

SECRET

2 pps. 7L  
See under



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1  
Telephone 01-~~910 7022~~ 218 2111/3

MO 5/21

2nd June 1982

Prime Minister

A.P.C. 3/6

Dear John,

PERUVIAN AID TO ARGENTINA

Thank you for your letter of 1st June about the Peruvian proposal on the evacuation by their Air Force of Argentine wounded. The FCO are replying to Lima this afternoon, following consultation with MOD. The lines of their reply are as follows.

The arrangements for a Peruvian flight would be complicated but feasible. The fact is, however, that all the Argentine wounded have now been removed by helicopter from Goose Green and Darwin to the San Carlos area where they have been or are being embarked on our hospital ship SS Uganda prior to their transfer to the Bahia Paraiso in due course. Furthermore, although the Buffalo aircraft has a very short landing and take-off capability, the airstrip at Goose Green is not in a good state. We could not guarantee that it would be safe to land there; this is particularly so because of the large quantity of unexploded ordnance which, I gather, is littered around the airfield, both as a result of our attacks and Argentine activities before we captured the airfield.

In addition to these points which effectively rule out the Peruvian proposal, we have some reservations about Peruvian pilots familiarising themselves with the lie of the land,

\* ~~~~~ \*  
\* These reservations are not however sufficiently strong to outweigh the desirability of channelling the Peruvian wish to help in the direction of humanitarian aid. In this context it is being suggested to Peru that further humanitarian assistance may well be needed in due course and that the best means of providing it may be by ship rather than aircraft.

I am copying this letter to John Holmes (FCO)

\* ~ \* Passage deleted and  
retained under Section 3(4).  
C.W. Wayland

Yours ever  
D B OMAND

A J Coles Esq 23 April 2012

SECRET