

TYPISTS ✓

DB 141700z

ADVANCE COPIES: FALKLAND ISLANDS

(29)

PS No.10 DOWNING ST.

PS
PS/LPS
PS/MR ONSLOW
PS/MR RIFKIND
PS/PUS
MR GIFFARD
MR WRIGHT
MR ADAMS
MR URE
MR GILLMORE

PS/CHANCELLOR
SIR K COUZENS
MR LITTLER
MR HAWTIN
MR PERETZ
MR ILETT
MR McINTYRE
H.M.TSY

HD/SAmD (FCO DIST + A/D F/I)
HD/DEF D
HD/NEWS D
HD/UND
HD/PLANNING STAFF
HD/HKGD

Miss DICKSON (EIP DIV) D/EN
DIO CABINET OFFICE
MR WADE-GERY CABINET OFFICE
MR FULLER SAFU CABINET OFFICE

WZ

RESIDENT CLERK

(Copies passed to Emergency Staff, MOD Sitcen and CinC Fleet)

GRS 295

CONFIDENTIAL

FM BRASILIA 14:1530Z APRIL 82
TO IMMEDIATE FCO DESKBY 141700Z
REPEATED TO WASHINGTON
TELEGRAM NUMBER 101 OF 14 APRIL

MY TELS NOS 099 AND 100: FALKLANDS/ TENDENTIOUS BRAZILIAN PRESS COMMENT

1. TODAY'S CORREIO BRASILIENSE (ONE OF TWO DAILY NEWSPAPERS PUBLISHED IN BRASILIA), REFERRING TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S REPLY TO PRESIDENT FIGUEIREDO, CARRIES A FRONT-PAGE HEADLINE QUOTE ENGLAND THREATENS BRAZIL: THE IDEA IS TO FORCE US TO PERSUADE GALTIERI UNQUOTE. ON AN INSIDE PAGE AN EXPANDED REPORT IS HEADED QUOTE LONDON HINTS AT THE CUTTING OFF OF NAVAL ASSISTANCE TO BRAZIL UNQUOTE. THE REPORT CLAIMS THAT BRITAIN ACCOMPANIED MRS THATCHER'S QUOTE HARD AND CURT UNQUOTE NOTE WITH A THREAT TO CANCEL BRITISH PARTICIPATION IN THE LONG-STANDING PLAN FOR THE RENOVATION AND MODERNISATION OF THE BRAZILIAN FLEET. IT SAYS THAT THIS THREAT, WHICH WAS CONFIRMED BY A NAVAL SOURCE

WAS THE CENTRAL THEME OF A MEETING YESTERDAY OF THE NAVY HIGH COMMAND CHAIRED BY THE MINISTER HIMSELF. THE ARTICLE GOES ON REFER TO THE PRESENCE OF BRAZILIAN NAVY OFFICERS UNDERGOING TRAINING AT VOSPER THORNEYCROFTS IN BRITAIN AND TO THE DEVASTATING EFFECT THAT BRITISH SANCTIONS WOULD HAVE AGAINST THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE FRIGATE SQUADRON, IN PARTICULAR.

2. WE HAVE PUT OUT A PRESS RELEASE TO REBUT THIS DAMAGING LIE (ENGLISH TEXT IN MIFT). RICUPERO OF THE ITAMARATY HAS ALREADY TOLD ME THAT HE WAS PRESENT AT THE NAVY HIGH COMMAND MEETING IN QUESTION AND THAT THE QUESTION OF BRITISH PARTICIPATION IN THE FRIGATE AND CORVETTE PROGRAMME WAS NOT EVEN MENTIONED. I SHALL CALL ON THE SECRETARY-GENERAL THIS AFTERNOON TO HAND HIM A COPY OF THE PRESS RELEASE. I HAVE ALREADY IMPRESSED ON HIM THROUGH RICUPERO THE NEED FOR THE ITAMARATY AND THE NAVY MINISTRY TO TAKE SWIFT ACTION TO DENY THE TRUTH OF THE ARTICLE.

3. MY OWN SUSPICION IS THAT THIS IS AN EXERCISE IN BLACK PROPAGANDA MOUNTED BY EITHER THE ARGENTINES OR THE RUSSIANS. WE SHALL HAVE TO WATCH OUT FOR FURTHER DIRTY TRICKS OF THIS KIND.

HARDING

NNNN

SENT/RECD 14:1540Z MW/KRW