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SECRETARY OF STATE

7344

GIBRALTAR

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1. I told you last week of certain immediate, precautionary and low key measures we had agreed in response to the Governor's request to enhance his ability to defend the Rock and said that we would keep you informed of the other requests which were being examined. I attach a further list of items with which we have now agreed to provide him.
2. Our concern throughout has been to enhance the defensive capability of the garrison whilst using routine movements of ships and aircraft to avoid the appearance of significant reinforcement. As a result, and because the threat has not changed, we have decided not to provide at present:
  - a. 8 Surv Tp RA (1 x Radar - an old, commercial seawatch equipment with an operating range up to 14 miles. There are already two in Gibraltar).
  - b. Rapier or Blowpipe ammunition.
3. We have, however, added a Blowpipe troop of eight launchers to the Army's Spearhead Battalion Group. This Group is available in part or in whole at 24-72 hours notice for any emergency. If further reinforcement of Gibraltar is necessary, JTP 52 (Reinforcement Plan for Gibraltar) earmarks 2½ infantry battalions, field, anti-tank and air defence artillery and engineers.
4. These measures complete action on the Governor's immediate requests to counter any possible military action by local Spanish Military Commanders. The Governor will be following this shortly with an assessment of medium term needs in the event of a change of government in Spain which could increase the threat of an attempted military takeover of Gibraltar.

15 APR 1982  
1500  
1500

15th April 1982

CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE STAFF

Annex:

A. Gibraltar.

GIBRALTAR

## Reference:

A. Gibraltar 10012 of 8 April 1982.

1. In response to the requests in reference, the following measures have been approved:

a. Manpower.

- (1) A crew has been sent by the Royal Navy to man the Gibraltar guard boat (the local patrol craft).
- (2) 4 men of 172 Intelligence and Security Unit flew on 11 April.
- (3) The Air Force Department have provided a small unit of 14 men to provide a SIGINT capability and 15 RAF Police.

b. Equipment.

- (1) Four MILAN firing posts with 60 missiles and a Training Simulator were flown out on 13 April.
- (2) HMS AMBUSCADE, the Gibraltar Guardship now stationed at Gibraltar, took with her:
  - (a) Six anti tank gun sights.
  - (b) Two 81 mm mortars and ammunition.
  - (c) 1000 rounds of light gun ammunition.
  - (d) A Laser Range Finder.
  - (e) Six GPMG and ammunition for the RAF with a further two GPMG and their associated mountings for fitting to the two Sea King helicopters.
  - (f) 65 Anti Tank Mines.
  - (g) 15000 Sandbags.

She also has a 4.5 gun and ammunition and a secure communications capability thereby meeting two of the Governor's other requests.

(3) HE The Governor's requests for food, medical stores and explosives are being met as soon as possible.