

to talk to the Sixth formers. I would like to know their political aspirations and to ascertain how they see their political future. The youth of Gibraltar are owed a future on the Rock and they should not have to look abroad for jobs. You have a wonderful country, a splendid heritage and a very bright future. Your future is as much linked to mine as mine is to yours. The fact that I live in the heart of the south of England is irrelevant: we both see our future linked to the future of the United Kingdom and very much a player in Europe. Gibraltar still has a vital role to play strategically in defence terms and as a tourist paradise.

I am certain that a lot more can be done to encourage and develop the economy of Gibraltar.'

MIKE HANCOCK, 41, IS THE LIBERAL DEMOCRAT M.P. FOR PORTSMOUTH SOUTH. HE IS MARRIED TO JACQUELINE ELLIOTT AND THEY HAVE ONE SON AND ONE DAUGHTER. HE WAS DISTRICT OFFICER FOR HAMPSHIRE, THE ISLE OF WIGHT AND THE CHANNEL ISLANDS FOR THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR MENTALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN AND ADULTS FROM 1989. IN 1992 HE WAS AWARDED THE CBE. PRIOR TO HIS ELECTORAL SUCCESS ON 1 MAY, 1997, HE CONTESTED PORTSMOUTH SOUTH AS THE SDP CANDIDATE IN THE 1983 AND 1987 ELECTIONS AND AS A LIBERAL DEMOCRAT IN THE WIGHT AND HAMPSHIRE SOUTH EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS.