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TO ROUTINE GOVERNOR GIBRALTAR

TELEGRAM NUMBER 45 OF 31 AUGUST

YOUR TELNO 114: MESSAGE FROM CHIEF MINISTER TO PRIME MINISTER

1. PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING REPLY FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO THE CHIEF MINISTER ON HIS RETURN FROM HOLIDAY:

QUOTE

I WAS VERY PLEASED TO READ YOUR PERSONAL MESSAGE AND TO LEARN OF THE GENERAL ACCEPTANCE IN GIBRALTAR OF THE PACKAGE OF MEASURES RELATING TO THE DOCKYARD WHICH WE AGREED HERE AT THE END OF JULY. THE DECISION OF THE UNIONS NOT TO RESIST CLOSURE OF THE ROYAL NAVAL YARD IS PARTICULARLY HEARTENING AND BODES WELL FOR THE FUTURE. I AM SURE THAT NONE OF THIS WOULD HAVE HAPPENED WITHOUT YOUR PERSONAL INTERVENTION AND SUPPORT FOR THE PACKAGE. I AM VERY GRATEFUL. UNQUOTE.

HOWE

Mr Thomas



JE DA
E. Butler

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

26 August 1983

The Prime Minister has now seen your letter of 25 August about the recent message she has received from Sir Joshua Hassan. She has agreed to the draft reply enclosed with your letter and I should be grateful if you would arrange for its despatch.

Timothy Flesher

John Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

25 August 1983

Dear Tim, *Yes not* Prime Minister:
Agree to this message
to Sir Joshua Hassan?

Personal Message to the Prime Minister
from the Chief Minister of Gibraltar

JA
25/8.

In your letter of 24 August you asked for advice on a message from Sir Joshua Hassan to the Prime Minister, in which he reports the good progress so far over the commercialisation of the dockyard in Gibraltar.

Sir J Hassan has indeed used his political weight wholeheartedly in support of the commercialisation package and has convinced his fellow Ministers that what HMG had offered was the best deal available. On 27 July the Gibraltar House of Assembly approved the Government motion on the dockyard. Sir J Hassan has also commissioned a government information campaign to explain to the public the facts about RN dockyard closure. A ballot of the dockyard workforce on 5 August (the results of which were published on 12 August) showed that most workers were not willing to fight closure. We doubt whether any of this would have come about without the personal commitment of the Chief Minister.

As Sir Joshua says in his message, there are still difficulties which lie ahead. The unions (and the TGWU in particular), while accepting the inevitability of the closure of the naval yard, are still showing signs of resistance to commercialisation plans. Nevertheless Appledores, the company chosen to run the new yard, appear to be confident of good labour relations given time. This will be a key issue in the coming months.

I enclose a draft reply to Sir Joshua.

Yours ever

J E Holmes

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

Tim Flesher Esq
10 Downing Street

DSP 1 (Revised)

DRAFT: ~~minute~~/letter/~~teletype~~/~~despatch~~/~~note~~

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:

Reference

Prime Minister

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Your Reference

Sir Joshua Hassan CBE MVO QC JP

Top Secret

Secret

Confidential

Restricted

Unclassified

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

I was very pleased to read your personal message and to learn of the general acceptance in Gibraltar of the package of measures relating to the dockyard which we agreed here at the end of July. The decision of the unions not to resist closure of the Royal Naval yard is particularly heartening and bodes well for the future. I am sure that none of this would have happened without your personal intervention and support for the package. I am very grateful.

Amud - ms,

Enclosures—flag(s).....

Gibraltar
Palmer P+4

25 AUG 1983



1983