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FM FCO 121744Z APR 83
TO IMMEDIATE MADRID
TELEGRAM NUMBER 122 OF 12 APRIL
INFO IMMEDIATE GOVERNOR GIBRALTAR (PERSONAL) AND MODUK (DS5)

YOUR TELNO 237: GIBRALTAR: VISIT OF RN SHIPS

1. WE SHARE THE SPANISH WISH TO AVOID INCIDENTS IN AND AROUND GIBRALTAR WATERS AND HAVE NO INTENTION OF PROVIDING PRETEXTS FOR CHALLENGES FROM SPANISH PATROL BOATS STATIONED IN ALGECIRAS (PARAGRAPH 4 AND 8 OF TUR).
2. MOD WILL BE SIGNALLING SEPARATELY TO THE NAVAL UNITS CONCERNED AND TO YOURSELF ABOUT SHIP MOVEMENTS DURING THE VISIT. WE UNDERSTAND THAT NO (NO) UNITS WILL ENTER SPANISH TERRITORIAL WATERS NEAR GIBRALTAR, AND THAT THEY WILL ALSO NOT (NOT) ENTER OR ANCHOR IN THE LOOP. THEY WILL REMAIN ON THE GIBRALTAR SIDE OF THE MEDIAN LINE. THEY WILL HOWEVER HAVE TO TRANSIT THROUGH SPANISH WATERS NEAR CEUTA. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT ALL THE WARSHIPS INVOLVED, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ONE ROYAL FLEET AUXILIARY, WILL BERTH ALONGSIDE IN GIBRALTAR.
3. YOU MAY TELL THE SPANIARDS THAT WE SHARE THEIR WISH TO AVOID INCIDENTS, FOR OUR PART WE SHALL BE TAKING EXTRA CARE AND WE WOULD EXPECT THE SPANIARDS TO DO LIKewise. WE WOULD NOT HOWEVER WISH YOU TO INFORM THE SPANIARDS THAT ON THIS OCCASION WE DO NOT INTEND TO EXERCISE OUR RIGHT OF INNOCENT PASSAGE IN SPANISH WATERS NEAR GIBRALTAR.

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FROM GIBRALTAR 121625Z APR 83
TO IMMEDIATE FCO TEL NO PERSONAL 50 OF 12 APR 83
IMMEDIATE MODUK
INFO IMMEDIATE MADRID
AND PRIORITY FOGIB, TPS GIBRALTAR, RAF GIBRALTAR.

GIBRALTAR - RESPONSES TO SPANISH PROTESTS CONCERNING EX SPRINGTRAIN
ACTIVITY IN GIBRALTAR.

1. THE GIBRALTAR SECURITY ALERT STATE WAS RE-EXAMINED THIS
AFTERNOON BY GLIC. IN THE LIGHT OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE NO
SPECIFIC CHANGE TO THE EXISTING THREAT TO GIBRALTAR WAS IDENTIFIED
AND FORCES IN GIBRALTAR THEREFORE REMAIN AT SECURITY STATE TWO
WITH SOME ADDITIONAL MEASURES BEING ORDERED BY THE SERVICE
COMMANDERS, THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE AND THE IMMIGRATION
AUTHORITIES.

2. FOLLOWING MEETING WITH MY DEPUTY GOVERNOR, COMMISSIONER OF
POLICE AND THREE SERVICE COMMANDERS, AT WHICH THE DIFFICULTIES
POSED FOR US BY THE SPANISH PROTESTS WERE IDENTIFIED, THE FOLLOWING
PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES HAVE BEEN ORDERED:

- A. IF GIBRALTAR DOCKYARD INDUSTRIAL SITUATION PREVENTS
PLANNED ALONGSIDE BERTHING OF SHIPS, THEY SHOULD NOT, REPEAT
NOT, ANCHOR OFF IN GIBRALTAR WATERS BUT SHOULD REMAIN AT
SEA TO AVOID PROVOCATION.
- B. DETAILED SECURITY AND SURVEILLANCE PRECAUTIONS AGREED
BETWEEN FOGIB AND FOF2 WILL BE IMPLEMENTED DURING HARBOUR
PHASE.
- C. GIBRALTAR GUARDBOAT WILL REMAIN ON STATION IN THE HARBOUR
AREA DURING DARKNESS AND WILL BE ALONGSIDE AT IMMEDIATE
NOTICE DURING DAYLIGHT.
- D. ALL SHIPS HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO REMAIN IN GIBRALTAR
TERRITORIAL WATERS ON THEIR APPROACH/DEPARTURE.
- E. VISITING AIRCRAFT WILL BE CLEARLY BRIEFED ON IMPERATIVE
TO REMAIN OUTSIDE SPANISH PROHIBITED AIRSPACE.
- F. ONE RAF MCU TTL IS AT 15 MINUTES NOTICE FOR SEA TO DEAL
WITH AIR EMERGENCIES AND MAY BE TASKED TO ASSIST IN
TERRITORIAL WATER AND/OR HARBOUR SURVEILLANCE.
- G. POLICE LEAVE HAD ALREADY BEEN CANCELLED DURING EX
SPRINGTRAIN.
- H. EXISTING GUARD AND SECURITY FORCES, IE RESIDENT
BATTALION BORDER PLATOON, GSP AND FARRINGDOM'S OP, WILL
BE ON THE ALERT AS USUAL.

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3. SERVICE COMMANDERS WILL WARN ALL MEN UNDER THEIR COMMAND OF THE DANGER OF INCIDENTS IN BARS ETC, WHEN VISITING SPAIN, ADDITIONALLY, STEPS HAD ALREADY BEEN TAKEN TO FULLY BRIEF VISITING SERVICEMEN THAT THEY CANNOT VISIT SPAIN.

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TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 238 OF 12 APRIL
INFO IMMEDIATE MODUK AND GOVERNOR GIBRALTAR (PERSONAL)

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MY TELNO 236 : GIBRALTAR : VISIT OF RN SHIPS

1. IN THE LIGHT OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS, RELATIONS BETWEEN SPAIN AND THE UK MUST NOW FOR THE TIME BEING BE REGARDED AS IN A HEIGHTENED STATE OF TENSION. MY ASSESSMENT REMAINS THAT THE LIKELIHOOD OF THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT AUTHORISING DELIBERATE ACTION OF SOME KIND AGAINST GIBRALTAR CAN BE DISCOUNTED. NEVERTHELESS THE TONE AND CONTENT OF MORAN'S REMARKS TO ME SUGGEST THAT, IF HE HAD HIS WAY, SPAIN WOULD NOT BE BACKWARD IN EXPLOITING ANY OPPORTUNITY WHICH MIGHT ARISE FOR PUBLIC CHALLENGES EG, IN THE EVENT OF ALLEGED INFRINGEMENTS OF SPANISH TERRITORIAL WATERS OR AIR SPACE. THERE ALSO REMAINS THE POSSIBILITY OF UNAUTHORISED ACTION BY AN OVER ZEALOUS LOCAL COMMANDER OR OF SOME MINOR INCIDENT DEVELOPING INTO A CONFRONTATION.

2. THE GOVERNOR OF GIBRALTAR WILL HAVE THE POINT WELL IN MIND. IT SEEMS DESIRABLE, AGAINST THE BACKGROUND ABOVE, THAT CROSSING OF THE FRONTIER BY OUR SERVICEMEN SHOULD BE KEPT TO THE MINIMUM FOR THE TIME BEING. UNDER THE EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS, THE CREWS OF THE VISITING ROYAL NAVAL SHIPS WOULD NOT BE ENTITLED TO CROSS. THE IMPORTANCE OF RESPECTING THESE ARRANGEMENTS NEEDS NO EMPHASIS. I ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT A NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL AIRCRAFT ARE TEMPORARILY STATIONED IN GIBRALTAR IN CONNECTION WITH EXERCISE SPRINGTRAIN. I HOPE THAT ANY FLIGHTS THEY UNDERTAKE IN CONNECTION WITH THE FLOTILLA'S VISIT WILL TAKE PARTICULAR CARE NOT TO GIVE THE SPANIARDS ANY GROUND FOR ALLEGING THAT THERE HAVE BEEN INFRINGEMENTS OF SPANISH AIR SPACE.

3. THE GOVERNOR WILL ALSO NO DOUBT HAVE IN MIND THE POSSIBILITY OF INCIDENTS BEING FOMENTED BY SPANISH PEDESTRIANS CROSSING INTO THE COLONY.

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FM MADRID 121055Z APRIL 83

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 237 OF 12 APRIL

INFO IMMEDIATE GOVERNOR GIBRALTAR(PERSONAL), MODUK.

MY TELNOS 232 AND 233: NAVAL VISIT TO GIBRALTAR.

1. THE SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER SUMMONED ME THIS MORNING. HE WAS IN A STATE OF HIGH EXCITEMENT BUT CALMED DOWN DURING OUR CONVERSATION. HE BEGAN BY EXPRESSING, AS BERDEJO HAD ALREADY DONE, THE STRONG PREOCCUPATION AND DEEP CONCERN OF THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT AT THE VISIT TO GIBRALTAR THIS WEEK BY A BRITISH FLOTILLA. HE SEEMED LESS CONCERNED AT THE PRESENCE OF PRINCE ANDREW THAN AT THE CONNECTION IN THE POPULAR MIND OF INVINCIBLE AND OTHER SHIPS WITH THE FALKLANDS CONFLICT. MORAN ADDED THAT THERE WAS A GRAVE RISK OF INCIDENTS. IT WAS THEREFORE ESSENTIAL THAT THE BRITISH SHIPS SHOULD NAVIGATE AND TIE UP IN WATERS ROUND THE ROCK ALREADY CLAIMED BY BRITAIN AND AVOID ENTERING SPANISH TERRITORIAL WATERS TO WHICH BRITAIN HAD NEVER LAID CLAIM.

2. MORAN WENT ON TO TRY TO JUSTIFY HIS PUBLIC STATEMENT. IT HAD BEEN MADE NECESSARY BY THE ANTICIPATED POPULAR REACTION IN SPAIN ESPECIALLY BECAUSE OF THE CONNECTION WITH THE FALKLANDS CONFLICT. WE SHOULD NOTE THAT MORAN HAD DELIBERATELY AVOIDED ANY REFERENCE EITHER TO INVINCIBLE OR TO PRINCE ANDREW. I WOULD REMEMBER THAT, IN RESPONSE TO STRONG ADVICE GIVEN HIM IN LONDON BY THE PRIME MINISTER AND YOURSELF, HE HAD THEN DELIBERATELY FAILED TO CLARIFY HIS POSITION PUBLICLY REGARDING THE AMBIGUITIES IN THE LISBON AGREEMENT. NOW, BECAUSE OF THE PUBLIC PRESSURE ANTICIPATED FROM THE FLEET VISIT, HE HAD THOUGHT IT ESSENTIAL TO DO SO. EARLY IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LISBON AGREEMENT WOULD NOW BE MORE DIFFICULT THAN EVER.

3. I EXPLAINED ONCE AGAIN THAT A FLOTILLA VISIT WAS MADE EVERY YEAR TO GIBRALTAR AT ABOUT THIS TIME. THIS WAS NO MORE THAN THE USUAL SPRING EXERCISE. HIS STATEMENT WAS A NEW DEVELOPMENT. DURING THE WHOLE OF MY TIME IN SPAIN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS HAD TRIED TO AIR THEIR DIFFERENCES IN PRIVATE RATHER THAN IN PUBLIC. HIS TEXT WOULD BE STUDIED IN LONDON. BRITISH MINISTERS MIGHT WELL CONSIDER IT NECESSARY TO PUT OUT ONE OF THEIR OWN. THERE WERE OF COURSE ASSERTIONS IN THE SPANISH STATEMENT ABOUT HMG'S POSITION WHICH WE COULD BY NO MEANS ACCEPT. MORAN SAID THAT HE NATURALLY UNDERSTOOD THIS.

4. I CONTINUED THAT I AGREED WITH MORAN ABOUT THE NEED TO AVOID INCIDENTS. IT WAS MOST IMPORTANT NOT TO INFLAME PUBLIC OPINION. THE TOURIST SEASON WAS JUST BEGINNING AND MILLIONS OF BRITISH PEOPLE WERE EXPECTED TO VISIT SPAIN. MORAN CHIPPED IN HASTILY THAT THEY WOULD OF COURSE BE MOST WELCOME. HE ALSO AGREED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO AVOID ANY UNCONTROLLED

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LOCAL INCIDENT, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE LIMITATIONS ON THE MANOEUVREABILITY OF LARGE SHIPS. WE AGREED THAT MY NAVAL ATTACHE WOULD ESTABLISH CONTACT ON THIS POINT FORTHWITH WITH THE SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTRY AS WELL AS WITH THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE.

5. MORAN COMPLAINED THAT WE HAD NOT WARNED HIM ABOUT THIS VISIT IN ADVANCE. HE IMPLIED THAT HE FELT LET DOWN. IT WAS NEWS TO HIM WHEN I POINTED OUT THAT MY NAVAL ATTACHE HAD IN FACT INFORMED THE SPANISH NAVY OF THE FLOTILLA VISIT BEFORE EASTER.

6. SPEAKING OFF THE RECORD, MORAN ASKED QUITE SERIOUSLY, AND NOT AS A DEBATING POINT, FOR MY PERSONAL OPINION AS TO WHETHER THE FLOTILLA VISIT HAD BEEN DELIBERATELY ARRANGED IN ORDER TO AVOID NEGOTIATIONS OVER THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GIBRALTAR. I EXPLAINED THAT THIS WAS OF COURSE NOT THE CASE. THESE EXERCISES WERE PLANNED MONTHS AHEAD ON A GLOBAL BASIS. I COULD ASSURE HIM THAT THE PRIME MINISTER AND YOU WERE ENTIRELY GENUINE IN PRESSING FOR THE EARLY IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LISBON AGREEMENT, WHICH WOULD BE TO THE ADVANTAGE OF ALL PARTIES.

7. FINALLY, AND MAINLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING A CALMER RELATIONSHIP, I ASKED MORAN FOR HIS VIEWS ON THE MIDDLE EAST. I POINTED OUT THAT YOU WERE THERE TODAY. HE SAID THAT IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT THE REAGAN INITIATIVE WAS DEAD IN THE SENSE OF HOPING FOR THE INCORPORATION OF THE PALESTINIANS IN AN EXTENDED JORDANIAN STATE. NEVERTHELESS HE THOUGHT YOU WERE RIGHT TO ENCOURAGE THE AMERICANS NOT TO GIVE UP. THERE MIGHT STILL BE SOME SLIM CHANCE OF INVOLVING KING HUSSEIN IN THE PEACE PROCESS.

8. THE POINT IN PARAGRAPH 1 ABOVE ABOUT SPANISH WATERS IS CLEARLY IMPORTANT. I UNDERSTAND FROM MY NAVAL ATTACHE THAT IT WILL NOT(NOT) BE DIFFICULT TO MEET IN PRACTICE. WE SHOULD AVOID PROVIDING A PRETEXT FOR CHALLENGES FROM SPANISH PATROL BOATS STATIONED IN ALGECIRAS. MORAN DID NOT(NOT) REFER TO SPANISH AIR SPACE. BUT TO-DAY'S PRESS HERE, POSSIBLY ON OFFICIAL BRIEFING, INDICATES THAT A SIMILAR STANCE WILL BE ADOPTED REGARDING ANY VIOLATIONS OF AIR SPACE.

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TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 235 OF 12 APRIL
INFO IMMEDIATE GIBRALTAR AND MODUK

GIBRALTAR: VISIT OF ROYAL NAVY SHIPS: PRESS COVERAGE

1. ALL THE SPANISH MEDIA REPORTED TODAY THE FORTHCOMING VISIT TO GIBRALTAR OF RN SHIPS TOGETHER WITH THE COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY THE MFA ON 11 APRIL (MY TELNO 232). COVERAGE VARIES FROM A ONE COLUMN REPORT ON PAGE 12 OF EL PAIS AND A FAIRLY BRIEF REPORT IN THE RIGHT WING YA TO FRONT PAGE HEADLINES IN THE CONSERVATIVE ABC AND A BANNER HEADLINE IN THE POPULAR DIARIO 16. THE RADIO STATIONS COVER THE NEWS EXTENSIVELY, AS DID LAST NIGHT'S TV NEWS.

2. BOTH DIARIO 16 AND THE MOST IMPORTANT PRIVATELY OWNED RADIO STATION (CADENA SER) GIVE SENSATIONALIST TREATMENT TO THE STORY. THEY SUGGEST THAT THE BRITISH FLEET IS PRACTISING FOR THE DEFENCE OF GIBRALTAR AGAINST A POSSIBLE SPANISH INVASION. CADENA SER HAS ALSO SPECULATED THAT EXERCISE SPRINGTRAIN IS A REHEARSAL FOR A BRITISH INVASION OF SPAIN (SIC).

3. ALL THE PRESS REPRODUCE THE TEXT OF THE MFA STATEMENT IN WHOLE OR IN PART. ALL ALSO REPORT THAT THE INVINCIBLE TOOK PART IN THE FALKLANDS WAR. PRINCE ANDREW'S PRESENCE ABOARD THE INVINCIBLE IS NOTED IN ALL REPORTS, BUT IS GIVEN LESS PROMINENCE. NEVERTHELESS DIARIO 16 SUGGESTS THAT THE GIBRALTARIANS INTEND TO EXPLOIT HIS PRESENCE THERE TO THE UTMOST. ALL THE PRESS QUOTE THE EMBASSY AS STRESSING THAT SPRINGTRAIN IS A NORMAL EXERCISE WHICH TAKES PLACE EVERY YEAR ABOUT THIS TIME. THE VISIT TO GIBRALTAR IS ALSO ROUTINE.

3. ABC AND THE MAIN RADIO STATIONS REPORT STATEMENTS BY THE SOCIALIST AND OPPOSITION PARTIES CRITICISING THE VISIT (MY TELNO 233). QUOTING THE GIBRALTAR CHRONICLE, ABC OUTLINES THE SOCIAL PROGRAMME IN WHICH PRINCE ANDREW WILL TAKE PART. IT RECALLS THAT THIS IS THE SECOND OCCASION IN RECENT YEARS IN WHICH THE PRESENCE OF A MEMBER OF THE ROYAL FAMILY IN GIBRALTAR HAS CAUSED DIPLOMATIC PROBLEMS. ABC AND DIARIO 16 ALLEGE THAT THERE HAS BEEN AN INCREASE IN INCURSIONS INTO SPANISH WATERS AND AIR SPACE DURING THE LAST FEW WEEKS, PARTICULARLY SINCE THE VISIT BY MORAN TO LONDON. THEY ALLEGE THAT THERE HAVE BEEN SPANISH PROTESTS OVER THE VIOLATION OF SPANISH WATERS. DIARIO 16 ADDS THAT SPAIN WILL INCREASE ITS VIGILANCE OVER SPANISH TERRITORIAL WATERS AND AIRSPACE IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

4. DIARIO 16 DEVOTES TWO WHOLE PAGES INCLUDING THE FRONT PAGE TO THE STORY AND CARRIES AN EDITORIAL. IT GIVES DETAILS OF THE SHIPS INVOLVED IN THE VISIT TO GIBRALTAR OBTAINED FROM THE MOD AND REFERS TO SOURCES IN GIBRALTAR AND THE CAMPO. IT QUOTES SPANISH DIPLOMATIC SOURCES TO THE EFFECT THAT HAVING THE BRITISH FLEET IN GIBRALTAR 'WAS LIKE HAVING THEM IN ONE'S OWN BACK YARD'. THE SAME SOURCES ARE REPORTED AS DESCRIBING THE VISIT 'AS AN ACT OF FORCE BY MRS THATCHER'S CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT.' IT SPECULATES THAT THE EXERCISE IS A TACTICAL PREPARATION IN THE EVENT OF A NEED TO DEFEND THE ROCK. THE EDITORIAL SUGGESTS THAT THE 'SIMPLE ARRIVAL AT GIBRALTAR OF A LARGE NUMBER OF THE VICTORIOUS BRITISH FLEET FROM THE SHAMEFUL FALKLANDS WAR WOULD BY ITSELF BE AN UNNECESSARY AFFRONT TO SPAIN. BUT THE FLEET HAS NOT COME ONLY TO SATISFY THE EXAGGERATED PATRIOTISM OF MRS THATCHER'S VOTERS.....JUST ON THE EVE OF DIPLOMATIC NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN SPAIN AND BRITIAN ON THE FUTURE OF THE ROCK THE BRITISH ARMY HAVE COME TO REHEARSE THE MILITARY DEFENCE OF GIBRALTAR IN THE EVENT OF A HYPOTHETICAL SPANISH MILITARY INTERVENTION.. THERE ARE STILL COUNTRIES IN THE WEST WHO HAVE NOT UNDERSTOOD THE CATASTROPHIC STRATEGY OF THE FALKLANDS WAR. A PROVOCATION OF THIS KIND IS AN ACT OF DIPLOMATIC IRRESPONSIBILITY. THE VIOLATION OF SPANISH AIR AND SEA SPACE COULD LEAD TO AN ESCALATION OF TENSION WHICH AS WELL AS SERIOUSLY AFFECTING THE GIBRALTARIANS...'

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TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 233 OF 12 APRIL
INFO IMMEDIATE GIBRALTAR AND MODUK

MIPT : GIBRALTAR: VISIT OF ROYAL NAVY SHIPS

1. IN ADDITION TO THE OFFICIAL STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE MFA, THE MAIN POLITICAL PARTIES HAVE ALSO ISSUED STATEMENTS.

2. THE STATEMENT PUT OUT BY THE EXECUTIVE OF FRAGA'S AP, THE MAIN OPPOSITION PARTY, STATED THAT THE DECISION BY LONDON WAS THE APPLICATION OF OLD STYLE GUN BOAT DIPLOMACY AND EXPRESSED ITS HOPE THAT THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT WOULD RESPOND FIRMLY. THE AP SPOKESMAN FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS ADDED THAT THE BRITISH MEASURES WERE A CONSEQUENCE OF THE ISOLATION OF SPAIN IN THE FIELD OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: THEY HAD NEVER BEEN TAKEN BETWEEN COUNTRIES BOTH OF WHICH WERE SOLIDLY DEMOCRATIC AND WHICH WERE RESPECTED INTERNATIONALLY.

3. THE SOCIALIST PARTY SPOKESMAN EXPRESSED THE PARTY'S DEEP CONCERN. THE PSOE PROTESTED AGAINST THE VISIT OF THE BRITISH FLEET WHICH IT REGARDED AS "AN UNFRIENDLY GESTURE WHICH DOES NOT MATCH THE ATTITUDE OF GOODWILL DEMONSTRATED BY THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT TOWARDS CARRYING FORWARD NEGOTIATIONS THROUGH DIALOGUE."

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TELEGRAM NUMBER 232 OF 12 APRIL

INFO IMMEDIATE MODUK, GIBRALTAR.

GIBRALTAR: VISIT OF ROYAL NAVY SHIPS

1. FOLLOWING IS A TRANSLATION OF THE TEXT OF A STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE MFA LATE ON THE EVENING OF 11 APRIL:

"GIBRALTAR TY HAS ANNOUNCED THAT A VERY LARGE FLEET WILL VISIT THE ROCK IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN CONFIRMED THROUGH DIPLOMATIC SOURCES. IN THE FACE OF THIS SITUATION THE GOVERNMENT WISHES TO MAKE THE FOLLOKING POINTS:

I) THAT IT IS READY AS IT HAS REPEATEDLY MADE KNOWN TO THE BRITISH SIDE, TO FULFIL THE LISBON DECLARATION IN ITS TOTALITY AND ACCORDING TO ITS CORRECT MEANING WHICH OBVIOUSLY INCLUDES THE QUESTION OF SOVEREIGNTY AND THE EQUALITY OF RIGHTS BETWEEN SPANJARDS AND GIBRALTARIAN AS WELL AS FULL RECIPROCITY.

II) THAT IT REPEATS ITS WILLINGNESS TO ATTEND TO THE LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF THE POPULATION OF THE ROCK.

III) THAT IN THE FACE OF THE VISIT OF THE BRITISH FLEET IT EXPRESSES ITS PPOFOUND CONCERN AND DISPLEASURE AT THE EFFECTS ON SPANISH PUBLIC OPINION. IN THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES AND GIVEN THE ANTECEDENTS WHICH ARE SET OUT BELOW, THE GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE CARE IN ANY CASE THAT ITS NATIONAL RIGHTS CONCERNING ITS WATERS WILL NOT BE IMPAIRED AND TO THIS EFFECT WILL TAKE THE APPROPRIATE DIPLOMATIC AND POLITICAL MEASURES. IT WARNS THE BRITISH SIDE THAT SUCH ACTION CANNOT DO LESS THAN PLACE THE ISSUE IN A DIMENSION WHICH THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT DOES NOT DESIRE AND THOSE WHOSE HAVE PLANNED AND TAKEN THIS ACTION ARE SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR ITS EFFECTS ON THE SPANISH NATIONAL OPINION AND PUBLIC OPINION IN GENERAL.

IN EFFECT:

I) ON 10 APRIL 1980 THE BRITISH AND SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTERS SIGNED IN LISBON A STATEMENT WHICH FORESAW NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND SPAIN ON THE QUESTION OF GIBRALTAR. THE STATEMENT CONTAINS SIX PARAGRAPHS AND ITS TEXT AND SCOPE MUST NATURALLY BE INTERPRETED AND APPLIED AS A WHOLE. FROM THAT DATE AND UP TO THE ANGLO-ARGENTINE CONFLICT IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC IN APRIL 1982, THE SPANISH SIDE ENCOUNTERED THE DIFFICULTY IN APPLYING THE STATEMENT THAT THE BRITISH AUTHORITIES INTERPRETED THE TEXT PARTIALLY AND UNHATERALLY CONCENTRATING

INTERPRETED THE TEXT PARTIALLY AND UNILATERALLY, CONCENTRATING ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY ON THE QUESTION OF THE MEASURES ON COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN GIBRALTAR AND ITS SURROUNDING TERRITORY. IN PARTICULAR, THE SPANISH SIDE DID NOT OBTAIN ITS EXPECTATIONS ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE EQUALITY OF RIGHTS FOR SPANIARDS IN GIBRALTAR AND IN - RESPECT OF THE - FULL RECIPROCIITY WHICH THE STATEMENT ESTABLISHES.

THE CONFLICT OF THE MALVINAS CREATED IN GREAT BRITAIN A CLIMATE OF NATIONALISM WHICH IS WELL KNOWN AND WHICH HAS NOT FAVOURED THE CONVERSATIONS.

2. THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT, FORMED ON THE 4TH DECEMBER, HAS MAINTAINED AS AN ESSENTIAL POINT OF ITS FOREIGN POLICY THE REINCORPORATION OF GIBRALTAR INTO THE NATIONAL TERRITORY. AT THE SAME TIME, IT HAS TRIED NOT TO PENALISE THE POPULATION WHOSE INTERESTS AND CULTURE IT RECOGNISES AND ESTEEMS. IN THIS SENSE, ON THE 15TH DECEMBER 1982 IT RE-ESTABLISHED PEDESTRIAN PASSAGE THROUGH THE POST AT LA LINEA, A MEASURE WHICH HAS HAD BENEFICIAL EFFECTS FOR THE AREA OF THE CAMPO OF GIBRALTAR AND FOR THE POPULATION OF THE ROCK ITSELF.

3. ON 9 DECEMBER THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF SPAIN AND GREAT BRITAIN, SENOR MORAN AND MR PYM, MET IN BRUSSELS AND DECIDED TO TALK IN THE SPRING ABOUT THE SUBJECT OF GIBRALTAR. AFTERWARDS, THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS, THE BRITISH SIDE TRIED TO CENTRE THE THEME OF FUTURE CONVERSATIONS ON THE LIFTING OF THE MEASURES RELATIVE TO MOVEMENT. IT WAS MADE CLEAR BY THE SPANISH SIDE THAT THE APPLICATION OF THE LISBON STATEMENT HAD TO BE OF THE WHOLE TEXT AND PRINCIPLES, INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF SOVEREIGNTY AND THAT OF THE EQUALITY OF RIGHTS BETWEEN SPANIARDS AND GIBRALTARIANS.

4. ON 16 AND 17 MARCH, THE SPANISH MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MADE A VISIT TO LONDON WHICH HAD THE SAME SCOPE AND PURPOSE AS THOSE MADE TO OTHER EUROPEAN CAPITALS. IT WAS AGREED BEFOREHAND THAT THIS VISIT DID NOT HAVE ON THE ACENDA THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LISBON STATEMENT, SINCE THE ATTITUDES TO IT OF BOTH SIDES STILL DID NOT COINCIDE.

SENOR MORAN HAD MEETINGS WITH MR PYM AND THE PRIME MINISTER, MRS THATCHER, TO WHOM HE EXPRESSED CLEARLY THE SPANISH POSITION. THE PRIME MINISTER PROPOSED TO SENOR MORAN FURTHER INTERVIEWS WITH HIS BRITISH COLLEAGUES IN THE SPACE OF ONE OR TWO MONTHS.

5. THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR IN MADRID HAS BEEN CALLED TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS FOR THIS PURPOSE. THE GOVERNMENT REITERATES ITS DETERMINATION TO RESOLVE THE QUESTION OF GIBRALTAR BY THE PATH OF NEGOTIATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SO THAT AT THE END OF THE PROCESS SPANISH TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY IS ACHIEVED, WITH RESPECT FOR THE INTERESTS OF THE POPULATION, AND IT EXPRESSES ONCE MORE, TOGETHER WITH ITS GRAVE PREOCCUPATION FOR THE SYMPTOMS OF THE BRITISH ATTITUDE, THE DESIRE TO MAINTAIN THE BEST OF RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM.

PRIME MINISTER QUESTIONS: 12 APRIL

GIBRALTAR: SPANISH PROTESTS ABOUT FLEET VISIT

LINE TO TAKE

1. We have taken note of the statement issued by the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday evening.
2. It is quite normal for ships participating in Exercise Springtrain, which is an annual Exercise, to visit Gibraltar. HM Ambassador at Madrid has made this clear to the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Spanish Ministry of Defence were informed of the visit beforehand as a matter of courtesy.
3. The interpretation of the Lisbon agreement which is set out in the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs' statement is not one to which Her Majesty's Government would subscribe. The agreement was clearly understood by both sides at the time and was subsequently clarified further in an exchange of letters during the visit of the then Spanish Prime Minister, Sr Calvo Sotelo, to London on 8 January 1982.
4. As I explained to the Spanish Foreign Minister during his visit to London on 17 March, it remains Her Majesty's Government's wish to implement this agreement, as it stands, as soon as possible.

*Asked Sam to let
letter for Spain re what had
been done re equal rights -
was then a tel -
We must let our view out -
will be incl. as stated.....*

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BACKGROUND

1. Our Ambassador at Madrid was summoned to the Spanish MFA on 9 April to be informed of their concern at the visit to Gibraltar (13-18 April) of warships participating in Exercise Springtrain, particularly the involvement of HMS Invincible and of Prince Andrew. Sir R Parsons made clear the routine nature of this annual exercise visit to Gibraltar. The Naval Attaché at Madrid had already informed the Spanish Ministry of Defence in general terms of the visit, as a matter of courtesy, and Sir R Parsons had separately informed the King.
2. On 11 April the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a strongly worded statement (copy attached), deploring the visit and stating that 'appropriate diplomatic and political measures' would be taken to ensure that Spanish 'national rights concerning its waters will not be impaired'. It also rehearsed the history of the Lisbon process.
3. The phraseology appears intended to rule out military action in connection with the Gibraltar waters.
4. The account of the Lisbon process is inaccurate on several points and, by adopting a one-sided interpretation of the Lisbon agreement, attempts to place the blame for delay in implementation on the United Kingdom.
5. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary has a question on the Lisbon agreement down for oral answer tomorrow.

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