

Commission but is prevented from fully sharing in all the benefits which can be summarised as the four freedoms - free movement of goods, capital, services and people.

A debriefing meeting was held recently and a formal meeting requested with the Foreign minister. This has been agreed but has yet to take place. A meeting was held a fortnight ago and agreement reached on the content of the formal report on the visit. Copies will be lodged with the CPA and the Foreign Office. A Foreign Office official was present at the CPA meeting and was told in unequivocal terms that the mandarins do not understand the mentality of the Spanish race. If they did then they might just understand the real significance of the actions taken and the words spoken by Spanish diplomats and officials. In other words a Spaniard only understands a robust response.

Upon his return to Westminster, in order to place on the record the concern about the Amsterdam Treaty, he wrote to the Foreign Secretary.

'I very much hope that there will be an opportunity for the members of the recent CPA delegation to Gibraltar to meet you when Parliament resumes with a view to discussing the impressions and observations of a most useful and informative visit. (*to Gibraltar*)

In the meantime I wish to place on record the concern which exists regarding the Amsterdam Treaty on the specific question of border controls. The reason I am raising this matter with you now is so that you will be left in no doubt about the strength of feeling which exists on this subject and I hope that you will give full consideration to the representations made to you from Gibraltar before ratification of the Treaty takes place next month.'

Members of the Gibraltar Parliamentary lobby can provide valuable assistance in maintaining pressure on the Foreign Office diplomats. But the lobby must be kept primed with the latest information. This is not happening at present.

Gill applauds the Chief Minister for offering to travel the extra kilometre in order to be able to meet the Spanish Foreign Minister. It is unfortunate that to date all his many new initiatives have been rebuffed by Abel Matutes. It is now transparent that Peter Caruana has left no stone unturned in his attempts to start a constructive dialogue with Matutes on any subject other than sovereignty. Gill also wished the Chief Minister every success in his attempts to reach agreement on commercial use of the airport.

Christopher was impressed with the Finance Centre and could feel that real progress was being made in this area. He saw the immense potential. Although there is talk within the European Commission on a wish to harmonise tax laws as yet no Directive has been issued. At this stage it is nothing more than talk. Gibraltar can be assured that Dublin and Luxembourg are not going to submit without a fierce battle. The Gibraltar government should remain vigilant and Michael Llamas in the Brussels office should be watching closely the saga as it unfolds in Brussels.