

Since our defeat at the last election we have carried out a review of our foreign policy. As part of that process we are taking clearly a very robust line over Gibraltar. We are very concerned that the strong position taken by Malcolm Rifkind has been eroded by Cook. Indeed the British Government's position has been to move significantly backwards.

CUSTOMS UNION - ABOLITION OF INTRA EU DUTY FREE

This is a difficult subject and frankly one which needs to be assessed by experts. It is a finely balanced decision with pluses and minuses on both sides of the argument. I would like to hear the Gibraltar view and then HMG's response to that view.

OVERFLIGHTS

We will fight for them to continue in the event of the Matutes' threats being implemented.

AIRPORT AGREEMENT

I regard the 1987 Airport Agreement as being dead in particular when Lord Chesham answered a PQ with the revelation that it meant joint control rather than joint use.

NATO & AMSTERDAM

Classic examples of Robin Cook u-turns but today virtually impossible to reverse.

SCHENGEN

The Conservative Party will insist that whenever the United Kingdom opts in so will Gibraltar. The Rock must never be excluded.

SIR RICHARD LUCE'S EXTENSION

I was delighted to hear the news that the Foreign Secretary had asked Sir Richard Luce to stay on as Governor when his term expired. Without a doubt, this is a most welcome vote of confidence in the valuable work that Sir Richard has done since his appointment under the previous administration.

PASSPORTING

There is no short cut to observing all the regulations imposed from Brussels. The final decision rests with the British Government as to when banking and other financial services are deemed to have reached the required standards for passporting.

ASSURANCE

I would like to give this assurance to the Gibraltarians - in Opposition, Conservatives will not hesitate to take every opportunity to raise in Parliament these critical issues affecting the lives and the futures of Gibraltarians and we will hold the Government to account whenever necessary. Gibraltarians can be confident that the Conservative Party in Westminster will continue to stand up for their interests."

KEN KOUJISUI FOR ICF