



Department of State

TELEGRAM

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classification

ACTION
POL
INFO

[Redacted]

CHRON
RF

O 311850Z AUG 69

[Redacted]

TO RUEOJFA/DIA
INFO RUEHC/DEPT OF STATE
RUCRJCS/OJCS
RULPAL/USCINCSO (J2)
RUEAOWD/OACSI
RULPAK/USARSO (G2)
RUESUZ/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
BT

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ [Redacted]

[Redacted]

AUG 31, 1969

ACTION COPY

ACTION TAKEN *SR*

FOIA(b) (3) - 10 USC 424 - DIA, NRO and NSA

1. (C) PRESIDENT COSTA E SILVA APPARENTLY SUFFERED CORONARY THROMBOSIS ABOARD AIRCRAFT EN ROUTE FROM BRASILIA TO RIO DE JANEIRO ON FRIDAY. REPORTS INDICATE MEDICAL SITUATION BECAME AGGRAVATED EARLY SATURDAY BUT THAT ACUTE CRISIS PHASE NOW PASSED AND DOCTORS MORE OPTIMISTIC FOR OUTLOOK. INDIVIDUAL'S CLOSE TO SCENE AT RIO'S LARANJEIRAS PALACE SAY ONLY THAT PRESIDENT NEEDS A LONG REST.
2. (C) SOURCE CLOSE TO MILITARY HOUSEHOLD CHIEF, GENERAL PORTELLA, SAYS THAT CABINET NOW MEETING TO EVALUATE SITUATION AND PLOT COURSE OF ACTION. INDICATIONS ARE THAT INSTITUTIONAL ACT OF SIXTY TO NINETY DAYS DURATION WILL BE PROMULGATED ANNOUNCING THAT EITHER A TRIUMVIRATE OF SERVICE MINISTERS WILL TAKE CHARGE OR THAT A SINGLE LEADER, PROBABLY ARMY MINISTER LYRA TAVARES, WILL TAKE UP THE REINS OF LEADERSHIP. SOURCE SAYS VICE PRESIDENT PEDRO ALEIXO HAS DECLINED TO TAKE OVER. SOURCE CLOSE TO MINISTER OF INTERIOR COSTA CAVALCANTI SAYS THAT PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF CABINET'S DECISION CAN BE EXPECTED SOON AFTER MEETING CLOSES. COSTA CAVALCANTI BELIEVES THAT EARLY ELECTION OF NEW PRESIDENT LIKELY.
3. (C) OFFICER'S OF SO-CALLED "CASTELLISTA" PERSUASION, INCLUDING EX-MINISTER OF WAR ADEMAR DE QUEIROZ AND LATE PRESIDENT'S NAVY CAPTAIN SON, PUSHING HARD FOR LEGAL SUCCESSION OF VICE PRESIDENT. CAPTAIN CASTELLO BRANCO THINKS, HOWEVER, THAT TRIUMVIRATE OF SERVICE MINISTER'S ALMOST CERTAIN.

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FORM FS-412
4-68

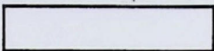
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4. (C) COL. COVAS OF GEN. PORTELLA'S STAFF PLAYING DOWN GRAVITY OF PRESIDENT'S ILLNESS AND EVERYONE AROUND PRESIDENT ENGAGED IN SAME EFFORT. THIS INTERPRETED BY BRAZILIAN SOURCE'S AS REFLECTING ONE OF TWO MOTIVATIONS: (1) A DESIRE TO HOLD ON TO POWER OR (2) A DESIRE TO HOLD LID ON TO AVOID UNDUE POPULAR APPREHENSION.

COMMENT: (C) ALL SOURCES CONFIDENT THAT A TYPICAL BRAZILIAN "JEITO" (SOLUTION) WILL BE FOUND. VICE PRESIDENT ALEIXO'S ALLEGED DECLINATION OF LEADERSHIP PROBABLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO FEELING THAT TIME NOT YET RIPE FOR CIVILIAN HEAD OF GOVERNMENT, AND THE VICE PRESIDENT'S OVER-IDENTIFICATION WITH LYRA TAVARES.

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