

Gibraltar

CONFIDENTIAL UK COMMS ONLY  
CYPHER CAT A  
FM GIBRALTAR 081655Z APR 83  
TO PRIORITY FCO LONDON  
INFO PRIORITY MADRID

**CONFIDENTIAL**

TEL NO 40 OF 8 APRIL 83

**GIBRALTAR: TERRITORIAL WATERS**

1. I AM TAKING ACTION WITH HASSAN IN SUPPORT OF THE LINE IN PARA 4(B) OF MADRID TEL NO 221. MEANWHILE I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF MADRID COULD BE INSTRUCTED TO TAKE EARLY ACTION WITH THE SPANISH AUTHORITIES TO STOP PERSISTENT INCURSIONS WITHIN THE INNER HARBOUR OF GIBRALTAR BY SPANISH FISHING BOATS AS THESE HAVE RE-OCCURRED IN RECENT DAYS AND THE POSSIBILITY OF PHYSICAL CONFRONTATION CAN NOT BE RULED OUT.

2. THE BOATS ARE SMALL INSHORE CRAFT WHICH WE UNDERSTAND ARE BASED IN CEUTA. THE NAMES OF THREE OF THOSE INVOLVED ARE "ESPERANZA", "DIOS TE SALVE", "PIRRE". THEY FISH AT NIGHT WITH STRONG LIGHTS AND ARE FREQUENTLY TO BE SEEN IN OUR WATERS BUT IN RECENT WEEKS THEY HAVE BEEN COMING WITHIN THE BREAK-WATER AND ON ONE OCCASION LAID NETS 100 YARDS (ONE HUNDRED) FROM YARYL BEGG ESTATE. NAVAL AND POLICE CRAFT ARE PATROLLING THE HARBOUR BY NIGHT TO DISSUADE THEM BUT ON MY INSTRUCTIONS ARE AVOIDING PHYSICAL CONTACT. THIS IS CLEARLY A SITUATION WHICH CANNOT CONTINUE FOR LONG WITHOUT THE ROYAL NAVY AND POLICE PATROLS LOOKING RIDICULOUS AND THE LIKELIHOOD OF LOCAL FISHERMEN (WHO ARE NOT ALLOWED TO FISH WITHIN THE HARBOUR) BECOMING INCENSED IS HIGH.

3. THIS IS A SITUATION WHERE WE DO NEED TO ROCK THE BOAT.

FCO PLEASE PASS  
WILLIAMS

(REPEATED AS REQUESTED)

**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**

**THIS TELEGRAM  
WAS NOT  
ADVANCED**

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