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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

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MO 26/9/1

10th June 1982

Dear Sir,

SUPER ETENDARD FOR PERU

/ I attach a self-explanatory signal which has been received from Britdefat Paris. CDS intends to raise this at OD(SA) tomorrow and you will wish to have an advance sight of it. A copy goes to Private Secretaries of other OD(SA) members, and to David Wright.

Yours ever  
Nick Evans

(N H R EVANS)

A J Coles Esq

FLASH

A/PS S&FS

X W

PAFO 01/QP

CHIEF OF EXCLUSIVE  
10 JUN 1982  
DEFENCE STAFF

EXCLUSIVE

ZZ-MODUK

10 045

ZZ FCO

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GRS 230

SECRET UK EYES ALPHA EXCLUSIVE

UK EYES

FM BRITDEFAT PARIS

DTG 101100Z JUN 82

TO FLASH MODUK

AND TO FLASH FCO

AIC AAA/A2G/UEF

MODUK FOR AIR CDRE INT, FCO FOR DEFENCE DEPARTMENT. INFO  
PSO/CDS. SUPER ETENDARD FOR PERU.

I HAVE JUST RECEIVED A REPORT FROM MY CONTACT AT BORDEAUX  
MERIGNAC THAT 3 SUPER ETENDARD AIRCRAFT WERE SEEN ON 7 JUN 82  
OUTSIDE MARCEL DASSAULT FACTORY CARRYING PERUVIAN MARKINGS.  
THE REPORT ADDS THAT PERUVIAN AIRCREW MEMBERS WERE OBSERVED  
WITH INTERPRETERS IN THE AIRPORT BUILDINGS AND THAT A PERUVIAN  
BOEING 707 WAS LOADED IN ONE HOUR ON THE MORNING OF 8 JUN 82  
AND THEN DEPARTED. I AM SEEKING CONFIRMATION AND MORE DETAILS BUT  
THIS MAY TAKE A LITTLE TIME. MEANWHILE, I HAVE DISCUSSED THE  
REPORT WITH THE AMBASSADOR WITH A VIEW TO CONSIDERING A POSSIBLE  
EMBASSY APPROACH TO THE FRENCH ASKING FOR A HOLD ON SUPER ETENDARD  
DELIVERIES TO PERU. THIS IS OBVIOUSLY A POLITICAL DECISION BUT ONE  
COULD ARGUE:

- A. THAT THESE AIRCRAFT FORM AN INTEGRAL FIXED WING PORTION OF  
THE AM39 WEAPONS SYSTEM
- B. THAT PERUVIAN NAVY DOES NOT OPERATE FIXED WING FIGHTER  
AIRCRAFT (WOULD LIKE CONFIRMATION OF THIS SINCE INFORMATION  
TAKEN FROM THE MILITARY BALANCE 81/82)
- C. WE HAVE NO RECORD OF ORDER BY PERU FOR SUPER ETENDARDS.

ALL ADDING UP TO A POSSIBLE CIRCUMVENTION OF THE FRENCH ARMS BAN  
TO ARGENTIAN IN THE GUISE OF A DELIVERY TO PERU. AMBASSADOR  
AGREES THAT WE SHOULD AWAIT YOURS AND FCO'S REACTION

BT

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