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ACTION L-03INFO OCT-01 EUR-14 IO-12 COA-02 SCI-04 E-11 PM-06 H-02
CIAE-00 INR-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 JUS-02 INT-06
COM-08 DOTE-00 NSF-04 SS-14 NSC-10 ACDA-19 RSR-01
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DEPT PASS DOD FOR OFFICE OCEAN AFFAIRS

SUBJ: LOS - SPANISH POSITION ON STRAITS

1. DURING RECENT MEETINGS OF SEABED COMITE TO APPROVE THE REPORT OF MAIN COMITE FOR THE MARCH AND JULY/AUGUST SESSIONS, SPAIN CONTINUED TO TAKE A VERY INFLEXIBLE APPROACH IN OPPOSITION TO US VIEWS ON STRAITS. THIS WAS VISIBLY DEMONSTRATED ON THE FIRST DAY WHEN THEY WERE SUCCESSFUL IN HAVING LANGUAGE IN THE DRAFT REPORT CHANGED FROM "QUESTION OF SUPPLEMENTING AND CLARIFYING EXISTING RULES ON THE RIGHT OF TRANSIT THROUGH AND OVER INTERNATIONAL STRAITS" TO THE "QUESTION OF INTERNATIONAL STRAITS".

2. SPANISH DELI HAD DONE HIS HOMEWORK WELL AND PRODUCED A WELL STRUCTURED SHOW OF SUPPORT. ALTOGETHER SOME THIRTEEN DELS SPOKE OUT IN SUPPORT OF SPANISH POSITION. PRIMARY ARGUMENT WAS THAT ORIGINAL LANGUAGE WAS PREJUDICIAL AND SHOULD BE CHANGED TO MORE NEUTRAL LANGUAGE. IN SPIRIT OF ACCOMMODATION (AND ALSO AGAINST OVERWHELMING ODDS) US EVENTUALLY WENT ALONG WITH SPANISH PROPOSAL. PRIVATELY US MADE IT CLEAR TO SPANISH AND MANY OTHER DELS THAT WE NOTED VERY CAREFULLY THE SPANISH PLEA FOR NEUTRAL LANGUAGE.

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ON STRAITS AND THAT WHEN IT CAME TIME TO AGREE ON THE LIST
OF ISSUES WE WOULD EXPECT THE SAME DEGREE OF NEUTRALITY
ON THE PART OF SPAIN REGARDING STRAITS.

3. FOLLOWING IS LIST OF COUNTRIES WHO SPOKE IN SUPPORT OF
SPANISH PROPOSAL: MOROCCO, SWEDEN, BRAZIL, DENMARK,
MALAYSIA, ALGERIA, YUGOSLAVIA, PAKISTAN, GREECE, IRAN,
ETHIOPIA, ECUADOR AND MAURITANIA. EXEMPT.
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