

ADVANCE COPIES: FALKLAND ISLANDS

(29)

4B

PS  
PS/MR ONSLOW  
~~PS/MR RISKIND~~  
PS/PUS  
MR GIFFARD  
MR WRIGHT  
MR ADAMS  
MR URE  
MR GILLMORE

**FLASH**

ADVANCE COPY

PS No.10 DOWNING ST. —

PS/CHANCELLOR  
SIR K COUZENS  
MR LITTLER  
MR HAWTIN  
MR PERETZ  
MR ILETT  
MR McINTYRE  
H.M.TSY

HD/SAMD (FCO DIST + A/D F/I)  
HD/DEF D  
HD/NEWS D  
HD/UND  
HD/PLANNING STAFF  
HD/HKGD

Miss DICKSON (EIP DIV) D/EN

DIO CABINET OFFICE  
MR WADE-GERY CABINET OFFICE  
MR FULLER SAPU CABINET OFFICE  
SIR M. PALLISER, CABINET OFFICE

RESIDENT CLERK

SIR R. ARMSTRONG  
DIO Cab. Office

(Copies passed to Emergency Staff, MOD, Sitcen and CinC Fleet)

GRS 380

SECRET

FM BRASILIA 212300Z APR 82

TO FLASH FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 120 OF 21 APRIL

INFO FLASH MODUK

*MS*

YOUR TELNO 79: BRITISH TASK FORCE DEPLOYMENT

1. AT MY INVITATION, ADMIRAL ARATANHA CALLED ON ME AT HOME THIS EVENING. I SPOKE TO HIM AS PROPOSED.

2. ARATANHA SAID WITHOUT HESITATION THAT HE COULD ASSURE ME THAT NO BRAZILIAN NAVY SHIPS, WHETHER SURFACE OR SUBMARINE, WOULD OPERATE OUTSIDE BRAZILIAN TERRITORIAL WATER. HE IMPLIED THAT THIS MEANT THAT THEY WOULD BE KEPT WELL WITHIN THE 200 MILE LIMIT. HE ADDED THAT BRAZILIAN AIR FORCE AIRCRAFT WOULD BE SUBJECT TO A SIMILAR RESTRICTION. HE IMPLIED THAT BOTH NAVY AND AIR FORCE WERE DETERMINED TO STEER WELL CLEAR OF ANY INVOLVEMENT IN A POSSIBLE CONFLICT.

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3. IN VIEW OF THIS SURPRISINGLY STRAIGHT ANSWER, I THEN ASKED ARATANHA WHAT WE SHOULD MAKE OF NEWSPAPER STORIES THAT THE BRAZILIANS WERE CONTEMPLATING SELLING BANDEIRANTE

HE REPEATED THAT



ARATANHA THAT WE SHOULD MAKE OF NEWSPAPER STORIES THAT THE BRAZILIANS WERE CONTEMPLATING SELLING BANDEIRANTE NAVAL RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT TO ARGENTINA. HE REPEATED THAT ALL THREE BRAZILIAN SERVICES WERE VERY ANXIOUS TO AVOID INVOLVEMENT. THE ARGENTINES HAD INDEED TAKEN SOUNDINGS ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING SUCH AIRCRAFT; BUT HE HINTED, WITHOUT ACTUALLY SAYING SO, THAT THE BRAZILIAN AUTHORITIES WOULD TURN DOWN THIS REQUEST. HE REMARKED THAT THE BRAZILIANS HAD BEEN TRYING TO SELL XINGU AIRCRAFT TO THE ARGENTINES FOR THREE YEARS WITHOUT SUCCESS, IMPLYING THAT THEY WOULD NOT LOOK FAVOURABLY ON A SUDDEN REQUEST FOR BANDEIRANTE AIRCRAFT IN PRESENT TRICKY CIRCUMSTANCES. MOREOVER, HE ADDED, IT WOULD BE PHYSICALLY DIFFICULT TO TRANSFER SUCH AIRCRAFT TO ARGENTINA IN TIME FOR HER TO MAKE ANY USE OF THEM.

COMMENT

4. I KNOW ARATANHA WELL ENOUGH TO BE CONFIDENT THAT HE WAS GIVING ME A STRAIGHT ANSWER, THOUGH IT IS POSSIBLE THAT HE DOES NOT KNOW THE FULL STORY ABOUT THE BANDEIRANTES. I CONCLUDE FROM THIS:

- (A) THAT OUR TASK FORCE NEED HAVE NO WORRY ABOUT ENCOUNTERING A STRAY BRAZILIAN SUBMARINE OUTSIDE BRAZILIAN TERRITORIAL WATERS, AND
- (B) THAT REPORTS THAT THE ARGENTINES HAVE SECURED BRAZILIAN AGREEMENT TO THE TRANSFER OF BANDEIRANTE MARITIME RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT ARE OF QUESTIONABLE AUTHENTICITY.

5. ADMIRAL ARATANHA ASKED THAT HIS WARM REGARDS SHOULD BE TRANSMITTED TO THE FIRST SEA LORD. HE ALSO MADE WARM MENTION OF HIS MEETING WITH CDS IN 1977.

HARDING

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SENT AT 212330Z E

ANY MORE PAL COS I HAVE TWO