

ADVANCE COPIES: FALKLAND ISLANDS GENERAL (39) (46)

PS (6)  
PS/CR FURD  
PS/CR GIBSON  
PS/PJS  
MR BULLARD  
SIR I SINCLAIR  
MR GIFFARD  
MR WRIGHT  
MR ADAMS  
LORD N G LEMMON  
LORD BRIDGES  
MR URE  
MR GILLMORE  
HD/PUSD (2)  
HD/S AM D  
HD/DEF DEPT  
HD/NEWS DEPT  
HD/EPD  
HD/ECD(E)  
HD/UND  
HD/PLANNING STAFF  
MR ANTHONY WILLIAMS 760  
EMERGENCY ROOM ✓  
RESIDENT CLERK

PS/NO 10 DOWNING ST (2)  
PS/S OF S FOR DEFENCE  
MR J STEWART AUSD STAFF MOD  
PS/CHANCELLOR )  
MR LEFT ) TREASURY  
MR LITTLER )  
SIR R ARMSTRONG )  
SIR M PALLISER ) CABINET  
MR WADE-GERY ) OFFICE  
MR FULLER SAPU/DIO )  
DIO )

RR 8 FOR MODULE C IN C FLEET

*Miss Dickson, D/ENERGY*

ADVANCE COPY

[Passed to E.R.]  
[Types a.a.]

Hd SED

*Mr. Goodison  
Ps/ [d] Belstead*

*MS*

RR UKDEL NATO

RR GOVERNOR GIBRALTAR (PERSONAL)

RR MOD

GRS 1050

CONFIDENTIAL

FM MADRID 281620Z MAY 82

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 355 OF 28 MAY

INFO UKDEL NATO, GOVERNOR GIBRALTAR (PERSONAL), MOD

NY I.P.T.'S ; TALK WITH SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER ; GIBRALTAR

IN MY TALK LAST NIGHT WITH THE SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER, HE TOOK THE INITIATIVE IN REAFFIRMING THAT THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT



TOOK THE INITIATIVE IN REAFFIRMING THAT THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT  
REMAINED ON COURSE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LISBON AGREEMENT  
ON 25 JUNE. I SAID I WAS SURE THIS WAS WISE AND REPEATED THAT I  
HAD RECEIVED YOUR AUTHORITY TO REAFFIRM THAT THIS WAS ALSO YOUR  
VIEW (YOUR TELEGRAM NO. 169). PEREZ LLORCA ADDED THAT EVEN SMALL  
STEPS SUCH AS THE TECHNICAL TALKS ABOUT COMMUNICATIONS (MY  
TELEGRAM NO. 6 TO GIBRALTAR) WERE AN INDICATION OF SPANISH  
WILLINGNESS TO GO AHEAD WITH THE FRONTIER OPENING. THE MINISTER ADDED  
HE WAS NEVERTHELESS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE OUTCOME AT SINTRA ON  
26 JUNE. HE WAS ONLY TOO WELL AWARE OF THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL  
PRESSURES ON THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT. IT WAS ESSENTIAL FOR HIM TO MEET  
YOU PERSONALLY AND TRY TO ESTABLISH THE SORT OF PERSONAL  
UNDERSTANDING HE ENJOYED WITH YOUR PREDECESSOR. WE AGREED THAT  
A MEETING IN 30TH ON JUNE 10 WOULD BE HIGHLY DESIRABLE (YOUR TELEGRAM  
NO. 169). PEREZ LLORCA EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT I SHOULD BE  
HAVING TALKS WITH YOUR DEPARTMENT ON JUNE 2. HE LEFT IT TO ME  
TO CONVEY TO YOU THE NATURE OF HIS ANXIETIES. I KNEW HOW WEAK  
THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT NOW WAS AND HOW NECESSARY IT WAS FOR HIM  
TO BE ABLE TO PRESENT SPANISH PUBLIC POSITION WITH SOME CREDIBLE  
RESULT ON JUNE 26. HIS OWN POSITION WAS THAT HE STARTED WHERE HE  
HAD LEFT OFF WITH LORD CARRINGTON. BUT HE WAS NOT CERTAIN ABOUT  
YOURS.

2:30  
I EXPLAINED FRANKLY THAT I DID NOT THINK THAT YOU HAD BEEN GIVEN  
TIME YET TO CONCENTRATE ON THE GIBRALTAR QUESTION, EXCEPT TO AGREE  
THAT IMPLEMENTATION SHOULD TAKE PLACE ON 25 JUNE. SPEAKING  
PERSONALLY (THOUGH IN FACT DRAWING ON THE HELPFUL TELELETTER OF 19  
MAY FROM THE HEAD OF SED) I EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT PEREZ LLORCA WAS  
RIGHT IN BELIEVING THAT HE SHOULD NOT EXPECT TOO MUCH FROM YOU IN ANY  
STATEMENT WHICH MIGHT COME OUT OF SINTRA. I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE  
VERY HARD FOR YOU TO ACCEPT EXPLICITLY THAT WE WERE NOW WORKING  
TOWARDS SOME FORM OF NEW LEGAL INSTRUMENT WHICH WOULD CHANGE THE  
FUTURE STATUS OF GIBRALTAR. THIS WOULD BE A VERY EMOTIONAL CONCEPT  
FOR THE HOUSE OF COMMONS WHEN LIVES HAD BEEN LOST TO DEFEND THE  
PRINCIPLE THAT EVEN SMALL NUMBERS OF PEOPLE SHOULD HAVE A GENUINE  
SAY IN THEIR OWN FUTURE. IT SEEMED TO ME PERSONALLY THAT WE SHOULD  
NOT BE TOO AMBITIOUS AT SINTRA. THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT SHOULD  
PUT FORWARD THEIR IDEAS AND BRITAIN SHOULD EXPRESS A WILLINGNESS  
TO STUDY THEM. AS A MATTER OF SHEER COMMON SENSE, IT WOULD BE  
RECOGNISED THAT THESE IDEAS WERE BASICALLY RELATED TO OUR FUTURE  
POLITICAL RELATIONS OVER GIBRALTAR. BUT THE LANGUAGE USED  
WOULD HAVE TO BE VERY CAREFULLY CHOSEN. WE SHOULD ALSO PROBABLY  
ESTABLISH SOME KIND OF CONTINUING MECHANISM FOR FURTHER STUDY  
AND THIS SHOULD BE SEEN BY PUBLIC OPINION AS A FORM OF PROGRESS.  
I DID NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY, PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED, THAT THIS



NOR DID I RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY, PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED, THAT THIS MACHINERY MIGHT TAKE THE FORM OF WORKING GROUPS TO INCLUDE, INTER ALIA, POLITICAL ISSUES AND DEFENCE COOPERATION. I STRESSED THE LATTER AS A POTENTIALLY CREATIVE AREA FOLLOWING SPANISH ENTRY INTO NATO. BUT I KEPT ON EMPHASISING THE PROBLEM OF FINDING THE RIGHT WORDS WITH WHICH TO CLOTHE THESE IDEAS. IT MIGHT BE BEST TO ABANDON THE IDEA OF A FULL STATEMENT AND SETTLE FOR SOMETHING PRETTY SIMPLE. THIS WOULD NOT PREVENT BOTH MINISTERS FROM MAKING CLEAR PUBLICLY WHAT HAD BEEN ACHIEVED. AS IN A PREVIOUS CONVERSATION (MY TELNO 275) PEREZ-LLORCA DID NOT REJECT THIS SUGGESTION, AND AT NO POINT DID HE EXPLICITLY ENDORSE THE IDEAS PREVIOUSLY ADVANCED BY HIS OFFICIALS (MY TELNOS 160 AND 163).

3. IN MY ROLE OF CANDID FRIEND, I TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO REMIND THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF THE UNPLEASANT CONSEQUENCES, MORE FOR SPAIN THAN FOR BRITAIN, WHICH WOULD FOLLOW FROM ANY FAILURE TO STICK TO THE PRESENT POLICY OF IMPLEMENTING THE LISBON AGREEMENT ON JUNE 25 (SEE PARAGRAPH 7 OF MY TELETYPE OF 25 MAY TO HEAD OF SED). PEREZ-LLORCA SAID HE WAS ONLY TOO WELL AWARE OF THIS. BUT HE NEEDED AMMUNITION TO USE WITH HIS MINISTERIAL AND OFFICIAL COLLEAGUES. IN PARTICULAR, HE WOULD HAVE TO BRIEF HIS PRIME MINISTER WHO WOULD BE BOUND TO MEET MRS THATCHER IN BONN ON JUNE 10. COULD I FIND SOME WAY OF INFORMING HIM PERSONALLY ABOUT MY TALKS IN LONDON ON JUNE 2? PERHAPS I COULD DO THIS THROUGH THE SPANISH AMBASSADOR IN LONDON (THIS DOES NOT (NOT) SEEM A GOOD IDEA. IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR YOU TO SEND A PERSONAL MESSAGE TO PEREZ-LLORCA IN ADVANCE OF JUNE 19.)

4. COMMENT. PEREZ-LLORCA HAS EXPOSED HIS PREDICAMENT TO ME, IN A FRANK IF ONE SIDED WAY. IT IS NO BAD THING THAT HE IS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT WHAT HE CAN HOPE TO ACHIEVE AT SINTRA. THIS HAS MADE HIM GENUINELY NERVOUS ABOUT THE IMPACT FOR THIS WEAK SPANISH GOVERNMENT. THE DANGER IS THAT, IF HIS PESSIMISM IS HEIGHTENED AT BONN (CALVO SOTELO IS ALREADY TENDING TO Wobble - MY TELNO 276) HE WILL BE UNABLE TO CARRY THE CABINET WITH HIM IN PROCEEDING WITH THE JUNE 25 OPERATION. MY HUNCH IS THAT HE IS NO LONGER CONCENTRATING ON THE EXACT WORDING TO BE OBTAINED AT SINTRA. HE IS MUCH MORE INTERESTED IN ESTABLISHING SOME FORM OF PERSONAL UNDERSTANDING WITH YOU. THIS WOULD GIVE HIM THE COURAGE TO PRESS HIS COLLEAGUES TO GO AHEAD WITH BOTH NEGOTIATIONS AND THE HISTORICAL LANDMARK OF RE-OPENING THE FRONTIER. HE HAS CONSTANTLY ASKED ME ABOUT YOUR PERSONALITY AND POLITICAL VIEWS, WHICH INDICATES THE BACKGROUNDS TO HIS THINKING. THAT IS WHY I WOULD HOPE TO DISCUSS WITH THE DEPARTMENT ON JUNE 8 THE DRAFT OF A POSSIBLE PERSONAL LETTER.



WITH THE DEPARTMENT ON JUNE 2 THE DRAFT OF A POSSIBLE PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM YOU TO N.H. YOU WOULD SURELY BE ON SAFE GROUND IN INDICATIONS, WITHOUT DETAILS, A WILLINGNESS TO EMBARK ON A GENUINE NEGOTIATION AS ENVISAGED AT LISBON. GIVEN THAT BOTH GOVERNMENTS ARE COMMITTED TO SOLVING FOREIGN POLICY QUESTIONS BY PEACEFUL NEGOTIATION, AND THAT CALVO SOTELLO HAS FACILY ACCEPTED THE PRIME MINISTER'S ADVICE THAT THE KEY TO THE SOLUTION OF THE GIBRALTAR QUESTION LIES IN SPANISH WILLINGNESS TO TRY AT LAST TO MAKE THEMSELVES ATTRACTIVE TO GIBRALTAR OPINION.

PARSONS

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CCM FIRST PARA 3 SHOULD BE PARA 2 X

SENT AT 20/1757Z RSP