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 FM PORT STANLEY
 TO PRIORITY FCO
 TELNO 155
 OF 171400Z APRIL 86
 INFO PRIORITY ODA

MY TELNO 145: BY-ELECTION IN CAMP CONSTITUENCY
 SUMMARY

1. THE FAVOURITE (GOSS) WINS BY A LARGE MARGIN, IN A HIGH POLL. SPOILT PAPERS PROBABLY DUE TO MISUNDERSTANDING OF ELECTORAL PROCEDURES.

TEXT

2. VOTES IN THE CAMP CONSTITUENCY BY-ELECTION WERE CAST AS FOLLOWS:

ERIC GOSS	112
TIM MILLER	75
KEVIN KILMARTIN	68
RON BINNIE	45
TOTAL OF ABOVE	300
SPOILT PAPERS	33
NUMBER ON ELECTORAL REGISTER	387
NUMBER ESTIMATED AS ABLE TO VOTE IN PRACTICE	370
TURN OUT 90 PERCENT	(333/370).

3. THE ELECTION WAS HELD ON 16 APRIL, FOLLOWING A RADIO BROADCAST OF ELECTION SPEECHES THE PREVIOUS EVENING. DESPITE A RAMBLING AND INSUBSTANTIAL ELECTION SPEECH DELIVERED IN A TONE VERGING ON THE ARROGANT (MY COUNTRY NEEDS ME), ERIC GOSS HAS NOW BEEN ELECTED TO LEGCO. TIM MILLER HAD GIVEN A CRISP SPEECH URGING BETTER LOCAL COMMUNICATIONS AND INTER-ISLAND SHIPPING, AND SPEAKING OUT AGAINST ABSENTEE LAND OWNERS, THE ARC AND FIDC. KEVIN KILMARTIN SPOKE FLUENTLY, SIMILARLY CRITICISING EXPATIRATE OSAS/TCO PERSONNEL, AND TAKING THE OCCASIONAL SWIPE AGAINST THE MILITARY. RON BINNIE'S SPEECH HAD BEEN BUSINESSLIKE BUT A TRIFLE CURSORY. HIS LOW POLL REFLECTED IN PART HIS OWN RELUCTANCE TO STAND AGAIN, WHICH WAS NO DOUBT RESPECTED BY MANY VOTERS, AS WELL AS A GENERAL WISH TO SEE NEW FACES ON LEGCO.

COMMENT

4. THE BY-ELECTION PRODUCED AN ENCOURAGINGLY HIGH TURN-OUT, WITH A RESULT ON THE LINES GENERALLY EXPECTED. GOSS'S STRONG PERFORMANCE (DESPITE A POOR SPEECH) AND BINNIE'S POOR SHOWING MIGHT REFLECT A SLIGHT SWING AWAY FROM THE CONSENSUS APPROACH OBSERVABLE SINCE LAST YEAR'S GENERAL ELECTION TOWARDS MORE ANTAGONISTIC AND REACTIONARY POLITICS. TIME WILL TELL.

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5. SOME REGULAR TOPICS WERE AIRED (CAMP COMMUNICATIONS). SOME NEWER ISSUES SURFACED MORE CLEARLY THAN HITHERTO (OSAS/TCO CONTRACT STAFF, AND THE NEED FOR A BETTER IMAGE FOR THE ISLANDS IN THE UK). SOME OLDER ISSUES WERE TOUCHED ON BUT AS ROUTINE STATEMENTS EXPRESSED WITHOUT VIGOUR (FISHING ZONE, SOVEREIGNTY).

6. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL WILL BE ANALYSING THE RELATIVELY HIGH NUMBER OF SPOILT PAPERS. HE BELIEVES, AND I AGREE, THAT THIS MAY WELL BE THE RESULT OF VERY PRECISE ELECTORAL REQUIREMENTS (CROSSES, BUT NOT TICKS, IN BOXES) RATHER THAN ANY FORM OF PROTEST VOTE.

7. DETAILS OF SPEECHES AND FURTHER COMMENT TO FOLLOW BY BAG.

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