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GRS 340

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FM MADRID 221135Z JUL 83  
TO PRIORITY FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 443 OF 22 JULY  
INFO GOVERNOR GIBRALTAR (PERSONAL), UKDEL NATO, UKREP BRUSSELS  
AND MODUK

GIBRALTAR AND EC

1. DURING A PRESS CONFERENCE WHICH MORAN GAVE ON 21 JULY ON SPAIN'S NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE EC HE ANSWERED SEVERAL QUESTIONS ON GIBRALTAR. HE SAID THAT HE EXPECTED TO MEET YOU IN SEPTEMBER WHEN YOU CAME TO MADRID FOR THE CSCE MEETING. HE DENIED A SUGGESTION THAT THE PRIME MINISTER'S REPLY IN THE COMMONS OF 19 JULY IMPLIED A BRITISH VETO AGAINST SPANISH ENTRY. HE SAID THE BRITISH POSITION WAS WELL KNOWN AND THAT BRITAIN SUPPORTED SPANISH ENTRY "NOT ONLY WITH WORDS BUT DEEDS". HE ADDED THAT HE DOUBTED WHETHER IT WAS IN BRITISH INTERESTS TO LINK THE PROBLEM OF GIBRALTAR TO SPANISH ENTRY TO THE EC AS IT WAS NOT CLEAR WHAT POSITION OTHER COMMUNITY MEMBERS WOULD TAKE ON SUCH AN ISSUE. HE SAID THAT SPAIN WOULD TRY TO BE GENEROUS TOWARDS GIBRALTAR'S POPULATION AND PROSPERITY AND THAT, IF THE UK WERE PREPARED TO CONCEDE RECIPROCITY OF RIGHTS FOR SPANIARDS IN GIBRALTAR, SPAIN WOULD BE PREPARED TO OPEN THE 'GATE' TO ALL TYPES OF TRAFFIC AND NOT ONLY PEDESTRIANS. HE SAID THAT IN THE EC CONTEXT HE WOULD PUT FORWARD A FORMULA ON GIBRALTAR RELATED TO THE RESTRICTIONS WHICH ARE APPLICABLE TO CERTAIN TERRITORIES AND THIRD COUNTRIES: HE DID NOT EXPECT THESE PROPOSALS TO BE DIFFICULT FOR LONDON TO ACCEPT. HE INSISTED, IN REACTION TO CRITICISM OF THE PARTIAL OPENING OF THE GIBRALTAR BORDER, THAT THE DECISION HAD BEEN POSITIVE AND THAT GIBRALTARIANS HAD MADE FULL USE OF THE OPENING.

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2. MORAN HIMSELF AND MFA BRIEFING HAVE PLAYED DOWN THE PRESS FLURRY WHICH UNREASONABLY FOLLOWED THE PRIME MINISTER'S REMARK IN THE COMMONS. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT THE AFFAIR HAS AFFECTED UK/SPAIN RELATIONS. INDEED IT HAS TO SOME EXTENT BEEN POSITIVE THAT OUR VIEWS HAVE BEEN WIDELY DISSEMINATED. SPANISH OPINION HAS BEEN MADE AWARE THAT THEY CANNOT STAND PAT ON THEIR POSITION ON GIBRALTAR BUT MUST DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM IF THEY ARE TO JOIN THE EC. BOTH THE KING AND MORAN HAVE HOISTED IN THE NEED TO FOCUS ON THE ISSUE BY SEPTEMBER. THE POINT HAS GONE HOME AND I THINK WE SHOULD NOW AVOID FORCING MORAN INTO AN UNHELPFUL REACTION DESIGNED TO PACIFY SPANISH DOMESTIC OPINION.

PARSONS

[THIS TELEGRAM WAS NOT ADVANCED]

**GIBRALTAR**

LIMITED  
ECD (E)  
SED  
DEF D  
NEWS D  
FUSD

PLANNING STAFF  
PS

PS/LADY YOUNG  
PS/MR WHITNEY  
PS/FUS  
SIR J BULLARD  
MR JAMES  
MR CARTLEDGE  
MR HANNAY  
MR WRIGHT

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