

CONFIDENTIAL

1) JIF - to see  
2) pa.

CONFIDENTIAL UK COMMS ONLY  
CYPHER CAT A

IMMEDIATE 181730Z NOV 83  
FROM GIBRALTAR  
TO FCO LONDON TEL NO PERSONAL 143 OF 18.11.83  
AND IMMEDIATE TO MOD FOR CFS  
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GIBRALTAR DOCKYARD

1. IT IS THE POLICY OF BOTH THE BRITISH AND GIBRALTAR GOVERNMENTS TO ACHIEVE A SUCCESSFUL COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE RN DOCKYARD
2. TO THIS END THE FLAG OFFICER AND HIS STAFF HAVE SO FAR AVOIDED CONFRONTATION WITH THE TGWU WHO ARE BLACKING ANY ACTION TO FACILITATE APPLIEDORE'S MOVE INTO THE YARD. IF, HOWEVER, EMPLOYMENT IS TO BE MAXIMISED FROM THE OUTSET, PREPARATORY PHYSICAL WORK WITHIN THE YARD DURING THE PERIOD OF RN DIRECTION MUST BE TAKEN SO THAT CERTAIN FACILITIES MAY BE ABANDONED AND OTHERS TRANSFERRED OR MODIFIED. THIS HAS SO FAR NOT BEEN POSSIBLE GIVEN THE CONTINUED OPPOSITION OF THE TGWU. AS A RESULT WE ARE NOW IN A POSITION THAT UNLESS CERTAIN PRACTICAL STEPS ARE TAKEN QUICKLY WE SHALL FALL BEHIND ON THE CRITICAL PATH TO COMMERCIALISATION AND WILL NOT BE ABLE TO CATCH UP AND PROVIDE THE FULLEST JOB OPPORTUNITIES FROM THE START OF THE COMMERCIAL VENTRE.
3. IF THIS LOG JAM IS TO BE BROKEN THE FLAG OFFICER WILL VERY SHORTLY NEED TO GIVE SPECIFIC DIRECTIONS FOR WORK TO BE UNDERTAKEN IN THE DOCKYARD IN RELATION TO CLOSURE, COMMERCIALISATION AND NAVAL BASE RE - LOCATION. YESTERDAY SOME 700 TGWU MEMBERS LEFT WORK WITHOUT PERMISSION TO ATTEND AN UNOFFICIAL UNION MEETING. THEY OVERWHELMINGLY SUPPORTED AN ANTI - COMMERCIALISATION MOTION FROM NETTO AND BOSSANO. THUS IN THEIR CURRENT MOOD TGWU ARE LIKELY TO REFUSE TO OBEY THESE DIRECTIONS. RED BOOK ACTION WOULD THEN HAVE TO BE TAKEN WITH THOSE CONCERNED BEING TAKEN OFF PAY.
4. I HAVE DISCUSSED THIS FULLY WITH HASSAN WHO AGREES THAT SUCH A CONFRONTATION IS INEVITABLE. WE HAVE CONSIDERED TOGETHER THE MOMENT WHICH WOULD BE LEAST DAMAGING POLITICALLY AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF HIS OWN PLANS FOR MEETINGS OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY AND ELECTONS WE HAVE AGREED THAT THE WEEK BEGINNING 28 NOVEMBER IS THE MOST SUITABLE, AND SUBJECT TO YOUR VIEWS I PROPOSE TO INSTRUCT FLAG OFFICE GIBRALTAR ACCORDINGLY. THIS WILL MINIMISE INVOLVEMENT OF GIBRALTAR GOVERNMENT AND APPLIEDORES.

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/ 5. HASSAN

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5. HASSAN HAS ASKED ME TO BRIEF THE MEMBERS OF THE GIBRALTAR COUNCIL GENERALLY ON THIS ISSUE AT OUR MEETING ON 22ND NOVEMBER. HE WISHES HIS COLLEAGUES TO UNDERSTAND AND SHARE IN A DECISION WHICH COULD GIVE RISE TO WIDESPREAD POLITICALLY - MOTIVATED TRADE UNION ACTION.

6. GRATEFUL FOR YOUR APPROVAL TO LINE PROPOSED IN TIME FOR GIBRALTAR COUNCIL MEETING AT 10.30AM LOCAL ON 22 NOVEMBER.

WILLIAMS

GIBRALTAR

LIMITED  
SED  
DEF D  
NEWS D  
PUSD  
ECD(E)  
PLANNING STAFF  
MAED  
PS

PS/LADY YOUNG  
PS/MR WHITNEY  
PS/PUS  
SIR J BULLARD  
MR WRIGHT  
SIR C TICKELL  
MR CARTLEDGE  
MR HANNAY

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GIBRALTAR

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