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INFO WASHINGTON, UKDEL NATO, GIBRALTAR AND MODUK

VISIT OF GONZALEZ TO WASHINGTON: NATO AND GIBRALTAR

Prime Minister
Gonzalez appears to be
making a link between Spanish
membership of NATO and Gibraltar.
but these are only press
reports. I shall seek F.C.O.
comment.

1. ALL THE SPANISH MEDIA HAVE PUBLISHED EXTENSIVE REPORTS ON THE MEETING BETWEEN REAGAN AND GONZALEZ. THEY HAVE ALSO HIGHLIGHTED THE REPLIES BY GONZALEZ ON US TV TO QUESTIONS ON NATO. HE IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT THE SPANISH PUBLIC WOULD BE LIKELY TO TAKE A DIFFERENT VIEW OF NATO MEMBERSHIP IN A REFERENDUM HELD IN A YEAR AND 8-10 MONTHS TIME, IF SPAIN WERE BY THEN ASSURED OF EC MEMBERSHIP AND THE SPANISH PUBLIC BELIEVED IT COULD RECOVER SOVEREIGNTY OVER GIBRALTAR. HE ADDED THAT NO ONE IN SPAIN COULD CONTEMPLATE THE POSSIBILITY OF A SPANISH ADMIRAL BEING UNDER THE ORDERS OF A BRITISH ADMIRAL ON SPANISH TERRITORY. THIS WOULD NOT OCCUR WHILE HE WAS PRIME MINISTER.

AN 23/6

2. EL PAIS (MIDDLE OF THE ROAD, INFLUENTIAL) REPORTS THAT GONZALEZ SOUGHT ROOM FOR MANOEUVRE BY SUGGESTING THAT IN THE EVENT THAT SPAIN LEFT NATO, SHE COULD CONTRIBUTE TO WESTERN DEFENCE VIA THE US/SPAIN DEFENCE AGREEMENT. THE US REACTION IS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN UNRECEPTIVE: WASHINGTON WILL NO DOUBT BE COMMENTING.

PARSONS

GIBRALTAR

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