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GPS 680

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FM MADRID 070834Z DEC 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 656 OF 7 DECEMBER

INFO IMMEDIATE GOVERNOR GIBRALTAR (PERSONAL) UKDEL NATO

INFO PRIORITY UKREP BRUSSELS

MY TELNO 653: MEETING WITH SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER.

1. MORAN RECEIVED ME THIS EVENING. HIS TONE WAS FRIENDLY AND HE EXPRESSED A WISH FOR CLOSE COOPERATION. I SPOKE AS INSTRUCTED IN YOUR TELNO 346 AND AS FORESHADOWED IN MY TELNOS 650 AND 653.
2. MORAN SAID HE LOOKED FORWARD TO HIS MEETING WITH YOU IN BRUSSELS. HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THIS WAS TO BE EARLY ON 10 DECEMBER. HE ADDED THAT THE SPANISH CABINET HAD DECIDED TODAY TO LIFT RESTRICTIONS ON THE PASSAGE OF PEDESTRIANS TO AND FROM GIBRALTAR WITH EFFECT FROM 15 DECEMBER. I SAID THAT, AS HAD ALREADY BEEN MADE CLEAR IN LONDON (YOUR TELNO 343) WE WELCOMED THIS EASING OF RESTRICTIONS AND LOOKED FORWARD TO THE TOTAL LIFTING OF THEM ALL. WE SHARED THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT'S WISH FOR THE RESUMPTION OF NORMAL CONTACT IN THE AREA.
3. I ADDED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO BE PRECISE ABOUT PRACTICAL STEPS. THIS WAS NECESSARY IN ORDER TO GENERATE LOCAL GOOD WILL RATHER THAN THE REVERSE. MORAN SAID THAT THE ACTUAL EDICT WOULD HAVE TO BE ISSUED BY THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR. BUT OF COURSE HIS OFFICIALS WOULD BE GLAD TO DISCUSS DETAILS WITH US URGENTLY. HE COULD SAY STRAIGHT AWAY THAT, ON THE SPANISH SIDE, THE FRONTIER WOULD BE OPEN FOR 24 HOURS A DAY. I CONFIRMED THAT THE SAME WOULD APPLY ON THE GIBRALTAR SIDE.
4. MORAN THEN ADDED THAT PASSAGE WOULD BE RESTRICTED TO RESIDENTS OF GIBRALTAR, BY WHICH HE MEANT GIBRALTARIANS AND PEOPLE WITH BRITISH PASSPORTS RESIDENT ON THE ROCK. I EXPRESSED STRONG CONCERN ABOUT THIS LIMITATION. IT WAS MOST IMPORTANT FOR MORAN TO BUILD ON THE FAVOURABLE IMPRESSION HE HAD ALREADY CREATED IN GIBRALTAR, I SAID, BY MAKING SURE THAT THE RELAXATION WAS EVEN-HANDED AND NON-DISCRIMINATORY (GIBRALTAR PERSONAL TELNO 155). MORAN SAID THAT THE OBJECT OF THE RELAXATION WAS HUMANITARIAN, TO BRING TOGETHER THE PEOPLE ON BOTH SIDES. LOCAL COMMERCIAL INTERESTS WERE INEVITABLY AT STAKE. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION, HE SAID THAT RESTRICTIONS WOULD NOT (NOT) BE LIFTED FOR NATIONALS OF THIRD COUNTRIES (HE MENTIONED MOROCCO) EVEN IF THEY WERE RESIDENT ON THE ROCK. THE SPANISH FEAR WAS THAT IF GIBRALTAR AIRPORT WERE OPENED NOW TO INTERNATIONAL TOURISM AS A PORT OF ENTRY FOR THE COSTA DEL SOL, THE DAMAGE TO MALAGA

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/ AIRPORT

AIRPORT AND ECONOMIC INTERESTS ON THAT PART OF THE COAST WOULD BE SEVERE. THE LONDON-GIBRALTAR DOMESTIC FARE WAS LOWER THAN THE LONDON-MALAGA FARE. HENCE THE PROBLEM.

5. I SPELT OUT THE PROBLEM IN SOME DETAIL. I SAID THAT, AS MORAN KNEW, THE ECONOMY OF GIBRALTAR WAS TINY. SUSPICION OF SPAIN WAS ENDEMIC. THERE WAS NOW A CONSIDERABLE DANGER THAT THIS GESTURE, IN ITS LIMITED FORM, WOULD NOT HAVE THE GOOD EFFECT OF A BLANKET OPENING FOR ALL PEDESTRIANS ON THE PURELY PRACTICAL SIDE, FOR EXAMPLE, BRITISH TERRITORIES DID NOT ISSUE IDENTITY CARDS. THERE WAS NOTHING IN MY OWN PASSPORT TO SHOW MY PLACE OF RESIDENCE. HOW WOULD THE SPANISH IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES BE ABLE TO OPERATE THIS ARRANGEMENT IN PRACTICE? MORAN SEEMED TAKEN ABACK BY THIS AND ENCOURAGED ME TO PURSUE THE MATTER AT OFFICIAL LEVEL, THOUGH HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE LIMITATION TO GIBRALTAR RESIDENTS HAD BEEN A CABINET DECISION. I WARNED HIM THAT YOU MIGHT WISH TO REVERT TO THE MATTER IN BRUSSELS.

6. MORAN ASKED WHETHER HMG PLANNED TO TAKE ANY INITIATIVES. I SAID OUR POSITION REMAINED THAT WE WERE PREPARED TO IMPLEMENT THE LISBON AGREEMENT, FOR WHICH THIS VERY PARTIAL RELAXATION WAS NOT OF COURSE A SUBSTITUTE. I GAVE HIM THE TEXT OF MR HURDS REPLY ON THIS SUBJECT IN THE HOUSE ON 22 NOVEMBER. MORAN ASKED WITH A SMILE WHETHER THIS MEANT THAT HMG WERE PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE ABOUT SOVEREIGNTY. I SAID THAT WE STUCK EXACTLY TO THE LISBON AGREEMENT. WE WERE THEREFORE PREPARED TO CONSIDER ANY PROPOSALS WHICH THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT MIGHT WISH TO MAKE. I RECEIVED THE IMPRESSION THAT MORAN WOULD NOT BE PUSHING THIS ASPECT FAR FOR THE TIME BEING. (MY AMERICAN COLLEAGUE BELIEVES THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT, HAVING DIGESTED THE PEDESTRIAN OPENING, MAY WISH TO RESERVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LISBON AGREEMENT FOR USE IN CONNECTION WITH PREPARATIONS FOR A REFERENDUM ON NATO, AS MENTIONED IN MY TELEGRAM UNDER REFERENCE).

7. I ASKED ABOUT MORAN'S PROBABLE ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE NATO COMMUNIQUE ON 10 DECEMBER. HE ADMITTED THIS WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR HIM PERSONALLY. NOT EVERYONE IN THE PARTY HAD BEEN KEEN ON HIS GOING TO BRUSSELS AT ALL. THE PARTY WERE COMMITTED TO A REFERENDUM IN DUE COURSE, AS WE KNEW, AND TO THE FREEZING OF FURTHER INTEGRATION INTO THE MILITARY STRUCTURE. IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES HE WOULD JUST HAVE TO DO HIS BEST. IF HE COULD NOT SIGN THE COMMUNIQUE, HE WOULD EXPLAIN THE PROBLEM TO HIS ALLIANCE COLLEAGUES IN RESTRICTED SESSION. HE PERSONALLY WOULD TRY TO MAKE THINGS AS LITTLE DIFFICULT FOR THEM AS POSSIBLE. HE DID NOT INTEND TO BEHAVE LIKE THE GREEKS.

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/ 8. MORAN

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8. MORAN SAID THAT HE HOPED TO ATTEND THE MEETING WITH EUROPEAN COMMUNITY MINISTERS, IF ONLY FOR A SHORT TIME, ON 13 OR 14 DECEMBER. THIS WOULD BE FOR POLITICAL REASONS TO SHOW THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S DESIRE FOR EARLY ENTRY. I REMINDED HIM OF THE HELPFUL POSITION FOR SPAIN WHICH THE BRITISH PRIME MINISTER HAD TAKEN AT THE LAST EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETING.

9. PLEASE SEE MIFT, NOT TO ALL.

PARSONS

LIMITED  
SED  
DEFENCE D  
NEWS D  
PUSD  
ECD (E)  
PLANNING STAFF  
PS  
PS/MR HURD  
PS/LORD BELSTEAD  
PS/PUS  
SIR J BULLARD  
MR WRIGHT  
MR GOODISON  
MR HANNAY  
MR GILLMORE

ADDITIONAL DUST

GIBRALTAR

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