



PRESS RELEASE

No. 198/2015

Date: 31st March 2015

HM GOG CONDOLENCES SOLOMON SERUYA

HM GOG is extremely saddened to hear of the passing of prominent Gibraltarian Solomon Seruya, OBE; “Sol” to his many friends. Mr Seruya entered politics as a young man through the AACR and served as Minister for Economic Development under Sir Joshua Hassan in the 1960s.

Later in life, Mr Seruya moved to live in Israel with his family, where he became close to Labour Party Leader Shimon Peres. He joined the party and was subsequently appointed Israeli Ambassador to the Philippines.

When Spain became a democracy, after the death of General Franco, diplomatic relations between Spain and Israel were established and Mr Seruya was a strong contender to become the first Israeli Ambassador to Spain. The opportunity passed him by, however, and he returned to Gibraltar.

After serving for a period as President of the Chamber of Commerce, Mr Seruya retired from public life. He never totally retired, however, and often participated in public debate through conferences, both in Gibraltar and Spain, articles and letters to the press.

A more meaningful biography of Mr Seruya would reflect the very full life he enjoyed with his loving wife, Frances, who predeceased him, and his daughters Donna, Susan and Lillian together with his many grandchildren.

The Chief Minister, Hon Fabian Picardo QC MP, said:

“The Government wishes to express its heartfelt condolences to his family on behalf of the people of Gibraltar. There is no doubt that Gibraltar has lost one of its great personalities,



an elder statesman who was always ready to provide wise advice in confidence and with charm and a ready smile, who will be sadly missed and long remembered by all the community. Sol had been a member of the predecessor of our Parliament in the 1960s and I will therefore be calling for a minute's silence to honour him when we reconvene tomorrow at 5 pm. Our flags are today flying at half-mast as a sign of respect for his passing.”