

O R 251020Z MAR 83

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FM GIBRALTAR

TO RBDWDF/FCO LONDON

INFO RBDWDF/MADRID

BT

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FM GIBRALTAR 251020Z MAR 83

TO IMMEDIATE FCO TEL NO PERSONAL 44 OF 25/3/83

INFO ROUTINE MADRID

MY TELNO 30: GIBRALTAR/SPAIN: LISBON AGREEMENT

1. IN HIS SPEECH REPORTED IN MY TUR HASSAN HAD STATED THAT HE WOULD BE SENDING TO ME FOR TRANSMISSION TO YOU A LETTER WITH SOME FURTHER THOUGHTS ON THE RELATIONSHIP WITH SPAIN. THIS I HAVE NOW RECEIVED AND WILL DELIVER TO WILSON ON TUESDAY NEXT.

2. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS:

(A) GIBRALTAR'S POLITICAL LEADERS ARE 'MORE THAN EVER CONVINCED OF THE SPANIARDS UTTER DISHONESTY AND HYPOCRISY IN MATTERS RELATING TO GIBRALTAR, NOT ONLY BY THIS LATEST FAILURE TO HONOUR THEIR COMMITMENTS BUT ALSO BY SR MORAN'S PERFORMANCE IN HIS INTERVIEW WITH COLIN GRAY (OF GBC) ON 17 MARCH' (A COPY OF THIS INTERVIEW HAS BEEN FORWARDED TO THE DEPARTMENT). 'NOT ONLY DID HE (MORAN) CLAIM THAT THE SPANISH CUSTOMS REGIME AT LA LINEA WAS THE SAME AS THAT AT ANY OTHER SPANISH CUSTOMS POST, HE ALSO PRETENDED THAT HE KNEW NOTHING OF THE ECONOMIC EFFECTS ON GIBRALTAR AND STATED THAT SPAIN WISHED PROSPERITY AND WELFARE TO THE PEOPLE OF GIBRALTAR.' HASSAN EXPECTED MORAN TO BE CLOSELY INFORMED ON THE SITUATION IN GIBRALTAR AND ON 22 MARCH RECEIVED A NOTE FOR MENCHACA, AN INFLUENTIAL SPANISH JOURNALIST, ENCLOSING AN ARTICLE HE HAD WRITTEN IN 'ABC' ON 15 MARCH WHICH HE EXPLAINED WAS 'A PRESS SUMMARY' OF THE REPORT HE HAD GIVEN TO MORAN FOLLOWING HIS RECENT VISIT TO GIBRALTAR. THIS STATED INTER ALIA THAT WHILST THE GIBRALTARIANS HAD IN A MATERIAL SENSE TURNED TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE GATE 'THE ROCK'S ECONOMIC CRISIS HAS BEEN INTENSIFIED' AS A RESULT OF THE PEDESTRIAN OPENING. MENCHACA CONTINUED 'I AM CONVINCED THAT IT WAS NOT, OF COURSE, OUR GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO PENALISE THE POPULATION IN A MORE SUBTLE WAY THAN BEFORE BUT, IF THE PRESENT SITUATION CONTINUES FOR A LONG TIME, IT COULD - AGAIN IN SIR JOSHUA'S OPINION - RUIN THE RECONCILIATION OR THE COMING TOGETHER OF THE INHABITANTS OF THE AREA WHO FOR MANY REASONS, ARE BROTHERS'.

(B) MORANU'S ARGUMENTS FOR FURTHER CLARIFICATION ON THE QUESTION OF RECIPROCITY AND EQUALITY OF RIGHTS WERE 'AS MUCH AS EVER BEFORE, A SMOKE SCREEN TO COVER THEIR UNWILLINGNESS, OR INABILITY, TO REMOVE THE RESTRICTIONS. HIS REFERENCE TO GRADUALISM INDICATES A CONTINUING POLICY OF BLACKMAIL'.

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(C) HE WAS GRATEFUL TO THE PRIME MINISTER AND YOU FOR THE FIRMNESS SHOWN IN DEALING WITH MORAN.

(D) IF ASKED HE WOULD CONTINUE TO SAY THAT HE CONSIDERED THE LISBON AGREEMENT TO BE THE BEST WAY FORWARD 'SUBJECT AS ALWAYS TO OUR RESERVATIONS ON THE DISCUSSION OF SOVEREIGNTY' BUT POLICY MUST BE BASED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE SPANIARDS WOULD NOT IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENT.

(E) GIBRALTAR COULD NO LONGER AFFORD TO BE STRUNG ALONG BY SPANISH PREVARICATION AND HE PROPOSED TO RESUSCITATE HIS PROPOSALS FOR A WILTON PARK TYPE CONFERENCE ON GIBRALTAR WHICH WE HAD EARLIER AGREED SHOULD BE DEFERRED.

(F) DUE TO THE NON-IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT HE WOULD NOW WISH TO SEE A POLICY OF DISCOURAGING CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL, SPORTING, TECHNICAL OR OTHER CONTACTS BETWEEN GIBRALTAR AND SPAIN.

WILLIAMS  
BT

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