

# NEW GOVERNOR

## ARRIVES TODAY

26.10.82

### Sir David Williams takes over <sup>26</sup> October at crucial time for Gib 1982

Michael Brufal reports from London

IT WAS THIS Dateliner's privilege and pleasure to interview Admiral Sir David Williams in the Foreign Office on Trafalgar Day. This was two days prior to the Governor designate's departure for Gibraltar in HMS Ajax.

October 21 also marked the end of a period of intense briefing for Sir David on Gibraltar, the Gibraltarians and the Gibraltar problem.

This culminated with a lunch with former Governor, General Sir William Jackson.

It appears that there has been no shortage of advice from previous Governors such as Admiral Sir Varyl Begg, Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir John Grandy and Sir William. Indeed Sir Varyl celebrated his 74th birthday earlier this month. He remains well and continues to enjoy his life-long passion of fishing.

#### STRICT BUT FAIR

Advice he may have got, but Sir David Williams's reputation does not suggest that he makes his mind up until he has examined all the arguments for and against a course of action. Sir David is known to have been a strict but fair naval officer. His character is more akin to Sir Varyl than to Sir William.

Had any television or film company casting director been casting for an admiral, then he would have jumped for Sir David.

He stands well over six feet with a ramrod straight back and looks as if he had been tailor-made to stand on the bridge of a British man-of-war.

He also bears a striking resemblance to Lord Caradon, the former Sir Hugh Foot, who was civil governor in Rhodesia during a very difficult period. Whitehall appears to have come up trumps in advising the Queen to select a strong governor to be on the Rock during a crucial three



ADMIRAL SIR DAVID WILLIAMS

years.

During this time the frontier is likely to open and Sir Joshua Hassan almost certainly will retire from politics.

#### HAPPY MEMORIES

Sir William is no stranger to Gib and has called in on innumerable occasions. He has always retained happy memories of the Rock. During his official visit in 1978 as Commander-in-Chief, Home Fleet, he called on both the Chief Minister and the Leader of the Opposition. During his naval career he has called on Sir Joshua on several

occasions.

Earlier this year, in April, Sir Joshua invited him to the Europa Hotel whilst in London. They had a 45-minute meeting.

Since his appointment as Governor designate, Sir David has been reading about Gibraltar and considers Warren Tute's 'The Rock' to be an absorbing novel containing useful background information.

Ernie Bradford's 'Gibraltar - the History of a Fortress' was used as the prime textbook together with Drinkwater's and McGuffy's works both entitled 'Siege of Gibraltar'.

It is significant that he