

Spain

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GRS 420
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DESKBY 010800Z
FM FCO 301930Z NOV 81.
TO IMMEDIATE MADRID
TELEGRAM NUMBER 238 OF 30 NOVEMBER
INFO PRIORITY (PERSONAL) GOVERNOR GIBRALTAR.
ROUTINE UNDEL NATO, MODUK (DS12, DPS).
INFO SAVING THE HAGUE, UKREP BRUSSELS.

CONVERSATION WITH THE SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER

1. THE SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER TELEPHONED ME THIS MORNING. PEREZ LLORCA WAS GRATEFUL FOR THE EC DECLARATION ON ENLARGEMENT. HE REFERRED TO THE DIFFICULTIES WITH THE DUTCH OVER SPAIN/NATO, HOPED THEY WOULD BE SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED, AND ASKED WHETHER WE COULD HELP. I SAID THAT I HAD ALREADY DONE SO (MY CONVERSATION WITH VAN DER STOEL (FCO TELNO 1827 TO WASHINGTON)).
2. PEREZ LLORCA SAID THAT WORK WAS ON THE POINT OF STARTING ON THE SPANISH CUSTOMS HOUSE AT THE GIBRALTAR BORDER AND WOULD LAST ABOUT TWO MONTHS. HE CONFIRMED THAT WE COULD REFER TO THIS IN PUBLIC. ASKED WHETHER THE FRONTIER WOULD BE REOPENED AS SOON AS THE WORK WAS FINISHED, HE SAID ONLY THAT THE WORK WAS A 'REQUISITE' FOR OPENING. I REFERRED TO DIFFICULTIES IN PARLIAMENT OVER OUR POLICY NOT LINKING SPANISH ACCESSION TO NATO WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LISBON AGREEMENT.
3. PEREZ LLORCA SAID THAT CALVO SOTELO WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO VISIT LONDON ON 18 DECEMBER, AS INVITED. HE COULD NOT COME UNTIL JANUARY, BUT WOULD LIKE TO MAKE AN IMMEDIATE ANNOUNCEMENT OF AGREEMENT ON A VISIT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER 7 JANUARY. HE URGED ME TO SEND HIM A REPLY BY TELEPHONE TODAY.
4. FALL HAS SPOKEN TO PEREZ LLORCA'S CHEF DE CABINET AND PROPOSED THE DATE OF 8 JANUARY. HIS INTERLOCUTOR TOOK NOTE AND EXPLAINED THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO CONSULT ABOUT THE DATE. HE SEEMED IN NO HURRY TO DISCUSS THE TEXT OR TIMING OF AN

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ANNOUNCEMENT AND FALL THEREFORE SUGGESTED THAT THIS BE PURSUED THROUGH YOU. THIS WAS AGREED, AND FALL CONFIRMED THAT WE WERE WAITING TO RECEIVE CONFIRMATION OF THE PROPOSED DATE FROM THE SPANISH SIDE AND TO AGREE ON THE TEXT AND TIMING OF AN ANNOUNCEMENT.

5. FOLLOWING TEXT WOULD SUIT US WELL: OPEN QUOTES THE SPANISH PRIME MINISTER, SR CALVO SOTELO, HAS ACCEPTED AN INVITATION FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO PAY AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO LONDON. THE VISIT IS DUE TO TAKE PLACE ON 8 JANUARY 1982. CLOSE QUOTES. NO 10 WOULD PREFER TO MAKE THE ANNOUNCEMENT AT THEIR NORMAL MORNING BRIEFING AT 11.00 AM ON THE DAY IN QUESTION.

6. PEREZ LLORCA'S CHEF DE CABINET HAS NOW TELEPHONED BACK TO ACCEPT DATE OF 8 JANUARY AND TO SAY THAT TEXT AND TIMING OF ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE NEGOTIATED WITH YOU, PROBABLY TOMORROW. PEREZ LLORCA HAS ASKED TO SPEAK TO ME AGAIN ON THE TELEPHONE TOMORROW MORNING.

CARRINGTON

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MR BULLARD

MR FERGUSSON

MR HANNAY

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