

ADVANCE COPIES: FALKLAND ISLANDS GENERAL 41+7

DB 141730

198515

Seen by pm

PS 6
 PS/MR HURD
 PS/MR ONSLOW
 PS/PUS
 MR BULLARD
 SIR I SINCLAIR
 MR GIFFARD
 MR WRIGHT
 MR ADAMS
 LORD N G LENNOX
 LORD BRIDGES
 MR URE
 MR GILLMORE
 HD/PUSD 2
 HD/S AM D
 HD/DEF DEPT
 HD/NEWS DEPT
 HD/ERD
 HD/ECD(E)
 HD/UND
 HD/PLANNING STAFF
 MR ANTHONY WILLIAMS W60
~~EMERGENCY ROOM SENT~~
 RESIDENT CLERK

IMMEDIATE

PS/NO 10 DOWNING ST (2)
 PS/S OF S FOR DEFENCE
 MR J STEWART AUSD STAFF MOD
 PS/CHANCELLOR)
 MR ILETT) TREASURY
 MR LITTLER)
 SIR R ARMSTRONG)
 SIR M PALLISER) CABINET
 MR WADE-GERY) OFFICE
 MR FULLER SAPU/DIO)
 DIO)
 FRM 8 FOR MODUK C IN C FLEET

52

GRS 355

CONFIDENTIAL

DESKBY 141730Z

FM BRASILIA 141600Z MAY 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 163 OF 14 MAY

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK, BONN

YOUR TELNO 107 (NOT TO BONN): MESSAGE FROM BRAZILIAN PRESIDENT

1. THIS MESSAGE MUST HAVE BEEN RELAYED TO THE BRAZILIAN EMBASSY DIRECT FROM PRESIDENT FIGUEIREDO'S PARTY WHILE THEY WERE IN WASHINGTON. INDEED, I WOULD GUESS THAT IT OWES SOMETHING TO FIGUEIREDO'S DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT REAGAN IN WHICH, AS FORESHADOWED IN PAARA 4 OF MY TELNO 162, HE WILL CERTAINLY HAVE SPOKEN VERY PLAINLY OF HIS FEARS OF THE FALKLANDS CRISIS GETTING OUT OF HAND.

2. THIS MORNING'S JORNAL DO BRASIL REPORTS UNDER A WASHINGTON DATELINE THAT PRESIDENT FIGUEIREDO SENT A LETTER YESTERDAY TO CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT REQUESTING THAT HE SHOULD INTERCEDE WITH THE PRIME MINISTER IN ORDER TO INDUCE BRITAIN TO SHOW MODERATION IN THE FALKLANDS CONFLICT. THIS SEEMS AN UNCHARACTERISTICALLY

CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT REQUESTING THAT HE SHOULD INTERCEDE WITH THE PRIME MINISTER IN ORDER TO INDUCE BRITAIN TO SHOW MODERATION IN THE FALKLANDS CONFLICT. THIS SEEMS AN UNCHARACTERISTICALLY ROUNDABOUT WAY FOR FIGUEIREDO TO PUT HIS VIEWS TO THE PRIME MINISTER, ESPECIALLY IN THE LIGHT OF THE DIRECT MESSAGE IN TUR. THE BRAZILIAN PRESS MAY, AS USUAL, MERELY HAVE GOT HOLD OF THE WRONG END OF THE STICK.

3. ON THE SUBSTANCE OF PRESIDENT FIGUEIREDO'S MESSAGE, IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THE CONCERN IT VOICES IS DIRECTED PRIMARILY TO THE REPERCUSSIONS OF A FULL SCALE, AND PROBABLY BLOODY, BRITISH ONSLAUGHT ON THE FALKLAND ISLANDS, WHICH IS NOW SEEN HERE AS IN IMMINENT PROSPECT. GIVEN THAT THE BRAZILIANS ARE, GIVEN THEIR PORTUGUESE ORIGINS, MUCH LESS PRONE TO BE SUBMERGED BY WAVES OF HISPANO-AMERICAN SOLIDARITY THAN THE OTHER COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA, I SUGGEST THAT PRESIDENT FIGUEIREDO'S VIEW DESERVES TO BE GIVEN CONSIDERABLE WEIGHT. I NOTE FROM WASHINGTON TELNO 1731 THAT MR HAIG'S FRIENDLY WARNING, APPARENTLY ENDORSED BY PRESIDENT FIGUEIREDO, REFERRED TO THE REPERCUSSIONS OF AN ATTACK ON THE ARGENTINE MAINLAND AND NOT OF ONE ON THE ISLANDS THEMSELVES. OBVIOUSLY, AN ATTACK ON THE MAINLAND WOULD BE SEEN HERE, AS ELSEWHERE IN LATIN AMERICA, AS QUITE DIFFERENT IN KIND, AND MUCH MORE SERIOUS IN IMPORT, THAN AN ATTACK ON THE FALKLANDS.

4. AS TO A REPLY, I WOULD RECOMMEND THAT THE PRIME MINISTER BE ADVISED TO HOLD OFF REPLYING UNTIL NEW DEVELOPMENTS MAKE A FRESH MESSAGE OPPORTUNE.

HARDING

NNNN

SENT/RECD AT 141705Z ED//RD

SENT/RECD AT 141700Z ED//RD