



HM GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR

PRESS OFFICE

No.6 Convent Place

Gibraltar

Tel:20051739; Email: pressoffice@gibraltar.gov.gi

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HOLDING CONTINUES GIB SUPPORT CAMPAIGN

In an important show of support, a group of US Congressmen led by North Carolina Republican, George Holding, have today once again filed a formal Resolution in the House of Representatives which recognises the right of Gibraltar to self-determination. This is identical to the Resolution filed by Congressman Holding before the recent election to the US Congress.

At least 11 other Representatives, a mix of both Republicans and Democrats, have indicated that they will sign this Resolution which recognises that the views and rights of Gibraltarians must be taken into account in any discussion of Gibraltar's status and which recognises that Gibraltarians have 'freely and democratically' expressed the view to remain an Overseas Territory in the referenda of 1967 and 2002.

The resolution points out that the US has relied on Gibraltar's military facilities on numerous occasions, particularly in World War 2. It goes on to add that, with the current security situation in North Africa and the Middle East, there is a need for the US to maintain secure access to Gibraltar's military facilities.

Finally, the Resolution acknowledges that Gibraltar has the right, under the UN Charter and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to determine its own future.

The Chief Minister, the Hon Fabian Picardo QC MP, said : " The refiling of this Resolution again, after the election of the new Congress demonstrates the commitment of our friends in the US Congress and in particular Congressman Holding's clear support for Gibraltar. Interestingly, ill-informed newspaper articles in Spain had suggested that the Spanish government had somehow been able to defeat or remove the Resolution. Nothing could be further from the truth, as is now evident by this refiling by George Holding. The resolution just lapsed on the dissolution of Congress last time. Its now back and I am sure will soon be garnering important support."