

GRS 300
UNCLASSIFIED
FM MADRID 221615Z FEB 83
TELEGRAM NUMBER 110 OF 22 FEBRUARY
INFO GIBRALTAR

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GIBRALTAR

1. THE MADRID NEWSPAPER ABC PUBLISHED TODAY AN INTERVIEW WITH MORAN ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS. IT CONTAINS LITTLE NEW BUT THE FOLLOWING PASSAGE ON GIBRALTAR WILL BE OF INTEREST.

2. ASKED ABOUT THE RESULTS OF HIS HUMANITARIAN DECISION TO OPEN THE GIBRALTAR GATE FOR PEDESTRIANS MORAN IS QUOTED THAT "THE RESULTS HAD BEEN SPLendid". THERE HAD BEEN MORE THAN 200,000 VISITS BY GIBRALTARIANS TO SPAIN. THESE HAD ALLOWED THEM TO SEE THAT THEY WOULD HAVE NEITHER POLITICAL, RELIGIOUS, CULTURAL, LANGUAGE NOR LABOUR PROBLEMS IN SPAIN. THE PROCESS WOULD BE SLOW BUT THE GIBRALTARIANS WOULD BE PERSUADED THAT THEIR FUTURE LAY WITH SPAIN. THE CASTIELLA POLICY HAD MERELY REINFORCED THEIR NATIONALISM WHICH HAD BEEN FURTHER STRENGTHENED BY THE FALKLANDS ISSUE.

3. ON FUTURE TALKS MORAN IS REPORTED AS STATING "THE BRITISH MINISTER MR PYM WANTS TO RENEW CONVERSATIONS THIS SPRING. I AM NOT AGAINST THIS, WE WILL TALK: BUT WITHOUT CEDING ANYTHING ON THE QUESTION OF SPANISH SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE WHOLE OF THIS TERRITORY. WE ACCEPT THAT THE GIBRALTARIANS CAN MAINTAIN IF THEY WISH THEIR BRITISH NATIONALITY OR A SPECIAL STATUS GUARANTEED BY BOTH COUNTRIES. IN MY CONVERSATIONS WITH MR PYM I WILL ALSO TABLE THE NEED TO REGULATE THE AIRPORT. IT LIES IN THE ISTHMUS TO WHICH THE ENGLISH HAVE NO RIGHT AT ALL. AS THESE FLIGHTS GIVE AN ADVANTAGE TO THE UK WITH SPECIAL TARIFFS THEY COULD HAVE AN EFFECT ON OUR TRAFFIC TO NEARBY AIRPORTS. IT IS NOT HAPPENING NOW BUT THIS NEEDS TO BE REGULATED STRICTLY AND SERIOUSLY. I WILL ENSURE THAT GIBRALTAR IS NOT THE BACK DOOR TO A TOURISM WHICH USES SPECIAL BRITISH TARIFFS. THERE IS ANOTHER ASPECT WHICH PUTS PRESSURE ON THE GIBRALTARIANS - THE CLOSING OF THE SHIPYARD. BETWEEN 30 AND 40 PERCENT OF THE INCOME OF THE POPULATION DEPENDS ON MILITARY CONTRACTS FROM THE BRITISH MINISTRY OF DEFENCE BASE".
PARSONS

GIBRALTAR

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GIBRALTAR

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