

GRS 300
UNCLASSIFIED
FM MADRID 140845Z APR 83
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 247 OF 14 APRIL
INFO IMMEDIATE GIBRALTAR, MODUK AND UKDEL NATO

MS

GIBRALTAR: VISIT OF RN SHIPS

1. A NUMBER OF STATEMENTS WERE MADE BY SPANISH POLITICAL LEADERS ON 13 APRIL OF WHICH THE FOLLOWING ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT:

A) GONZALEZ SAID THAT SPAIN WAS MAINTAINING A BALANCE BETWEEN PRUDENCE AND FIRMNESS, EXPLAINING IN INTERNATIONAL FORA THAT THE BRITISH ATTITUDE SEEMED TO BE DISPROPORTIONATE COMPARED WITH THE BEHAVIOUR OF SPAIN.

B) SPEAKING AT THE AIRPORT BEFORE TRAVELLING TO MEXICO, MORAN SAID THAT THE EXERCISE AND THE VISIT TO GIBRALTAR WERE INOPPORTUNE AND IGNORED SPANISH SENSITIVITIES. IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION HE SAID THERE WOULD BE NO INCIDENTS. THE UK WOULD ALSO TAKE MEASURES TO AVOID INCIDENTS. HE ADDED THAT SPAIN WAS DISPOSED TOWARDS DIALOGUE AND NEGOTIATIONS AS A MEANS OF RECOVERING SOVEREIGNTY OVER GIBRALTAR IN ACCORDANCE WITH UN RESOLUTIONS. HE STRESSED THAT THE SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT HAD "ENDED THE SEIGE OF GIBRALTAR". NATO HAD BEEN INFORMED THAT ACTS SUCH AS THIS DID NOT IMPROVE THE ATTITUDE OF SPANISH PUBLIC OPINION TOWARDS COOPERATION IN WESTERN-DEFENCE.

C) FRAGA, THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION, SAID THAT IF HE WERE THE PRIME MINISTER HE WOULD "BREAK OFF OR DENOUNCE" THE LISBON AGREEMENT. HIS PARTY WOULD NOT NEGOTIATE IN CURRENT CONDITIONS: HE WOULD STRICTLY APPLY THE TREATY OF UTRECHT (IE CLOSING THE BORDER AGAIN). HE ADDED THAT HE WOULD SEND THE FLEET TO OCCUPY SPANISH WATERS IN THE AREA IN ORDER TO DEMONSTRATE SPANISH SOVEREIGNTY.

D) THE SENATE PASSED A UNANIMOUS RESOLUTION EXPRESSING AGREEMENT WITH THE SPANISH STATEMENT OF 11 APRIL AND PROTESTING STRONGLY AGAINST THE NAVAL VISIT WHICH "COULD CAUSE A DETERIORATION IN RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO DEMOCRACIES AND AT THE SAME TIME MAKE MORE DIFFICULT THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF GIBRALTAR."

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E) FOLLOWING THEIR WEEKLY MEETING, THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT OF ANDALUCIA ISSUED A STATEMENT PROTESTING AGAINST THE VISIT TO GIBRALTAR AND SUPPORTING THE STATEMENT OF 11 APRIL.

PARSONS

GIBRALTAR

LIMITED

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GIBRALTAR**