

GRS 263

CONFIDENTIAL

FM FCO 141200 FEB 83

TO IMMEDIATE MADRID

TELEGRAM NUMBER 44 OF 14 FEBRUARY

AND TO IMMEDIATE GOVERNOR GIBRALTAR (PERSONAL)

MIPT: GIBRALTAR

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF MESSAGE TO THE SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER.

BEGINS.

FOLLOWING OUR USEFUL MEETING IN BRUSSELS ON 10 DECEMBER, I HAVE DISCUSSED WITH SIR RICHARD PARSONS, AND WITH MY COLLEAGUES IN LONDON, THE NEXT STEPS IN CARRYING OUT OUR SHARED WISH TO IMPLEMENT THE LISBON AGREEMENT IN THE SPRING. I HAVE EXPLAINED TO SIR RICHARD MY THOUGHTS ABOUT HOW OUR FIRST MEETING ON THE DAY OF IMPLEMENTATION MIGHT BE ORGANISED AND HAVE ASKED HIM TO DISCUSS THESE WITH YOU AS SOON AS CONVENIENT.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LISBON AGREEMENT IS SOMETHING TO WHICH I ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE. IT PROVIDES THE OPPORTUNITY FOR A NEW AND MORE POSITIVE WAY OF DEALING WITH THE QUESTION OF GIBRALTAR WHICH HAS CAUSED DIFFICULTIES IN OUR RELATIONSHIP FOR SUCH A LONG TIME. I REALISE YOU HAVE VIEWS ON GIBRALTAR WHICH, AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE LISBON AGREEMENT, YOU WILL WISH TO RAISE WHEN WE MEET. I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT I SHALL TREAT WITH SERIOUSNESS AND ATTENTION ANYTHING YOU WISH TO SAY. I TOO WILL HAVE OUR POINT OF VIEW ON GIBRALTAR TO EXPLAIN. WE BOTH REALISE THAT THE PROBLEMS WE SHALL BE DEALING WITH WILL TAKE TIME TO SOLVE. NEVERTHELESS, I HOPE WE CAN SOON START ON THE WORK OF RESTORING AND DEVELOPING CONTACTS BETWEEN PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN THE GIBRALTAR REGION. THE DECISION TAKEN BY YOUR GOVERNMENT ON PARTIAL LIFTING OF THE SPANISH RESTRICTIONS ON MOVEMENT HAS, I AM SURE, HELPED TO BEGIN THIS PROCESS. WE SHALL BE ABLE TO CARRY IT FORWARD WHEN WE MEET.

PYM

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