

Hay que

082-CD

4-3-72

"THE NEW YORK TIMES"
NEW YORK

Carta de contestación editorial día 3 publicado "The New York Times"

To the editor:

Your editorial "Contented Colonials" published on March 3rd, 1972, is in my opinion one-sided and biased, and fails to inform your readers about the real issue in the problem of Gibraltar.

Newspapers of all tendencies and places, at the time of the referendum, including some of the best reputed English periodicals such as "The Observer", "The Daily Telegraph" and "The Tablet", published articles against the referendum by writers like the French Giscard D'Estaing or the Spanish Mada-riaga. So it would not be necessary to repeat now what was said then by an overwhelming majority of the world press.

As to the "contented colonials" who "voted against the reversion to Spain...", I would like to point out the following:

1.- They voted indeed, but in the midst of a gunpowder blast symphony from a British fleet arrived precisely 10 days before the referendum to Gibraltar to perform around there some timely planned naval games.

2.- A "contented colonial", a Gibraltarian, a member of the population that can vote in Gibraltar (where Spanish workers, descendants of the real inhabitants, were not even allowed to sleep over) is precisely "a person registered as Gibraltarian in the register" according to the "Gibraltarian Status Ordinance of June 1st., 1962", that is, administered and controlled by the military governor of the fortress. Furthermore, section 10 of the same ordinance warns that the Governor can cancel the inscription and with it the citizenship of any person that has shown disloyalty or disaffection by word or fact to the crown.

3.- Even under these conditions, some Gibraltarians not only voted in favour of Spain but also dared to express that they favoured a negotiated settlement with Madrid. These, known as "palomos" (doves), had their houses assaulted, their boats burnt and were themselves badly harassed, sometime after the "referendum". So much for what your editorial calls "Gibraltar freedoms".

4.- Finally, as everybody knows in the United Nations where 132 countries of the world are represented, the "referendum" in which this so-called population of Gibraltar voted, was declared, precisely in view of the above circumstances, as being "a contravention of the provisions of General Assembly Resolution 2231 (XXI)" by resolution 2353 (XXII) of the General Assembly, on the "question of Gibraltar" on December the 19th 1967.

Sincerely yours
Pedro M. de Aristegui
Press and Information Counsellor"