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A/B 020/3		
TOP COPY NO. 1		
29 APR 1982		
DEK	PA	SECURITY
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SECRET

GRS 180
 SECRET
 FM BRASILIA 13:1900Z APRIL 82
 TO IMMEDIATEFCO
 REPEATED IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, MODUK, MOSCOW AND HAVANA
 TELEGRAM NUMBER 098 OF 13 APRIL
 SECRET

CUBAN AIRCRAFT
 MY TELNO 089

14

1. MY AIR ATTACHE HAS ESTABLISHED THAT THE DECISION TO INTERCEPT THE AIRCRAFT WAS TAKEN BY PRESIDENT FIGUEIREDO HIMSELF, WHO SAID IT SHOULD BE FORCED TO LAND.
2. AFTER LANDING AT BRAZILIA, AND WHILE THE CREW AND PASSENGERS WERE HELD AT THE AIR FORCE BASE THE INTERIOR OF THE AIRCRAFT ITSELF WAS EXAMINED, ALTHOUGH THERE IS DOUBT WHETHER THERE WERE ANY ELECTRONICS EXPERTS AMONG THOSE EXAMINING. GIVEN MORE TIME ON THE GROUND, WHICH THE AIR FORCE WOULD CLEARLY HAVE LIKED, SUCH EXPERTS COULD HAVE BEEN FLOWN UP TO BRASILIA (EG FROM CTA IN SAO PAULO) AND THE BRAZILIAN AIR FORCE COULD UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE EXTRACTED MORE INFORMATION FROM THE INCIDENT. THE ORDER TO RELEASE THE AIRCRAFT AFTER ONLY 5 HOURS ON THE GROUND IS THEREFORE UNLIKELY TO HAVE BEEN GIVEN BY THE AIR FORCE BUT RATHER BY ITAMARATY. THE INDICATIONS ARE THAT NO EQUIPMENT WAS TAKEN OUT OF THE AIRCRAFT OR IMPOUNDED.
3. AS REGARDS THE NATURE OF THE EQUIPMENT ON BOARD, THIS MAY BE DIFFICULT TO ESTABLISH AS THERE IS, A RELUCTANCE ON THE BRAZILIANS' PART TO PASS ANY INFORMATION WHICH MIGHT BE THOUGHT TO FAVOUR EITHER ARGENTINA OR THE UK.

HARDING

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