

wrong and what is the right thing to do. If the majority wish full integration then such a wish should be given proper consideration but at the same time bearing in mind the extent of the problems it would cause the Spanish Government. Unfortunately the Spanish dimension cannot be ignored. There is no easy solution to the Gibraltar problem otherwise it would have been resolved a long time ago. But the United Kingdom Government must acknowledge the rights of the Gibraltarians. I think that the average man and woman in any town in the United Kingdom stand four square behind the wishes of the Gibraltarians to remain British. My own constituents would certainly support the Gibraltarians desire to be integrated into the Mother Country.

I believe that the Gibraltarians should raise the awareness campaign to inform the citizens of the United Kingdom of their campaign to remain British. I believe that the majority of citizens take the view that Gibraltar is British territory but their thoughts probably go no deeper than that. If such a campaign succeeds then the public can put pressure on their constituency MPs. I can assure you that this is far and away the most effective way of lobbying Parliament. Politicians have to react quickly to the suggestions of their own constituents; the alternative is to possibly lose the seat at the next election.

I do not think the Gibraltarians should think any the less of the new Governor because he is a 'Mister'. Those he governs should reserve judgement until they can see how competent he is. The reality is that major decisions about Gibraltar are taken by senior ministers in conjunction with the Foreign

Office. We have all heard from HMG what cannot be allowed or done; what we now wish to hear is what can be done or allowed; two very different decisions. There is no doubt that the Gibraltar problem needs resolving and such a decision must be taken soon after taking into consideration the views of the Gibraltarians. But rest assured it cannot be a solution that is imposed from the outside as was tried by the Brussels and Airport agreements; this does just not work.

I am fortunate that I have visited Gibraltar and heard what the Gibraltarians have to say. HMG has to heed their democratic demand to remain British. It is important that both Parliament and the citizens of the United Kingdom do not forget the Gibraltarians or let them down. I can assure you that the majority of the citizens of this country do not think that Gibraltar can be anything other than British.

My final thought is that the thousands of expatriate Gibraltarians in Britain should be galvanised into writing to the MPs. I feel that this is not being done. For example, to the best of my recollection, I have never had a letter from a Gibraltarian constituent and I cannot believe that no Gibraltarians live there. I appeal to all expatriate Gibraltarians to write to their MPs because if they cannot be bothered then noone else will."

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