



BRITISH EMBASSY
Brasilia

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H D MacPherson Esq
South America Department
FCO

Your reference

Our reference

Date 3 September 1982

Dear Hugh

1) <CRD 2) Mr. [unclear] ME
[unclear] f.i.
[unclear]

BRAZILIAN MILITARY ATTITUDES POST-FALKLANDS

1. In my letter of 23 August to Robin Fearn enclosing copies of the Military Attachés' report for 1981, I mentioned (paragraph 7) a "business as usual" attitude and quoted the level of representation of the Brazilian Air Force at Farnborough this year.
2. This sanguine interpretation requires some modifications in the light of some interesting talks at many levels of the FAB which the Air Attaché, Wing Commander Brown, had in the course of a very recent tour of contacts in Rio.
3. He has managed to discover the reasons behind a number of FAB decisions on visits to the UK which I fear show a degree of official caution, probably inspired by Itamaraty. The enclosed minute from Jerry Brown gives the detail. He is, by the way, in the UK accompanying Brigadier Menezes to Farnborough and if time permits may touch base with you in case there are any points you would like to discuss.
4. On the naval side, there has been no reason to test the temperature of our relations to the same degree. The Navy has been put very much in the limelight of Brazil/Argentine relations by the visit this week of the Argentine Admiral Anaya and a seminar on Brazil going to the Antarctic, both of which the Naval Attaché has written about to DI 4. (Tony Longrigg is sending you copies). He has now injected to the Navy Ministry information on UK weapon performance in the Falklands conflict which may provoke a response. He may also be required to assist in contacts in furtherance of offers of UK assistance to the Brazilian Navy in their role in the Antarctic expedition. As the only Attaché in office, he has been starting the ball rolling on the visit of HDS in October. This is joint service but may give further indication of the Itamaraty rein on which the Service Ministries are now pulling.

Yours ever

M Perceval

AA/100/7

Counsellor ←

Copy to:

DA

NA

Mr R Brown

THE POST-FALKLANDS CLIMATE

1. We discussed at your meeting this morning my findings with respect to current attitudes prevailing within the Armed Forces during this "Post-Falkland Period".
2. There have been a number of points which seem to indicate clearly that Itamaraty are still restraining the individual Service Ministers with respect to their relations with us. Some of these which have come to light can be summarised as follows:
 - a. The Scheduled RAF Hercules Flights. You are already aware of the background to this saga so I will say no more, but I think it is clear that it will be sometime before we can continue scheduled flights through Brazil to the Falklands.
 - b. Farnborough '82. Minister Délio's decision not to attend the Show himself or to allow the FAB Chief of Air Staff to attend is in itself not too surprising as their diaries are very full. However, it is very odd that, as in 1980, he did not see fit to allow at least two 4 Star Brigadeiros to attend in his name. He went even further than that by saying that no Brigadeiro was to go to the UK and the reason given, that there were many job changes occurring around that time, was always unconvincing. In the event we are fortunate that Maj Brig Menezes who was going to the UK on a private visit persuaded the Minister to let him attend the show on his behalf.
 - c. ECEMAR Visit. 40 Coronels of ECEMAR were scheduled to spend several days in the UK in September as part of a European tour which includes France and Italy. It has now been decided that the UK part of the programme should be cancelled completely and a visit to Spain included instead.
 - d. FAB Visit to Bracknell Etc. Another small though nevertheless significant visit was also scheduled for September. Cel Av Távora, Commandant of FAB's Junior Staff College at Cumbica, was to have taken a party of specialists to Bracknell, Cranwell and other training units principally to study our instructional and training methods. Without warning, and after considerable effort had gone into preparing a good programme for them, the Minister cancelled the visit.

3.

It is equally clear that in the last 3 or 4 weeks Itamaraty has decided to exercise a tighter rein over the armed forces in its dealings with us. They do not feel the situation has yet returned to normal and it behoves us to very much go "softly softly". There are obvious implications for defence sales and it would be very wrong for us to attempt to be 'pushy' or try to impress service audiences with how well our equipment performed in the Falklands. When I show my Harrier films I take great care to talk pilot to pilot and avoid mention of the conflict.

4. You may feel it necessary to convey the sense of this to the South American Department.

J. E. Brown

J E BROWN
Wg Cdr
AA
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20 Aug 82

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