



*1) [unclear]
2) file
cc: Sales*

S E C R E T

OWG267 05/1701 125B3748

FOR CWG

IMMEDIATE 051545Z MAY 82

FROM COMMCEN FCO LONDON
TO MODUK

S E C R E T

SIC Z8G/AAA/U2J/19F

SECRET

DESKBY 051730Z MAY 82

FH BRITAIRAT BRASILIA 041545Z MAY 82
TO IMMEDIATE MODUK DESKBY 051730Z MAY 82

SECRET

SIC Z8G/AAA/U2J/19F

FROM BRITAIRAT BRASILIA. FOR DI 4. FOR INFORMATION D SALES 2.

OUR SIC U2J 011725Z MAY REFERS.

1. BRAZIL STILL APPEARS ONLY TO BE OFFERING ARGENTINA EMB 111 AIRCRAFT AND POSSIBLY SOME WEAPONS FROM AVIBRAS, THOUGH THIS LATTER REMAINS UNCONFIRMED. THE AIRCRAFT SALE IS DEFENDED ON COMMERCIAL GROUNDS. BRAZIL HAS BEEN TRYING TO INTEREST ARGENTINA IN ITS AIRCRAFT WITHOUT SUCCESS FOR SEVERAL YEARS AND IS NOW SEIZING THE OPPORTUNITY PRESENTED TO BREAK INTO THAT MARKET. THE POLITICAL DIVIDEND IN TERMS OF ARGENTINE GRATITUDE, THOUGH NEVER REFERRED TO, IS OBVIOUS. THE SALE IS CONSIDERED TO BE OF SUFFICIENT IMPORTANCE TO JUSTIFY TAKING IN-SERVICE AIRCRAFT AS NONE READILY AVAILABLE EX-EMERAER. EX-FAB XAVANTES ALSO REMAIN ON OFFER BUT THEIR USEFULNESS IN THE CURRENT SITUATION IS DOUBTFUL, AND IT IS NOT CLEAR IF ARGENTINA IS INTERESTED. OTHER POINTS AS FOLLOWS.

2(A). WEAPONS DELIVERY CAPABILITY. MIRAGE F5 AND XAVANTES PRACTISED INFREQUENTLY BY OUR STANDARDS MAINLY DUE TO PRACTICE WEAPONS/FUEL LIMITATIONS BUT EACH PILOT HAS OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT RANGE TWO OR THREE TIMES PER YEAR AND ACHIEVES REASONABLE RESULTS.

2(B). REASONABLE NIGHT/ALL WEATHER CAPABILITY GIVEN FLYING HOURS LIMITATION WHICH IS REFLECTED IN LACK OF NIGHT FLYING GENERALLY. FAB PILOTS DO NOT NORMALLY FLY DOWN TO OUR WORST

WEATHER CONDITIONS AND GENERALLY HAVE FAR LESS POOR WEATHER FLYING EXPERIENCE.

2(C). AIRCRAFT SERVICEABILITY TENDS TO BE GOOD GIVEN UTILISATION ETC.

(D). MOBILE RADAR HOLDING THOUGHT TO BE NON-EXISTENT. THIS
 WOULD CHANGE SOON BUT UNLIKELY IN TIME SCALE OF CURRENT SITUATION.

3(A). STATE OF TRAINING FOR WAR. REASONABLY EFFICIENT AND
 CAPABLE GIVEN LIMITATIONS IN RESPECT OF FLYING HOURS AND WEAPONS
 TRAINING BUT LACK OF OPERATIONAL EVALUATION SYSTEM AND LITTLE
 PRACTICAL EXERCISE TRAINING WOULD MEAN A MODEST WAR CAPABILITY.
 NOT BY NATURE AN AGGRESSIVE PEOPLE AND UNLIKELY TO BE SUCH A
 DANGEROUS OR DETERMINED ENEMY AS, SAY, THE ARGENTINES.

3(B). INTER-SERVICE CO-OPERATION. ON A MODEST SCALE ONLY.
 FEW JOINT-SERVICE EXERCISES BY OUR STANDARDS AND NORMALLY OF AN
 UNAMBITIOUS NATURE. TRADITIONAL RIVALRIES STILL INTERFERE.

4. FAB WOULD BE LOTH TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST BRITISH FORCES.

VAST MAJORITY APPEAR SO FAR TO BE BEHIND UK POSITION IN THIS
 CONFLICT.

5. TO AN EXTENT MIRAGE, F5 DEPENDENT ON SPARES FROM FRANCE
 AND US. THIS SUPPLY COULD BE TURNED OFF.

6. DETAILED REPORT IN FAST BAG TO AIR CDRE (INT).

HARDING
 BT

NNNN

DISTRIBUTION Z8G

C
 CBP 2 D Sales 1/2 ACTION (CYR 1 Res Clerk*)
 CAJ 1 AUS(Sales)
 CBP 2 D Mktg
 CAJ 1 DS 13
 CAJ 1 MD/HDS
 CBP 1 MDS 1

DISTRIBUTION UAA

C
 CYG 2 DIC ACTION (CYG 1 DISDO.)

DISTRIBUTION U2J

C
 CYG 1 DIC ACTION (CYG 1 DISDO.)

DISTRIBUTION 19F

C
 CXK 1 DSC(ROW) ACTION (CXK 1 DSC*)
 CYH 1 ACDS(s)
 CWP 1 ACNS(0)
 CXQ 1 ASD 2
 CW 1 AUS(D staff)