is this correct?  
Remember  
Our file?*

3. MORAN ALSO MENTIONED GIBRALTAR AIRPORT SAYING THAT THIS WAS ON LAND NOT CEDED UNDER THE TREATY OF UTRECHT, BUT TAKEN OVER LATER. IN THE ABSENCE OF A NEGOTIATION WITH THE UK, HE COULD NOT ACCEPT THAT IT SHOULD BE USED TO BRING TOURISTS TO SPAIN AT PRICES AGREED OUTSIDE THE FRAMEWORK OF IATA SINCE THIS WOULD BE DISADVANTAGEOUS FOR SPAIN.

4. NO TEXT OF MORAN'S STATEMENT WILL BE AVAILABLE UNTIL THE LOCAL VERSION OF HANSARD IS PUBLISHED IN ABOUT A WEEK. TEXT WILL BE SENT WHEN AVAILABLE. THE ABOVE ACCOUNT HAS BEEN TAKEN FROM PRESS REPORTS WHICH THE MFA HAVE CONFIRMED ARE BROADLY CORRECT.  
PARSONS

GIBRALTAR LTD

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ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION  
GIBRALTAR