

STATEMENT BY THE GSLP/LIBERAL OPPOSITION 154/2006
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The Opposition notes that Mr Hoon, the Foreign Office Minister, has welcomed the results of the Referendum. He said the new constitution will provide a “more modern” relationship with the UK.

It will be recalled that at the time that the Opposition argued that the constitutional proposals would produce a “more modern” constitution but would not decolonise Gibraltar, the Government violently attacked this statement on the grounds that the terminology “more modern” was that way Mr Moratinos chose to describe it in order to belittle its significance.

The Government also said that the UK description was that it was a “modern” constitution as opposed to a “more modern” constitution and that these two were different things.

Indeed, the Government even accused the Opposition of preferring Mr Moratinos’ wording to that of the UK for partisan party-political reasons.

In the light of the statement just issued by London, it would appear that the positions of London and Madrid are beginning to converge at least at a linguistic level within 24 hours of the referendum vote.

Given that Mr Hoon claims to have accepted that the vote on Thursday was an act of self-determination, and that an act of self-determination can only mean the people of a dependent territory such as ourselves deciding the future status of their homeland, it would be helpful to know what Mr Hoon thinks is the status we have chosen on Thursday which entails this more modern and mature UK-Gibraltar relationship.

No doubt, we shall be seeing more evidence of what it is that people have voted for on Thursday with the passage of time.

ENDS