Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SWIA 2AH

London

I enclose the text.

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-

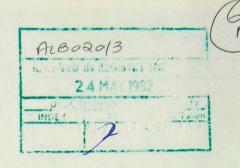
There is no point in prolonging, for the sake of politeness, exchanges of messages between the President and the Prime Minister. But the Prime Minister will know that President Figueiredo spoke on 13 May to President Reagan and has decided to send an emissary to Buenos Aires (Washington telno 1745 to 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.

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq 10 Downing Street

General.



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 negociated 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 negociations 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.

Mr Giffard Issue ple fr.4/5. A CB 020|3

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24 MAY 1982

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF BRAZIL TO THE PRIME MINISTER

## Problem

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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

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

## Argument

- 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

- 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.

14 May 1982

A J Payne
Emergency Unit

President Figueiredo's messenge has been telegraphed for information lo Bracilia.

cc: PS/Mr Onslow Mr Ure

SAmD

Emergency Unit

I have anonded the drift missage to make it ration tougher and to remain this Brazilian what it is at about - he is aware that we have a strong case. Cirlipan take

for A. J Rayne



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.

your ever

John Holmes, Esq., Foreign and Commonwealth Office.