

GRS 150

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FM LISBON

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 399

OF 301039Z DECEMBER 86

INFO PRIORITY PARIS, BONN, MADRID

mb

YOUR TELNO 201 : SALE OF AIRBUS TO PORTUGAL.

1. THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE WAS DELIVERED TO THE PORTUGUESE PRIME MINISTER'S DIPLOMATIC ADVISER ON 24 DECEMBER. MARTINS DA CRUZ SAID THAT HE WOULD PASS IT ON IMMEDIATELY. (HE HAS SUBSEQUENTLY CONFIRMED THAT HE DID SO.) NO DECISION ON WHICH AIRCRAFT TO PURCHASE HAD YET BEEN TAKEN AND THE GOVERNMENT WAS STILL WAITING FOR AN INDICATION OF T A P'S PREFERENCE. THE GOVERNMENT WAS CONSCIOUS OF THE POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS, BUT TECHNICAL AND OPERATIONAL FACTORS WOULD WEIGH MOST HEAVILY. MARTINS DA CRUZ GAVE NO INDICATION OF WHEN THE FINAL DECISION WOULD BE TAKEN.

2. MARTINS DA CRUZ SAID THAT THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR HAD TELEPHONED EARLIER THAT MORNING. THE AMBASSADOR IS NOW ON LEAVE BUT THE CHARGE HAS RECEIVED NO MESSAGE FROM PARIS. MY GERMAN COLLEAGUE HAS BEEN ASKED TO PASS A MESSAGE TO PROFESSOR CAVACO SILVA FROM A GERMAN JUNIOR MINISTER (BONN TELNO 1117) BUT IS RECOMMENDING THAT THIS SHOULD ISSUE FROM THE CHANCELLOR.

SIMPSON ORLEBAR

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LPLNAN 3392

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