

(14 May)



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

65

ARB 020/3
REC'D
24 MAY 1982
INDEXED

Mr. [unclear] 19/5  
Mr. Williams

Emergency Unit

I have not seen this tel issue: and it has presumably been overtaken (the PM has also decided not to send the paired messages to Figueredo / Lopez Portillo).

Dear John,

Further Message from the President of Brazil to the Prime Minister

62A

2) Stand - locate + file

The President of Brazil has sent a further message to the Prime Minister about his fears that military confrontation might demolish the diplomatic efforts of the UN Secretary-General. I enclose the text.

There is no point in prolonging, for the sake of politeness, exchanges of messages between the President and the Prime Minister. But the Prime Minister will know that President Figueiredo spoke on 13 May to President Reagan and has decided to send an emissary to Buenos Aires (Washington telno 1745 to FCO). He is known to be particularly concerned about the possibility of mainland operations against Argentina.

I enclose a telegram containing a draft reply from the Prime Minister which might be delivered, like her previous message, through Brazilia.

Yours ever  
J E Holmes

(J E Holmes)  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street



62  
A

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RECEIVED IN RECORDS DIV	
24 MAY 1982	
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	Taken

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERATIVE  
REPUBLIC OF BRAZIL, SENHOR JOÃO BAPTISTA FIGUEIREDO  
TO THE RT HON. MRS MARGARET THATCHER, PRIME MINISTER  
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN  
IRELAND

"I am most grateful to Your Excellency for your  
kind telegram of yesterday's date, May 11th.

It is encouraging to have a reaffirmation of the  
endeavour of the British Government to find a negotiated solution  
for the question.

Bearing in mind, however, the growing military  
activity in the South Atlantic, which increases the risks of an  
armed confrontation of serious proportions, I wish to reiterate  
to Your Excellency the concern of my country, its Government and  
public opinion, that such risks might mar the diplomatic efforts  
now being made by the Secretary General of the United Nations,  
Mr Perez de Cuellar. Such occurrence, as Your Excellency can  
well imagine, could have serious and deep repercussions both in  
the American Continental picture as well as in the world.

I trust, therefore, that the parties to the  
question, in no moment should fail to adopt a flexible and  
constructive attitude within the present negotiations in the  
United Nations, and I once again reaffirm the wishes of my  
country for a successful end for such efforts in the shortest  
possible period of time.

With my highest consideration."

London, May 12th, 1982.



62

Mr Giffard  
PSIssue per  
JMK 4/5.

ALB 02013	
RECEIVED IN THE SECRETARY'S OFFICE	
24 MAY 1982	
INDEX	FILE

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF BRAZIL TO THE PRIME MINISTER

Problem

A

1. The President of Brazil, Senhor Figueiredo, has sent a message to the Prime Minister in reply to her message of 11 May. Senhor Figueiredo's message was delivered by the Brazilian Embassy in London on 13 May. Should the Prime Minister reply?

Recommendation

B

2. I recommend that the Prime Minister should send a reply, via HM Embassy in Brasília. I submit a draft, together with a draft covering Private Secretary letter to No.10.

Argument

C

DB

3. The present exchange of messages began with President Figueiredo's expression of sympathy of 6 May at the loss of life following the attack on HMS Sheffield. The Prime Minister replied on 9 May, re-emphasising British resolve but stressing the Government's determination to seek an acceptable settlement through negotiation. President Figueiredo's latest message is in reply to this.

4. There is no point in prolonging this series of exchanges for the sake of politeness. But the latest Brazilian message expresses renewed concern at the risks to the present diplomatic efforts of further military confrontation, and the wider repercussions which it might have. It is desirable that the British position should be presented effectively and positively. With Brazil, as with Mexico, it would be unfortunate to give the impression of having lost interest

/in further



- 2 -

E in further appeals. Moreover, there is new evidence of Brazilian concern and activity in Washington telno 1745 which makes it more important to do what we can to influence the Brazilian President's opinion of developments.

F 5. According to Mr Haig (Washington telno 1731), the Brazilian President is in no way hostile to the British position.

6. A short reply seems on balance desirable.

*A Payne.*

14 May 1982

A J Payne  
Emergency Unit

*President Figueiredo's message has been telegraphed for information to Brasilia.*

*Mpu  
for A. J Payne*

cc: PS/Mr Onslow  
Mr Ure  
SAmD  
Emergency Unit

*I have amended the draft message to make it rather tougher and to remind the Brazilian what it is all about - he is aware that we have a strong case.*

*Carliff  
14/5*

x/12.



M/M  
19/5

63

S. And  
vcc PS  
De Liffard

10 DOWNING STREET

ALB 020/3

RECEIVED IN REGISTRY NO.

24 MAY 1982

DESK OFFICER		REGISTRY
INDEX	PA	Action Take
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From the Private Secretary

17 May 1982

JH  
18/5.

Dear John,

Further message from the President of Brazil to the Prime Minister

Thank you for your undated letter proposing a draft reply from the Prime Minister to the latest message received from the President of Brazil. We agreed on the telephone that this has been overtaken by this morning's discussion at OD(SA) when it was decided that consideration should be given to an approach to Brazil and Mexico in the context of the latest round of negotiations in New York.

Yours ever  
John Colson.

John Holmes, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.