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PRESS RELEASE

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CHIEF MINISTER RESPONDS TO LETTER IN IRISH NEWSPAPER

Following an article in The Argus, a newspaper in the Irish Independent group, the Chief Minister, the Hon Fabian Picardo QC MP wrote the following letter to the paper's editor:

Dear Sir

I note that in 'Boylesports move some ops to Gibraltar,' your correspondent refers to Gibraltar as a 'British controlled Spanish Territory.' She is a mere 300 years out of date as the Rock's population are very proud to have been British since 1713 by Treaty, although Gibraltar was conquered by an Anglo-Dutch force in 1704.

It is not difficult to spot the difference between Gibraltar and Spain. The Rock's booming economy is growing at 10% per annum and has almost zero unemployment (ample proof enough that our internal affairs are not controlled by Madrid). However, in the neighbouring Kingdom of Spain economic growth has fallen by 7% in the last three years and unemployment remains at over 26%.

For the clarification of your readers, Gibraltar is proud to be an Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom. Our modern constitution gives us control over all domestic matters whilst Defence and External (but not EU) Relations remain the responsibility of the UK.

Perhaps your Business Correspondent would like to come out and see our vibrant nation for herself? We would be delighted to make her most welcome, despite the obvious 'faux pas'.

Sincerely

Fabian Picardo QC MP

From the Chief Minister
Hon Fabian Picardo QC MP
No 6 Convent Place
Gibraltar