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M.R.B. REPORTS

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there can be no political progress in resolving the Gibraltar problem.

Dr Marek is adamant that the Spanish Government is in breach of the Agreement to restore the ferry link with Algeciras but as it is not a matter vital to Gibraltar's interests then the matter should be politely pointed out to the Spanish Government and if that fails then the broken agreement can be presented to the European Union and the United Nations as an example of the Spanish Government's bad faith. It is also valuable ammunition for any Gibraltar delegation attending the IGC.

The Spanish Government is also showing bad faith in not allowing British military aircraft to overfly Spanish territory. Not the display of solidarity expected from a NATO ally. But it is a matter for the British Government alone. However that does not preclude the Gibraltar delegation from raising the matter in the margins of the IGC.

It is a commercial fact of life that there must be more usage of Gibraltar's airport. Politics and sovereignty aside, North Front should be used for maximum benefit of Gibraltar and the Campo de Gibraltar. Dr Marek accepts that if the Gibraltar Government allows the airport to be liberalised it must be made crystal clear to the Spanish Government that no de facto claim over the territory can be made. He does not see any problem for Spaniards to work in the environs of the airport as this happens in both the Channel Tunnel and other airports such as Basle. The Spanish workforce could include customs and other officials. When all is said and done all three parties who are trying to resolve the problem are members of the European Union.

If negotiations under three flags three voices began then the airport discussion could leave

sovereignty to one side and any subsequent agreement need not alter the constitutional status quo in any way. For this simple solution to be reached the Spanish Government has to alter its view that discussions about Gibraltar are only to make political points and not to bring economic benefits to one of the poorest regions in Spain.

John enjoyed the National Day and considered it to be an effective demonstration of the unity of the Gibraltarians.

The British Government must stand firm over the question of external frontiers. Naturally if Gibraltar was within the Customs Union its case would be strengthened. It is up to the Gibraltar Government to maintain pressure on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. It is also a subject that should be brought up by the delegation at the IGC.

Dr Marek agreed with the decision taken by people in power that the evil trade on drug and tobacco smuggling had to be stopped. By allowing it to continue for long the Gibraltar Government had been giving the Spanish Government a

gratuitous supply of ammunition with which to attack the Rock in the world's international forums. The European Union has an interest in ensuring that it does not start up again. The Gibraltar Government must make sure that the present situation of no smuggling by launches is maintained.

Had the Foreign and

Commonwealth Office succeeded in imposing direct rule it would have been an unmitigated disaster. Above all else it would have demonstrated a total failure in communications between the British and Gibraltar governments and a total lack of appreciation of what is in the best interests of Gibraltar and also Gibraltar and the United.