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FM FCO 121743Z JUL 83
TO IMMEDIATE BRASILIA
TELEGRAM NUMBER 173 OF 12 JULY

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head in bell.

LAND BRIDGE

1. THE BRAZILIAN AMBASSADOR CALLED ON GIFFARD AT HIS OWN REQUEST ON 12 JULY. HE SAID THAT HE RECALLED YOUR REMARKING AT LUNCH AT YOUR HOUSE WHILE GIFFARD WAS STAYING WITH YOU THAT YOU DID NOT THINK THE LANDINGS BY RAF AIRCRAFT IN BRAZIL WOULD CAUSE THE ARGENTINES SERIOUS PROBLEMS. HE HAD NOT COMMENTED AT THE TIME (THOUGH YOU WILL REMEMBER THAT IN FACT HE DID) BUT HE WANTED IT TO BE UNDERSTOOD THAT THESE LANDINGS HAD CAUSED SERIOUS PROBLEMS. IT WAS NOT SO MUCH THE ARGENTINE MILITARY AS THE POLITICIANS.
2. IN THE PERIOD LEADING UP TO THE ELECTIONS THIS SORT OF QUESTION WAS INEVITABLY OF IMPORTANCE TO THEM. HE WANTED TO BE SURE THAT WE UNDERSTOOD THAT IT WAS CONSEQUENTLY ALSO A DELICATE MATTER FOR THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT. HE CONFIRMED THAT THE TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE ARGENTINE AND THE BRAZILIAN PRESIDENTS WHICH WAS REPORTED BY THE PRESS TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE HAD INDEED DONE SO. PRESIDENT FIGVEIREDO WHILE RESERVING BRAZIL'S RIGHTS IN SUCH MATTERS HAD ASSURED THE ARGENTINE PRESIDENT THAT THEY HAD NO INTENTION OF PROVIDING SUPPORT FACILITIES FOR OUR FORCES IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS. THEY WOULD NOT OF COURSE REFUSE LANDINGS IN EMERGENCIES.
3. THE AMBASSADOR DID NOT SAY THAT HE WAS SPEAKING ON INSTRUCTIONS, THOUGH IT SEEMS QUITE PROBABLE THAT HE HAD BEEN ASKED TO RAISE THE MATTER. IN SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION HE MADE THE POINTS THAT PRE-PLANNED FLIGHTS COULD NOT BE REGARDED AS EMERGENCIES, AND THAT IT WOULD BE NORMAL FOR EMERGENCY FACILITIES TO BE REQUESTED THROUGH ITAMARATY.
4. GIFFARD SAID IT WAS HIS IMPRESSION THAT FLIGHTS WERE AUTHORISED BY THE AERONAUTICAL AUTHORITIES ON A CASE-BY-CASE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

4519 - 1

BASIS, ON EITHER SIDE, IE. FOR BRAZILIAN FLIGHTS TO THIS COUNTRY AS WELL AS FOR RAF AIRCRAFT PASSING THROUGH BRAZILIAN AIRPORTS. THE AMBASSADOR DID NOT PRESS HIS POINTS BUT ASKED FOR RECOGNITION THAT THE PATTERN AND THE FREQUENCIES OF FLIGHTS COULD BOTH CAUSE DIFFICULTIES FOR BRAZIL. GIFFARD ACKNOWLEDGED THIS.

5. THE AMBASSADOR MADE NO PRECISE REQUESTS. GIFFARD WAS LEFT WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT WE COULD STICK TO OUR PLANS TO RESUME OCCASIONAL FLIGHTS AFTER AN INTERVAL. YOU MAY CONSIDER THAT THIS CALL WAS INTENDED TO CONVEY PRIMARILY THAT IPAMARATY ARE WATCHING THE SITUATION VERY CAREFULLY. BUT YOU MAY ALSO AGREE THAT IT MIGHT NOT BE WISE TO SEEK ANY FURTHER CLARIFICATION OF THEIR VIEWS. WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING ABOUT YOUR MEETING WITH DELIO AND TO RECEIVING FROM YOU IN DUE COURSE YOUR FURTHER VIEWS ON THE PROSPECT FOR A RESUMPTION OF FLIGHTS.

HOWE

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2

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