

# DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

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15. SUMMARY:

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1. (C) The Royal Navy Squadron, Task Force 349, put to sea on the morning of 10 April 1969 with Brazilian Navy and press representatives on board. The ships had spent almost a week at Pier Maua in downtown RIO DE JANEIRO where they were open to inspection by various Brazilian Navy groups and technicians. A special display of Navy and maritime arms and equipment had been mounted on board the Navy Auxiliary ship LYNESS, including such items as a gas turbine and the SEACAT missile.

2. (C) There were about 30 Brazilian Navy observers on board HMS HAMPSHIRE for the at-sea demonstration. These included Brazilian Navy Rear Admirals FIGUEIREDO, MARIO COSTA, LOBO, and UZEDA. About ten younger officers were embarked in HMS JUNO, a Leander class

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frigate. No observers were in HMS ROTHESAY or the two auxiliaries OLWEN and LYNES, but a few officers were in the two submarines, including Jose Carlos COELHO de Souza (EN) and Captain Joao Baptista T. Gomes PERREIRA. RO was embarked in HMS HAMPSHIRE.

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3. (C) The demonstrations included firing of SEACAT missile (which hit the PTA target), gunnery exercises against surface target (actual ships with offset of 120), aerial gunnery against PTA, and underway replenishment and transfer-at-sea. Four fighter-bombers from the Brazilian Air Force came out for joint maneuvers and fired rockets at a towed target.
4. (C) The exercises were smartly conducted with no untoward happenings. (HMS JUNO did come within 5 feet of HAMPSHIRE while alongside, but recovered nicely. On board HAMPSHIRE a container of Hydrochloric Acid used for cleaning stills dumped into the Engine Room bilges, but was cleaned up without injury to anyone.) The luncheon and other refreshments served to guests was superb.
5. (C) The exercises lasted all day. Observers from the surface ships were returned to port at 1900, while those on the submarines were brought back at 2300. The Task Force then sailed for the U.K., having completed the voyage around South America with visits in various countries.

- COMMENT: (C) RO considered that, for the Royal Navy, the visit was quite successful. The purpose was obviously to sell British ships and equipment, and from this standpoint the Task Group put on a good show. RO heard comments from Brazilian submariners that the Oberon-class submarines were excellent in military characteristics, but were lacking in space and comfort for the crew. They are unaccustomed to berthing away from the submarine while it is in port. The classified brochures given to the Brazilian Navy were written in Portuguese, gave excellent descriptions of the ships, and were beautifully printed.
- (C) Vice Admiral ALCANTARA returned from the U.K. on 12 April 1969. He has signed the agreement for the purchase of two Oberon-class submarines. A commission of officials from the Economic and Finance departments of the Brazilian government will now visit the U.K. to complete financing arrangements.
- (C) HMS EXMOUTH is expected to visit BRAZIL in the near future to demonstrate its all gas-turbine engineering plant. This visit will continue the Royal Navy's efforts to sell its maritime products.

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