

GRS 500
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

MS

FM MADRID 251730Z MAR 83
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 205 OF 25 MARCH
INFO IMMEDIATE GOVERNOR GIBRALTAR (PERSONAL)

YOUR TELEGRAM NO 103: VISIT OF SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER

1. I SPOKE AS INSTRUCTED TODAY TO THE KING OF SPAIN. HE COMMENTED THAT THE PRESS APPEARED SO FAR TO HAVE TAKEN THE VISIT OF MORAN TO LONDON FAIRLY CALMLY. BUT HIS OWN IMPRESSION, FROM READING THE SPANISH RECORD, WAS THAT ON THE SUBJECT OF GIBRALTAR THERE HAD BEEN NO MEETING OF MINDS BETWEEN MORAN AND YOU AND THE PRIME MINISTER. I SAID THAT THIS WAS UNFORTUNATELY THE CASE. YOU HAD BEEN GREATLY SURPRISED AT THE ATTITUDE ADOPTED BY MORAN. THE LATTER HAD GIVEN YOU THE IMPRESSION LAST DECEMBER THAT HE WAS SET FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LISBON AGREEMENT IN THE SPRING. THIS REMAINED THE BRITISH POSITION. YOU HAD EVEN MADE IT CLEAR BOTH PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY THAT THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT WERE ENTITLED, IF THEY WISHED, TO RAISE THE QUESTION OF SOVEREIGNTY IN THE PROPOSED NEGOTIATIONS. BUT MORAN NOW SEEMED TO BE SEEKING FURTHER CLARIFICATION, EVEN THOUGH THIS HAD ALREADY BEEN ACHIEVED IN THE EXCHANGE OF LETTERS OF 8 JANUARY 1982. THE KING COMMENTED THAT EACH SIDE APPEARED TO BE WAITING FOR THE OTHER. I EMPHASISED THAT THERE WAS NO WISH FOR DELAY ON OUR PART.

2. I URGED THE KING TO ENCOURAGE HIS GOVERNMENT TO VIEW THIS SUBJECT IN THE LIGHT OF THE LONG TERM INTERESTS OF ANGLO-SPANISH RELATIONS AND INDEED OF WESTERN EUROPE AS A WHOLE. WE WISHED TO CONTINUE TO GIVE FULL SUPPORT TO SPANISH ENTRY TO THE COMMUNITY. WE ALSO WANTED TO BE HELPFUL OVER THE SPANISH POSITION IN NATO. THE KING AGREED THAT THESE WERE IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS. AT THIS POINT HE MADE HIS COMMENTS ABOUT MR WEINBERGER'S VISIT, REPORTED IN A SEPARATE TELEGRAM.

3. I THEN TOOK UP BY IMPLICATION THE KING'S REMARK, IN A NATO CONTEXT, THAT HE HAD TACKLED FELIPE GONZALEZ LAST NIGHT ABOUT APPARENT DIFFERENCES OF PUBLIC PRESENTATION BETWEEN HIM AND THE SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER. I SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO KNOW SOON WHETHER THE OBJECTIONS RAISED BY MORAN IN LONDON WERE OF A TECHNICAL AND LEGAL NATURE: OR WHETHER THEY REPRESENTED A CONSIDERED DECISION BY THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT TO DECLINE TO IMPLEMENT THE LISBON AGREEMENT FOR THE TIME BEING. IT WAS FOR THIS REASON THAT I HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO SPEAK TO HIM. I HAD LIKEWISE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO GO OVER THE GROUND WITH THE SPANISH PRIME MINISTER AND TO EXPRESS SURPRISE AT THE ATTITUDE ADOPTED BY MORAN. (I WAS CAREFUL TO MAKE NO DIRECT CRITICISM OF THE LATTER.)

CONFIDENTIAL

/ 4.

CONFIDENTIAL

4. THE KING SEEMED TO THINK IT A GOOD IDEA THAT I SHOULD SEE THE PRIME MINISTER. I MADE IT CLEAR THAT, IN DOING SO, I WOULD NOT REVEAL TO GONZALEZ THAT I HAD ALREADY SPOKEN TO THE KING. THE LATTER UNDERTOOK TO EXPRESS CONCERN TO HIS PRIME MINISTER ABOUT THE APPARENTLY UNSATISFACTORY OUTCOME OF THE LONDON TALKS. HE WOULD ALSO ENCOURAGE GONZALEZ TO TALK DIRECTLY TO ME.

5. THE FACT THAT THE KING HAS HIMSELF VOLUNTEERED TO ME THE EXISTENCE OF APPARENT DIFFERENCES OF OUTLOOK BETWEEN THE SPANISH PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER REINFORCES THE ARGUMENT FOR MY TACKLING THE PRIME MINISTER DIRECT BEFORE YOU CONSIDER THE NEXT MOVES. BUT BOTH THE KING AND GONZALEZ WILL BE AWAY NEXT WEEK. IT THEREFORE SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT I SHALL BE ABLE TO SEND A FURTHER SUBSTANTIVE REPORT UNTIL AFTER EASTER.

PARSONS

GIBRALTAR

LIMITED

SED
DEF D
NEWS D
FUSD
ECD (E)
PLANNING STAFF
PS

PS/MR HURD
PS/LORD BELSTEAD
PS/FUS
SIR J BULLARD
MR GOODISON
MR GILLMORE
MR HANNAY

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION
GIBRALTAR

2
CONFIDENTIAL