

BSB/FCO 001/12

ZZ FCO

GRS 150

CONFIDENTIAL

FM BRASILIA 112350Z MAY 82

TO FLASH FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 160 OF 11 MAY

WARSHIPS IN SOUTH ATLANTIC

YOUR TELEGRAM NUMBER 110 OF 11 MAY

1. I CALLED THIS EVENING WITH MY NAVAL ATTACHE ON THE CHIEF OF NAVAL STAFF AT HIS HOME. WE SHOWED HIM ON A CHART THE POSITIONS OF THE THREE SHIPS SIGHTED AND ASKED IF THEY WERE BRAZILIAN.

2. ADMIRAL ARATANHA ANSWERED WITHOUT HESITATION THAT, AS HE HAD TOLD ME ON 21 APRIL, NO REPEAT NO BRAZILIAN NAVY SHIPS WERE AT PRESENT OUTSIDE BRAZIL'S 200 MILE LIMIT, NOR WOULD ANY BE IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE, APART FROM THE TRAINING SHIP CUSTODIO DE MELLO (IN FUNCHAL OR ON PASSAGE FROM THERE FOR BARCELONA). THE EARLIEST MOVEMENT HE FORESAW OUTSIDE THIS ZONE WAS OF ONE FRIGATE IN JULY.

3. CAPTAIN LASLETT REPORTED A POSITIVE SIGHTING OF THE ONLY BRAZILIAN AIRCRAFT CARRIER MINAS GERAIS IN THE RIO DOCKYARD ON 10 MAY IN HIS SIGNAL UAA/19F 111925Z MAY ADDRESSED TO MODUK FOR DMSI.

HARDING

NNNN

SENT/RECD AT 12:0024Z HM/MD

E.R. *0024*
11 MAY 1982
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