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FM MODUK AIR

TO RBDWDFA/BRITISH EMBASSY BRAZILIA
INFO RBDWDFA/FCO LONDON

BT C O N F I D E N T I A L

SIC EWA

FCO LONDON (SOUTH AMERICAN DEPARTMENT)
FROM WEBSTER HEAD OF DS8 TO AIR ATTACHE
SUBJECT VULCAN DIVERSION 03 JUN 82

1 PD GALLANTRY CITATION FOR SQUADRON LEADER C N MCDOUGALL CMM
CAPTAIN OF RAF VULCAN WHICH DIVERTED TO RIO ON 03 JUN IS DUE TO BE
PUBLISHED IN LONDON ON MONDAY 11 OCT PD THIS CITATION WILL BE
INCLUDED AMONG OTHERS TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE LONDON GAZETTE AND WILL
COINCIDE WITH THE PARADE HERE ON 12 OCT PD CITATIONS WILL BE DRAWN
TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PRESS AND AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC PD SOME
COMMENT ON THEM IS THEREFORE PROBABLE PD

AB cas 3

THIS TELEGRAM

WAS NOT

2 PD CITATION FOR SQUADRON LEADER MCDOUGALL READS AS FOLLOWS CLN WHEN THE FALKLAND ISLAND CRISIS AROSE SQUADRON LEADER MCDOUGALL AND HIS CREW WERE EARMARKED FOR SPECIAL TRAINING FOR OPERATIONS IN THE

PAGE 2 RBDWC 1726 C O N F I D E N T I A L SOUTH ATLANTIC BUT COULD NOT BE FULLY CONVERTED IMMEDIATELY BECAUSE OF SHORTAGE OF IN-FLIGHT REFUELLING AIRCRAFT PD WHILE AWAITING CONVERSION SQUADRON LEADER MCDOUGALL MADE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE ENHANCEMENT OF THE VULCANS CAPABILITY WHEN HE CAPTAINED THE AIRCRAFT TEST FLYING NEW EXTERNAL WEAPONS MOUNTINGS AND FLEW THE FIRST FIRING OF THE ANTI-RADIATION MARTEL MISSILE PD SHORTLY AFTERWARDS HIS CREW DEPLOYED TO ASCENSION AND ON BOTH 31 MAY AND 03 JUN 82 HE FLEW OPERATIONAL SORTIES AGAINST TARGETS IN EAST FALKLAND ARMED WITH THE SHRIKE ANTI-RADIATION MISSILE PD THE FIRST SORTIE TOOK THE CREW WELL BEYOND THEIR PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE IN LONG DISTANCE FLIGHT AND IT WAS THE FIRST LIVE MISSILE FIRING BY A VULCAN IN A COMBAT ENVIRONMENT PD TO ACHIEVE ACCURATE DELIVERY OF THE WEAPON SQUADRON LEADER MCDOUGALL HAD TO FLY HIS AIRCRAFT WITH GREAT PRECISION IN A COMPLEX NIGHT MANOEUVRE PD BECAUSE OF THE SPEED WITH WHICH THE MISSILE WAS BROUGHT INTO SERVICE CMM THE CREW HAD HAD NO PREVIOUS PRACTICE BUT SQUADRON LEADER MCDOUGALLS EXCEPTIONAL SKILL AND DETERMINATION ENSURED COMPLETE ACCURACY IN PERFORMING THIS MANOEUVRE AND THE RADAR SHUT DOWN SHORTLY THEREAFTER CMM CONSISTENT WITH A SUCCESFUL HIT PD ON THE SECOND SORTIE CMM THE ENEMY THWARTED

PAGE 3 RBDWC 1726 C O N F I D E N T I A L SQUADRON LEADER MCDOUGALLS INITIAL ATTACKS BY TURNING OFF THE TARGET RADAR WHENEVER HE APPROACHED PD DESPITE HIS VERY LONG RANGE FROM BASE AND THE FACT THAT HIS FUEL RESERVES WERE CRITICAL CMM SQUADRON LEADER MCDOUGALL PERSISTED FOR MORE THAN 25 MINUTES IN HIS ATTEMPTS TO ACQUIRE A TARGET BY DESCENDING THE AIRCRAFT TOWARDS THE ENEMY DEFENCES PD EVENTUALLY CMM HE SUCCEEDED IN PROVOKING THE ENEMY INTO SWITCHING ON A RADAR WHICH WAS BRIEFED AS THE SECONDARY TARGET AND HE WAS THEN ABLE TO FIRE HIS MISSILES SUCCESS-FULLY AT THE TARGET PD THE CEW THEM MADE A SUCCESSFUL RENDEZVOUS WITH THE VICTOR TANKER ON THE RETURN JOURNEY TO ASCENSION ISLAND BUT THE REFUELLONG PROBE OF SQUADRON LEADER MCDOUGALLS AIRCRAFT BROKE AS HE WAS MAKING CONTACT CMM SO PREVENTING THE TRANSFER OF ANY FUEL PD THERE WAS NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO DIVERT THE AIRCRAFT TO BRAZIL AND SQUADRON LEADER MCDOUGALL SHOWED COURAGE AND CALMNESS OF THE HIGHEST ORDER IN PREPARING HIS AIRCRAFT AND CREW FOR THE LANDING TO AN UNKNOWN RECEPTION AT AN UNPLANNED FOREIGN AIR-BASE PD THROUGHOUT THIS PERIOD OF THE FLIGHT CMM HIS AIRCRAFT CAPTAINCY WAS FAULTLESS AND HE SHOWED THE ABILITY TO MAKE INSTANT DECISIONS IN THE FIRST EMERGENCY OF THIS KIND DURING THE SOUTH ATLANTIC HOSTILITIES PD HE WAS THUS LARGELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE

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EVENTUAL SAFE RETURN OF HIS AIRCRAFT AND CREW PD THROUGHOUT HIS

INVOLVEMENT IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC OPERATIONS SQUADRON LEADER

MCDOUGAL DISPLAYED QUALITIES OF LEADERSHIP AND COOLNESS WHICH WERE

A MAGNIFICENT EXAMPLE TO OTHERS PD HIS FEARLESSNESS UNDER

OPERATIONAL CONDITIONS CMM AND HIS ZEAL AND DOGGED DETERMINATION

THROUGH LONG HOURS OF A MOST DEMANING FLIGHT IN A POTENTIALLY

DANGEROUS ENVIRONMENT ARE THOROUGHLY DESERVING OF SIGNIFICANT

RECOGNITION PD THEREFORE CMM SQUADRON LEADER MCDOUGALL IS MOST

STRONGLY RECOMMENDED FOR THE AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING

CROSS

3 PD ABOVE HAS BEEN SEEN BY THE AMBASSADOR WHEN BRIEFED HERE BY MINISTRY OF DEFENCE ON O6 OCT BUT YOU SHOULD BE AWARE OF TEXT IN CASE DETAILS OF THE CITATION ARE PICKED UP BY THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT OR PRESS NEXT WEEK PD YOU SHOULD NOTE THE CITATION GIVES FULLER DETAILS THAN WE HAVE RELEASED SO FAR PD PLEASE REPORT PROMPTLY ANY LOCAL COMMENT ESPECIALLY IF IT IS ALLEGED WE WERE LESS THAN FRANK AT THETIME AND OF COURSE TAKE ACTION NECESSARY TO AVOID PROBLEMS WHICH MIGHT AFFECT FUTURE USE OF BRAZILIAN AIRFIELDS

4 PD THIS INFORMATION SHOULD OBVIOUSLY BE USED FOR DEFENSIVE

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PURPOSES ONLY AND NOT IN ANY CASE USED BEFORE PUBLICATION DATE
5 PD COPY OF THIS SIGNAL GOES BY BAG TO CONSULATE IN RIO
BT