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29 APR 1982	
US. K. M. H.	
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 FM WASHINGTON 121539Z APR 82
 TO IMMEDIATE FCO
 TELEGRAM NUMBER 1235 OF 12 APRIL
 INFO IMMEDIATE BRASILIA, ROUTINE HAVANA, MOSCOW

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BRASILIA TELNO 89: FALKLANDS

1. AS PART OF THE PROCESS OF IDENTIFYING THE ARGENTINIANS WITH THE CUBANS AND SOVIETS I HOPE THAT THIS STORY CAN BE PUBLICISED QUICKLY.

HENDERSON

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FALKLANDS:

1. TODAY'S PRESS ANNOUNCED THAT ON FRIDAY EVENING (9 APRIL) TWO BRAZILIAN AIR FORCE MIRAGE JETS FORCED A CUBAN ILYUSHIN 62 AIRCRAFT TO LAND AT BRASILIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. ON BOARD WAS THE CUBAN AMBASSADOR TO BUENOS AIRES, WHO WAS APPARENTLY REJOINING HIS POST AFTER A LONG ABSENCE. THE CUBANS HAD REQUESTED OVERFLYING RIGHTS IN NEW YORK BUT HAD BEEN REFUSED ON THE GROUNDS THAT BRAZIL AND CUBA DO NOT HAVE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. THE BRAZILIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY HAVE ANNOUNCED THEY WILL SEND A GENERAL NOTE OF PROTEST TO THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT VIA THE SWISS EMBASSY IN HAVANA, WHICH REPRESENTS BRAZILIAN INTERESTS IN CUBA.
2. WE HAVE LEARNED FROM A WELL-PLACED SOURCE IN THE BRAZILIAN AIR FORCE TRAFFIC CONTROL THAT WHEN THE BRAZILIANS SEARCHED THE AIRCRAFT THEY FOUND 17 CREW MEMBERS AND A SOPHISTICATED ARRAY OF ELECTRONIC DETECTOR, PHOTOGRAPHIC AND SURVEY EQUIPMENT ON BOARD. IN THE EARLY HOURS OF SATURDAY MORNING THE AIRCRAFT WAS ALLOWED TO CONTINUE TO BUENOS AIRES. BUT FIRST THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN BRASILIA WAS CALLED IN TO MEDIATE AND OBLIGED TO SIGN A DOCUMENT ADMITTING THAT THE CUBANS HAD VIOLATED BRAZILIAN AIR SPACE.
3. THE BRAZILIAN AIR FORCE BELIEVE THAT THE AIRCRAFT AND EQUIPMENT WILL PROCEED FROM BUENOS AIRES TO THE FALKLANDS.
4. MY AIR ATTACHE WILL TRY TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS SINISTER INCIDENT. THE AMERICANS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE FOLLOWING IT UP CLOSELY.

HARDING

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