



Deputy Chief Minister

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Garcia briefs National Geographic on Gibraltar historical projects**

The Deputy Chief Minister Dr Joseph Garcia has met with the President and CEO of National Geographic in Washington in order to discuss a number of potential historical projects which could prove to be of mutual interest. This was a very preliminary meeting and it is expected that further contact could follow.

The meeting also included the Chief Scientific and Exploration Officer of the organisation and the Vice President of Exhibitions at the National Geographic Museum.

This was part of a busy schedule of eighteen engagements in less than two days in the United States capital for the Deputy Chief Minister.

Dr Garcia also held meetings at several congressional offices of both Democratic and Republican Congressmen on Capitol Hill in order to put across the Gibraltar point of view to opinion formers and decision-makers in the United States.

He also took the opportunity afforded by the visit to receive a briefing on the role of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

The visit to Washington ended with a call on the Embassy of the United Kingdom to the United States of America for a very friendly and positive meeting.

Commenting on the visit, the Deputy Chief Minister Dr Joseph Garcia said:

"Many of the pieces that the Government has set in motion in the United States are now starting to fall into place. On the one hand we have the work of the Gibraltar-American Council, whose members are very keen to establish what more they can do for Gibraltar. David Liston its new Secretary has been instrumental in this. We also have the law firm Holland and Knight and our main contact Jim Davis who has secured the tabling of the Gibraltar Resolution on Capitol Hill with Congressman George Holding. There is also very strong and continued support from the Margaret Thatcher Centre at the Heritage Foundation.

It is important to understand that lobbying by its very nature takes a long time but it is a fact that the Government has now taken some important steps in the right direction."