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Prime Minister.
To Mr
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Logan
Duty Clerk
3.12.82

3 December 1982

Dear John,

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Falklands: RAF Hercules Flights via
Brazil

The Prime Minister may wish to be aware that, following a good deal of delicate and patient work with the Brazilians, the Brazilian Government have granted clearance for a Hercules flight on Monday 6 December to stage at Porto Alegre on the way to Port Stanley. We propose to seek clearance for another flight the following week and, if all goes well, to step up this frequency after a few weeks.

It is vital that there should be no recurrence of the leaks that brought the earlier series of flights to an end. We have urged maximum discretion on all concerned - in Port Stanley and in Brasilia, as well as here. If there is a leak, we shall say that occasional staging flights by Hercules aircraft have been permitted at Brazilian airfields, in accordance with normal international practice; and that reciprocal rights are granted to aircraft of the Brazilian Air Force transitting the UK. But we very much hope that we shall not be called upon to deploy this line.

I am copying this to Nick Evans (MOD).

*Yours ever
John Holmes*

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

6 December 1982

Falklands: RAF Hercules Flights via Brazil

Thank you for your letter of 3 December. The Prime Minister has noted that the Brazilian Government have granted clearance for a Hercules flight to stage at Porto Alegre today on the way to Port Stanley and that you propose to seek clearance for another flight next week, thereafter stepping up the frequency if possible.

I am coping this letter to Nick Evans (Ministry of Defence).

A. J. COLES

John Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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