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DESKBY 151200Z

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FM MADRID 151108Z DEC 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 674 OF 15 DECEMBER

INFO IMMEDIATE GOVERNOR GIBRALTAR (PERSONAL)

YOUR TELNO 100 TO GOVERNOR GIBRALTAR (PERSONAL):  
GIBRALTAR FRONTIER.

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH AUTHORISATION RECEIVED BY TELEPHONE, I SPOKE TO MORAN LAST NIGHT AND INFORMED HIM OF HMG'S DECISION ALONG THE LINES OF GIBRALTAR TELNO 113. HE SAID HE WAS VERY GRATEFUL AND APPRECIATED YOUR ATTITUDE. I ALSO COVERED MOST OF THE GROUND IN YOUR TELNO 358 WHICH WAS RECEIVED SUBSEQUENTLY. ON A PERSONAL BASIS, I EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT YOUR DECISION (IN YOUR TELEGRAM UNDER REFERENCE) HAD BEEN INFLUENCED BY INDICATIONS FROM MORAN HIMSELF (MY TELNO 672) THAT THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT MIGHT BE PREPARED TO SHOW SOME FLEXIBILITY OVER THE PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS. (HASSAN HAS NOW TAKEN THE SAME LINE IN PUBLIC, AS REPORTED IN GIBRALTAR TELNO 114.) I MADE IT CLEAR TO MORAN THAT IT WAS NOW UP TO HIM, IN HIS DEALINGS WITH THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR, TO MAKE SURE THAT THIS FLEXIBILITY WAS SEEN TO EXIST IN PRACTICE. HE ACCEPTED THE POINT.

2. TODAY MORAN IS UNAVAILABLE BECAUSE OF A CABINET MEETING FOLLOWED BY THE ARRIVAL OF THE AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE. I HAVE HOWEVER COMMUNICATED THE MESSAGE IN YOUR TELNO 358 TO CUENCA. IN DOING SO I EXTRACTED YET ANOTHER UNDERTAKING FROM HIM THAT THEY WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH US SHORTLY ABOUT THE POSITION OF BRITISH PASSPORT HOLDERS IN SPAIN, MANY OF WHOM HAVE CONNECTIONS WITH GIBRALTAR. (ON REFLECTION THIS MAY BE A BETTER GENERIC DESCRIPTION THAN RESIDENTS IN THE CAMPO, WITH ITS PROBLEM OF GEOGRAPHICAL DEFINITION. THERE ARE, FOR EXAMPLE, QUITE A NUMBER OF GIBRALTARIANS WHO LIVE IN MADRID AND SEVILLE. THERE WILL CERTAINLY BE PUBLIC PRESSURE ON THE GOVERNMENT FROM SUCH INDIVIDUALS WITHIN SPAIN.)

3. WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED FROM THE MINISTRY A FORMAL NOTE ABOUT THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRANSIT (TEXT BY BAG). IT STARTS OFF BY CONVEYING THE OPERATIVE PARAGRAPHS OF THE OFFICIAL BULLETIN IN MY TELNO 664 OF 11 DECEMBER. IT THEN GOES ON TO COPE WITH THE POINT I HAD RAISED WITH MORAN ABOUT THE DIFFICULTY OF ESTABLISHING RESIDENCE IN GIBRALTAR. IT SAYS THAT BRITISH CITIZENS

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WITHOUT AN OFFICIAL CERTIFICATE TO PROVE THEIR PERMANENT RESIDENCE IN GIBRALTAR MAY PRESENT TO THE SPANISH AUTHORITIES AT THE BORDER ANY DOCUMENT WHICH DEMONSTRATES SUFFICIENTLY THAT THEY ARE RESIDENT ON THE ROCK. THE NOTE SEEMS TO BE DESIGNED TO CLARIFY THIS PARTICULAR POINT AND SHOULD NOT(NOT) BE REGARDED AS THEIR LAST WORD ON THE MORE GENERAL ISSUE OF FLEXIBILITY.

PARSONS

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