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Gibraltar

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

27 October 1982

SPANISH CONSTRUCTION IN GIBRALTAR WATERS

In my letter of 26 October I conveyed the Prime Minister's agreement to the delivery of a formal note of protest to the Spanish Government on this matter.

At an earlier stage, the Prime Minister said that she would wish to have a discussion with her Ministerial colleagues as soon as the Attorney General's advice was available. I have since advised Mrs. Thatcher, following contacts with the Cabinet Office, that an OD discussion of Gibraltar (in particular, the question of aid) is planned for the early part of November. The Prime Minister is content to wait for this meeting, which she is assuming will take place before about 10 November, and will not now wish to have an earlier discussion.

I am copying this letter to Jim Nursaw (Attorney General's Office), Richard Mottram (Ministry of Defence) and Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

A. J. COLES

Roger Bone, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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PRIME MINISTER

SPANISH CONSTRUCTION IN GIBRALTAR WATERS

You minuted over the weekend that when the Attorney's advice was available you wanted to discuss this question with some of your Ministerial colleagues.

You today approved the formal note of protest which is being delivered to the Spanish Government.

Following the exchanges in the House this afternoon about aid to Gibraltar I have suggested to the Cabinet Office that they should bring forward the OD discussion which is planned. I think that Sir Robert Armstrong will be proposing a meeting before 10 November for this.

In the light of this arrangement, do you still want to have an earlier Ministerial discussion about Gibraltar?

No
ms

A.S.C.

26 October, 1982

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

26 October, 1982

SPANISH CONSTRUCTION IN GIBRALTAR WATERS

Thank you for your letter of 26 October. Subject to the views of the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, the Prime Minister agrees that the Embassy in Madrid should deliver a formal note of protest to the Spanish Government in the terms suggested by your letter.

I am copying this letter to Jim Nursaw (Attorney General's Office), Richard Mottram (Ministry of Defence) and Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

A. I. DOLES

B.J.P. Fall, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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Prime Minister

Agree that we should
deliver a formal protest
(subject to Mr. Pym's views)?

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

26 October 1982

Dear John

A-J-C. 26.
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Yes

Spanish Construction in Gibraltar Waters

In your letter of 25 October you said that the Prime Minister would wish to discuss this topic with other Ministers when Sir Michael Havers' opinion was available.

I now enclose a copy of a letter dated 25 October from the Attorney General's Chambers to Sir I Sinclair which records that the Attorney General agrees that our legal position should be protected by lodging a formal protest with the Spanish Government.

Subject to the views of the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary on his return from Luxembourg we intend to instruct the Embassy at Madrid to put our position on record with a formal Note. The text of this has now been agreed in substance by the Attorney General. I enclose a copy of the draft telegram of instructions to the Embassy at Madrid.

We think it important to deliver the protest before the Spanish elections on 28 October. We may of course have to follow up with any new government but it would be preferable not to initiate relations by delivering a protest. Furthermore, it is under the present government that the work was undertaken. We would therefore hope to take action as soon as possible on 27 October.

Yours ever

(B J P Fall)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

cc: PS/Attorney General
PS/Secretary of State
for Defence
PS/Sir R Armstrong



The National Archives

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

25 October, 1982

BF

SPANISH CONSTRUCTION IN GIBRALTAR WATERS

Thank you for your letter of 22 October.

The Prime Minister has noted its contents, and she hopes that the Attorney General's advice will be available quickly. Mrs Thatcher will want to discuss the matter with those Ministers primarily concerned as soon as Sir Michael Havers' opinion is available.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to the Attorney General, the Secretary of State for Defence and Sir Robert Armstrong.

A. J. COLES

R Bone, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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