

GRS 480
CONFIDENTIAL
FM MADRID 230754Z DEC 82
TO PRIORITY FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 712 OF 23 DECEMBER
INFO PRIORITY UKREP BRUSSELS
INFO GOVERNOR GIBRALTAR(PERSONAL)
INFO SAVING OTHER EC POSTS

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PS. NO 10, DOWNING STREET.

MY TELNO 704, PARAGRAPH 4: EC/SPAIN

1. WHEN I CALLED THIS MORNING WITH HERVEY ON MARIN, THE NEW SECRETARY OF STATE FOR COMMUNITY AFFAIRS, HE EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE PROGRESS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR SPANISH ACCESSION. HE REPEATED THE POINT MADE PUBLICLY BY THE PRIME MINISTER AND MORAN ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF SPANISH MEMBERSHIP BEFORE THE END OF THE PRESENT PARLIAMENT. IF SPAIN HAD NOT BECOME A MEMBER BY 1986 IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR ANY MAJOR POLITICAL PARTY TO INCLUDE IN ITS ELECTORAL PROGRAMME SUPPORT FOR SPANISH ADHESION. THIS COULD HAVE PROFOUND CONSEQUENCES. THE FAILURE OF ENLARGEMENT, AND DEGENERATION INTO A FREE-TRADE AREA, COULD MARK THE BEGINNING OF THE END FOR THE COMMUNITY.

2. IT WAS AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND THAT SPAIN WISHED TO SEE ESTABLISHED A GENERAL TIMETABLE FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS. THE ADVENT OF THE GERMAN PRESIDENCY WOULD BE IMPORTANT IN THIS CONTEXT. SPAIN WISHED TO COMPLETE NEGOTIATIONS ON AT LEAST A MAJOR PROPORTION OF THE OUTSTANDING CHAPTERS BEFORE THE END OF JUNE. I DREW ATTENTION TO BRITISH SUPPORT FOR EARLY SPANISH ACCESSION. AT THE LAST EUROPEAN COUNCIL THE PRIME MINISTER HAD REITERATED THIS IN CLEAR TERMS.

3. ON RESTRUCTURING, MARIN STRESSED THAT SPAIN APPRECIATED THAT SHE WOULD HAVE TO ADAPT AND MODERNISE HER INDUSTRY IRRESPECTIVE OF WHETHER SHE ENTERED THE COMMUNITY. BUT SHE SHOULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO UNDERTAKE PAINFUL SURGERY IN FOR EXAMPLE THE STEEL, TEXTILE AND AUTOMOBILE SECTORS WITHOUT KNOWING ON WHAT TERMS MEMBERSHIP WAS BEING OFFERED - OR WITH NO MORE THAN ASSURANCES THAT ACCESSION WOULD BECOME A REALITY. SPAIN WOULD ALSO NEED TO KNOW WHAT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE MIGHT BE AVAILABLE. MARIN ADDED THAT IT WAS IRONIC THAT ONE OF THE CONDITIONS OF ENTRY APPEARED TO BE A HALT TO FURTHER IRRIGATION. YET GREECE AND ITALY WERE TO BENEFIT FROM IRRIGATION SCHEMES INTRODUCED WITH COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND DESIGNED TO INCREASE THE OUTPUT OF MEDITERRANEAN PRODUCTS.

4. IN DISCUSSION ABOUT THE ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF ENLARGEMENT I REMINDED MARIN ABOUT THE GIBRALTAR POINT. HE IMMEDIATELY REPLIED THAT GIBRALTAR WAS NOT A PROBLEM IN THIS CONTEXT. CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS HAD ALREADY BEEN ACHIEVED OVER THE OPENING OF THE FRONTIER. THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT LOOKED FORWARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION IN THE SPRING OF THE LISBON AGREEMENT. THE EXISTENCE OF GIBRALTAR DID NOT IMPLY ANY ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES FOR SPAIN IN THE COMMUNITY CONTEXT.

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5. THE FEELING WITH WHICH MARIN SPOKE ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR SPANISH ACCESSION REFLECTS THE CONCERN OF THE GOVERNMENT AS A WHOLE. UNLESS THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE CARRIED FORWARD MORE VIGOROUSLY AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH SOME AGREED TIMETABLE, SPANISH MINISTERS BELIEVE THAT THE RESULT IS BOUND TO BE AN IGNOMINIOUS FAILURE. IN THE SPANISH ASSESSMENT, THE REPERCUSSIONS COULD BE VERY DAMAGING, AND COULD WELL SHAKE THE FOUNDATIONS OF DEMOCRACY IN THIS COUNTRY. MARIN WAS THUS UNDERLINING A SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL POINT. I LEFT HIM IN NO DOUBT THAT IT WAS WELL APPRECIATED IN LONDON.

6. THE SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER SUBSEQUENTLY SPOKE IN SIMILAR TERMS TO MARIN AT A LUNCH WITH COMMUNITY AMBASSADORS. HE SAID THAT THE COMMUNITY ASPECT WAS NOW THE WEAKEST LINK IN HIS FOREIGN POLICY.

PARSONS

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