

SPAIN - UK : GIBRALTAR

FULL TEXT OF THE GIBRALTAR JOINT COMMUNIQUE

The following is the text of the joint communique issued in Brussels yesterday by the Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, and the Spanish Foreign Minister, Mr Fernando Moran:

1. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, the Right Hon. Sir Geoffrey Howe, and the Spanish Foreign Minister, His Excellency Sr Don Fernando Moran Lopez, held a meeting in Brussels on 27 November during which they agreed on the way in which the Spanish and British governments will apply by not later than 15 February, 1985, the Lisbon Declaration of 10 April, 1980, in all its parts. This will involve simultaneously:
 - (a) The provision of equality and reciprocity of rights for Spaniards in Gibraltar and Gibraltarians in Spain. This will be implemented through the mutual concession of the rights which citizens of EC (European Community) countries enjoy, taking into account the transitional periods and derogations agreed between Spain and the EC. The necessary legislative proposals to achieve this will be introduced in Spain and Gibraltar. As concerns paid employment, and recalling the general principle of Community preference, this carries the implication that during the transitional period each side will be favourably disposed to each other's citizens when granting work permits.
 - (b) The establishment of the free movement of persons, vehicles and goods between Gibraltar and the neighbouring territory.
 - (c) The establishment of a negotiating process aimed at overcoming all the differences between them over Gibraltar and at promoting cooperation on a mutually beneficial basis on economic, cultural, touristic, aviation, military and environmental matters. Both sides accept that the issues of sovereignty will be discussed in that process. The British Government will fully maintain its commitment to honour the wishes of the people of Gibraltar as set out in the preamble of the 1969 Constitution.
2. Insofar as the airspace in the region of Gibraltar is concerned, the Spanish Government undertakes to take the early actions necessary to allow safe and effective air communications.
3. There will be meetings of working groups, which will be reviewed periodically in meetings for this purpose between the Spanish and British foreign ministers.

GIBRALTAR27 November 1984 STATEMENT BY THE CHIEF MINISTER*

The communique issued today is the result of many months of discussions between the Secretary of State and the Spanish Foreign Minister and of talks at official and technical level. I have been consulted closely throughout this process. I welcome the outcome as I believe that it will be beneficial to the people of Gibraltar.

2. The main effects of the agreement which has been reached are that all restrictions will be removed by 15 February 1985 and that this will be done in the context of an advance mutual concession, as between Spain and Gibraltar, of the EC rights which, taking into account the transitional periods and derogations agreed between Spain and the EC, would in any event become applicable on Spanish accession to the Community.

3. I am particularly glad to note that the concept of mutual benefit in the process of promoting cooperation has been specifically mentioned.

4. I naturally enter a reservation in regard to the question of sovereignty. When the Lisbon Agreement was announced I said, in a joint communique with the then Leader of the Opposition on 12 April 1980, that we reiterated "the well-known position of the people of Gibraltar that, for their part, they were opposed to any negotiation of sovereignty over Gibraltar, a view expressed in a unanimous resolution of the House of Assembly in November 1977".

5. At the same time, I wish to draw particular attention to the categorical statement in today's communique that:

* (Statement provided by the office of the Chief Minister, Gibraltar).

"The British Government will fully maintain its commitment to honour the wishes of the people of Gibraltar as set out in the Preamble to the 1969 Constitution".

6. I also wish to recall the following statement in the joint communique of April 1980:

"We have always placed our faith in Britain - the British Government, the British Press and the British people - and will continue to do so. Britain has never failed us in 17 very difficult years".

7. Today I reiterate that faith and that statement.

8. My colleagues and I commend today's agreement, subject to the reservation I have mentioned, to the people of Gibraltar. We have stood firm together for many years and we in the Government regard the agreement as an honourable outcome. We trust and believe that it will be the first step in a process of normalisation and fruitful cooperation between Gibraltar and the immediate vicinity for the benefit of all.