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FROM MADRID 201425Z MAR 1984
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 178 OF 20 MARCH
INFO IMMEDIATE GOVERNOR GIBRALTAR (PERSONAL)

YOUR TEL NO 90: SPAIN AND GIBRALTAR

1. I DELIVERED TODAY TO THE SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER THE TEXT OF YOUR MESSAGE CONTAINED IN YOUR TELEGRAM NUMBER 91. I STRESSED ITS CONFIDENTIAL NATURE. HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION BOTH FOR YOUR WISH TO MAKE PROGRESS AND YOUR COMMENT ABOUT THE VERY CAREFUL LINE HE HIMSELF HAS BEEN TAKING IN PUBLIC. MORAN ADDED IMMEDIATELY THAT HE AGREED WITH EVERYTHING YOU SUGGESTED. HE LIKED THE IDEA OF ADVANCE PREPARATION BETWEEN OFFICIALS BEFORE YOUR MEETING IN LUXEMBOURG IN THE SECOND WEEK OF APRIL.

2. MORAN SAID THAT HE HOPED THESE ADVANCE PREPARATIONS COULD INCLUDE ANOTHER MEETING OF WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS THE LEGAL GROUP. BERDEJO WOULD SHORTLY BE SENDING US A PAPER ON THE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES. THE MINISTER WOULD BE GRATEFUL TO HAVE OUR REACTION TO THAT PAPER. HE DID NOT THINK THERE WOULD BE TIME BEFORE THE LUXEMBOURG MEETING TO ORGANISE ANOTHER MEETING ABOUT CIVIL AVIATION.

3. I THEN EXPLAINED THE PROPOSAL FOR A VISIT BY HANNAY IN THE FIRST WEEK OF APRIL (YOUR TELNO 87). MORAN THOUGHT THAT THIS WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA AND ASKED ME TO PURSUE THE MATTER WITH BERDEJO.

4. SPEAKING MORE GENERALLY, MORAN, WHO WAS IN EXCELLENT FORM, SAID THAT THINGS SEEMED TO BE GOING QUITE WELL NOW BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS OVER GIBRALTAR. HE BEGGED YOU, HOWEVER, TO BEAR IN MIND THAT IN SPANISH POLITICAL CIRCLES THERE EXISTED A NOTION FOSTERED BY FRAGA IN PARTICULAR, THAT BRITAIN WAS TRYING TO FORCE SPAIN TO OPEN THE FRONTIER COMPLETELY AS THE PRICE OF ACCESSION TO THE COMMUNITY. HE HOPED VERY MUCH THAT THE OUTCOME WOULD BE SUCH AS TO HELP HIM WITH HIS PRESENTATION AT HOME.

5. MORAN ALSO SAID THAT IT HAD BEEN SUGGESTED THAT HE MIGHT HAVE A MEETING AT SOME POINT WITH HASSAN ACCOMPANIED BY BOSSANO. HE READILY UNDERSTOOD HASSAN'S DIFFICULTIES IN DEALING WITH BOSSANO WHO HAD THE MAKINGS OF ANOTHER MINTOFF. HE WOULD NOT OBJECT TO A MEETING THOUGH HE INDICATED PLAINLY THAT HE DID NOT PARTICULARLY CARE EITHER WAY. IF THERE WAS A MEETING, HE WOULD CERTAINLY KEEP YOU INFORMED ABOUT THE RESULTS.

6. MORAN'S MANNER WAS MARKEDLY FRIENDLY AND HE CLEARLY APPRECIATED BOTH THE CONTENT AND TONE OF YOUR MESSAGE.

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7. I SUBSEQUENTLY SAW BERDEJO WHO EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE MINISTERIAL MEETING MIGHT BE ON 9 APRIL TO ENABLE HIM TO ATTEND. HE CONFIRMED THAT THE LONG PROMISED PAPER ON LEGAL ISSUES WOULD BE REACHING US VERY SOON. BERDEJO AGREED THAT A PRELIMINARY VISIT BY HANNAY WOULD BE USEFUL AND SAID THAT ANY DAY IN THE FIRST WEEK OF APRIL WOULD BE CONVENIENT TO HIM. WESTENDORP IS ALSO FREE DURING THE EARLY PART OF THAT WEEK.

8. PLEASE SEE MIFT.

PARSONS

GIBRALTAR

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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
MR JENKINS

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION
GIBRALTAR

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