

CONFIDENTIAL

6216 - 1

PP MADRID
GRS 399
CONFIDENTIAL
FM FCO 041738Z MAY 83
TO PRIORITY MADRID
TELEGRAM NUMBER 156 OF 4 MAY
INFO GOVERNOR GIBRALTAR (PERSONAL)
SPAIN/GIBRALTAR

head in full

1. THE NEW SPANISH AMBASSADOR PAID HIS INITIAL CALL THIS AFTERNOON. I TOLD HIM WE WISHED TO HAVE GOOD RELATIONS WITH SPAIN. I GREATLY ADMIRER WHAT HAD BEEN ACHIEVED SINCE FRANCO'S DEATH. WE WERE GIVING FULL SUPPORT TO SPANISH ENTRY TO THE EC. I ALSO HOPED TO BE ABLE TO MAKE PROGRESS OVER GIBRALTAR. RECENT EVENTS WERE DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND. IN DECEMBER MORAN HAD BEEN ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT IMPLEMENTING LISBON. WHEN HE CAME HERE IN MARCH IT WAS CLEAR THAT HE HAD CHANGED HIS MIND. HE SEEMED ALSO TO HAVE RENEGED ON THE JANUARY 1982 EXCHANGE OF LETTERS. SINCE THEN THERE HAD BEEN MANY PROVOCATIVE STATEMENTS FROM MADRID ABOUT PERFECTLY NORMAL NAVAL VISITS. IN RESPONSE I HAD BEEN DELIBERATELY RESTRAINED. IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO SEE SOME RESTRAINT FROM THE SPANISH SIDE. THE LISBON AGREEMENT SEEMED TO PROVIDE THE ONLY SENSIBLE WAY FORWARD. IT WAS INEVITABLY A LONG COURSE. WHAT WAS NEEDED NOW WAS A PERIOD OF CALMNESS. GONZALES HAD SAID THAT HE WOULD CONSIDER THE SPANISH POSITION. I HOPED THAT, AS A RESULT, THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE A DIFFERENT ATTITUDE TO THE LISBON AGREEMENT FROM THAT ADOPTED BY MORAN IN MARCH. IN REPLY TO A COMMENT BY PUIG THAT EQUALITY OF RIGHTS FOR SPANIARDS SEEMED AN IMPORTANT POINT, I SAID THAT THE LISBON AGREEMENT CATERED FOR THIS. IT HAD BEEN AGREED THAT THE MATTER COULD BE DISCUSSED FURTHER FOLLOWING IMPLEMENTATION, BUT MORAN SEEMED TO BE SEEKING FOR FURTHER CONCESSIONS BEFORE IMPLEMENTATION. IN ADDITION, I HAD SAID IN PUBLIC THAT THE SPANIARDS COULD RAISE THE SOVEREIGNTY ISSUE IF THEY

1

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

6216 - 1

WISHED: THE LISBON AGREEMENT PROVIDED FOR ANY SUBJECT TO BE RAISED.

2. THE AMBASSADOR SAID HE WAS DISTRESSED TO SEE RELATIONS AT THE LOWEST EBB HE COULD RECALL. PERSONALLY HE AGREED THAT THE LISBON AGREEMENT PROVIDED THE ONLY REASONABLE WAY FORWARD. HE HAD BEEN CLOSELY INVOLVED IN ITS CONCEPTION. HE ALSO AGREED THAT RECENT PUBLIC STATEMENTS HAD BEEN UNFORTUNATE. HE WAS RETURNING TO MADRID AND WOULD BE SEEING MORAN ON FRIDAY. THAT WOULD GIVE HIM A CLEARER PICTURE OF HIS MINISTER'S VIEWS. HE WOULD VISIT MADRID AGAIN IN ABOUT THREE WEEKS TO SEE GONZALEZ AND OTHER MINISTERS. HE HOPED THAT HE COULD PLAY A HELPFUL ROLE DURING HIS APPOINTMENT TO LONDON, AND VERY MUCH APPRECIATED THE FACT THAT HE HAD BEEN RECEIVED SO QUICKLY BY ME.

PYM

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
MR WRIGHT

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION
GIBRALTAR

2

CONFIDENTIAL