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OO BRASILIA

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FM FCO 200935Z APRIL 1982  
IMMEDIATE TO BRASILIA  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 76 OF 20 APRIL  
INFO TO MODUK (FOR AUS AIR STAFF)  
PERSONAL FOR AMBASSADOR  
VICTOR RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS

1. YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT THE MOD ARE PLANNING RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS OVER THE SOUTH ATLANTIC AREA BY VICTOR TANKER AIRCRAFT WHICH ARE NOW STATIONED ON ASCENSION ISLAND. THIS OPERATION WILL REQUIRE MULTIPLE REFUELLING IN ORDER TO GIVE THE AIRCRAFT SUFFICIENT RANGE TO COVER A WIDE AREA.
2. THE CRUCIAL REFUELLING OPERATION WILL TAKE PLACE ON THE AIRCRAFT'S RETURN LEG TOWARDS ASCENSION. IF FOR ANY REASON THIS REFUELLING OPERATION IS NOT SUCCESSFUL, THE AIRCRAFT WOULD HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO DIVERT TO BRAZIL. THE MOD RECKON THE CHANCES OF THIS HAPPENING AS VERY REMOTE. BUT YOU SHOULD BE FOREWARNED.
3. WE DO NOT KNOW ON EXACTLY WHICH DATES THE FLIGHTS WILL TAKE PLACE. FURTHERMORE, SINCE THE TIMING WILL BE A MATTER FOR THE TASK FORCE COMMANDER, WE ARE UNLIKELY TO BE GIVEN ANY ADVANCE WARNING.
4. YOU SHOULD ON NO ACCOUNT TAKE ANY ACTION WITH THE BRAZILIAN AUTHORITIES AT YOUR END, BUT YOU MAY LIKE TO INFORM YOUR DA. IF FOR ANY REASON THE AIRCRAFT HAS TO DIVERT TO BRAZIL, THE CREW WILL BE BRIEFED TO EXPLAIN THAT THEY WERE ON A TRAINING FLIGHT FROM ASCENSION DURING WHICH THE AIRCRAFT HAD BECOME UNSERVICEABLE.

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LIMITED  
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HD/S AM D  
HD/PLANNING STAFF  
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PS/FUS

MR URE  
MR WRIGHT  
MR GILLMORE

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FM BRASILIA 20:2025Z APRIL 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

AND TO IMMEDIATE MODUK FOR AUS AIR STAFF

TELEGRAM NUMBER 116 OF 20 APRIL

8

YOUR TELNO 76: VICTOR RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS

1. THANK YOU FOR THIS WARNING.
2. IF THE AIRCRAFT HAD TO DIVERT TO BRAZIL, I EXPECT THAT THE AUTHORITIES WOULD ALLOW IT TO LAND. BUT THEY MIGHT OR MIGHT NOT DETAIN IT, DEPENDING ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE FALKLANDS DISPUTE AND BRAZIL'S POSTURE IN RELATION THERETO AT THE TIME.
3. IN ANY EVENT, I WOULD STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT THE CREW ARE BRIEFED TO COME AS CLEAN AS POSSIBLE TO THE BRAZILIAN AUTHORITIES.

WHY SHOULD THEY NOT, FOR INSTANCE, SAY THAT THEY HAVE BEEN ENGAGED IN A RECONNAISSANCE MISSION IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC AND HAD BEEN OBLIGED TO LAND DUE TO TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES? THE BRAZILIAN AUTHORITIES WOULD CERTAINLY INSIST ON SEARCHING THE AIRCRAFT AND WOULD FIND ANY PHOTOGRAPHIC AND OTHER EQUIPMENT IT WAS CARRYING.

4. SINCE THE LANDING OF SUCH AN UNUSUAL AIRCRAFT WOULD BE LIKELY TO BE SPOTTED BY THE PRESS, I RECOMMEND THAT THE CREW SHOULD BE BRIEFED TO DISCUSS WITH THE FAB AN AGREED PRESS LINE, WHICH MIGHT WELL BE THE ONE SUGGESTED IN THE LAST SENTENCE OF YOUR PARA 4.

HARDING

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