

	Classification and Caveats	Precedence/Deskby
	CONFIDENTIAL	IMMEDIATE

ZCZC
GRS
CLASS
CAVEATS
DESKBY
FM FCO
PRE/ADD
TEL NO

1 ZCZC
2 GRS
3 CONFIDENTIAL
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6 FM FCO 291315Z JULY 83
7 TO IMMEDIATE BRASILIA
8 TELEGRAM NUMBER
9 AND TO MODUK (DS8), ACAS (OPS)
10 INFO PRIORITY MONTEVIDEO, CIVIL COMMISSIONER PORT STANLEY
11 YOUR TELNOS 259 AND 264: FALKLANDS: LANDBRIDGE
12 1. Many thanks for your continuing efforts to retain
13 facilities in Brazil for RAF Hercules aircraft.
14 2. FCO and MOD Ministers have carefully considered Delio's
15 suggestions for further diversions. Strictly for your own
16 information they are regarded as too quote unconventional unquote
17 for comfort. In our view the risks of a regular arrangement
18 for subterfuge emergencies, against the current background of
19 political sensitivities generated by Argentine pressure, would
20 be considerable. Discovery would be probable and would
21 jeopardise the prospects for the full resumption of staging
22 arrangements which we still hope may prove feasible after the
23 Argentine elections. Public disclosure of contrived
24 emergencies would also complicate the arrangements for real
25 emergencies which must at all costs be preserved. This is the

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NNNN ends telegram	BLANK	Catchword most
File number	Dept Private Office	Distribution FI General
Drafted by (Block capitals) J E Holmes		
Telephone number		
Authorised for despatch		
Comcen reference	Time of despatch	

OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

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2 most important consideration from the MOD viewpoint.
3 3. We would, however, like to keep in reserve the option of
4 quote planned emergencies unquote from time to time. When the
5 schedules for airbridge in flight refuelling are put out for
6 considerable periods by bad weather or non-availability of
7 tankers, it may occasionally be desirable to send a quote catch
8 up unquote flight via Brazil. The MOD envisage this happening
9 less frequently than landings for genuine emergencies, which have
10 been running at just under one a month. This occasional
11 arrangement would carry significantly fewer risks than a
12 regular programme of subterfuge emergencies. It would also keep
13 the door open for a fuller resumption of staging arrangements
14 in due course.
15 4. Please seek an early opportunity to speak to Delio,
16 reflecting these decisions. We leave to you the tactics of not
17 appearing ungrateful in our response to Delio's scheme for
18 keeping the landings going. You should say that his efforts
19 on our behalf are greatly appreciated in London. You might then
20 say that, in following up the suggestions Delio made to you on
21 12 July, we would not propose for the present to use Brazilian
22 airfields for other than genuine operational emergencies, except
23 very occasionally when real logistic necessity makes a flight of
24 this sort particularly valuable.
25 5. Please emphasise to Delio that we have taken careful note
26 of what he said about publicity. All flights landing in Brazil
27 will be described by us as emergencies. If crews are approached
28 by the press in Brazil or elsewhere, they should invariably say
29 that the landing was the result of an emergency diversion, the
30 nature of the emergency being a matter which cannot be discussed.
31 Supplementary questions are to be referred to the Brazilian
32 authorities or to you as appropriate. In particular, questions
33 about whether the aircraft has been or will be searched should
34 be passed, without comment, to the Brazilian authorities.

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NNNN ends telegram	BLANK	Catchword Passengers
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 Passengers are to be briefed before landing on the need to avoid
 the press if possible, and, if not, to refer all questions to
 the captain of the aircraft.
 6. We agree that you should say nothing further to Itamaraty.

HOWE
 NNNN

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29 JUL 1968

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File

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

1 August 1983

RAF FLIGHTS VIA BRAZIL

Thank you for your letter of 29 July about RAF flights via Brazil. This is just to record that the Prime Minister has noted the position set out in your letter.

TIMOTHY FLESHER

J.E. Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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The National Archives

LETTERCODE/SERIES <i>PREM 19</i>	Date and sign
PIECE/ITEM (one piece/item number) <i>952</i>	
Extract/Item details: <i>Letter from Holmes to Coles dated 29 July 1983</i>	
CLOSED FOR <i>40</i> YEARS UNDER FOI EXEMPTION	<i>22 January 2013</i> <i>C Wayland</i>
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT 1958	
TEMPORARILY RETAINED	
MISSING ON TRANSFER	
MISSING	
NUMBER NOT USED	

SECRET cc MOD

HL

Argentina

16

19 July 1983

Falklands: RAF Flights via Brazil

BFP
1
The Prime Minister has seen your letter of 18 July about our arrangements with the Brazilian authorities for RAF flights via Brazil to Port Stanley. She would be grateful if the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary could keep her informed about further developments.

I am copying this letter to Richard Mottram (Ministry of Defence).

JOHN COLES

Brian Fall, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

SECRET



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