

TELEGRAM

Foreign Service of the
United States of America

INCOMING

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

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Control: RIO 149

Recd: JAN 8, 1969
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R 072215Z JAN 69
FM AMEMBASSY RIO DE JANEIRO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6240
INFO RUESUZ/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 3115
RUESEI/AMCONSUL RECIFE 1956
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C O N F I D E N T I A L RIO DE JANEIRO 149

1. CORREIO DA MANHA (RIO DE JANEIRO DAILY NEWSPAPER) OF JANUARY 7, WHICH WAS SEIZED BEFORE DISTRIBUTION, CONTAINED AMONG OTHER THINGS AN ARTICLE ABOUT A LETTER REPORTEDLY WRITTEN BY COSTA E SILVA TO PRESIDENT-ELECT NIXON TO BE DELIVERED SOMETIME PRIOR TO JANUARY 20.

2. LETTER ATTEMPTS EXPLAIN REASONS FOR IA-5 OF DECEMBER 13 AND SUBSEQUENT RELATED ACTIONS. COSTA E SILVA REQUESTS RESUMPTION OF U.S. ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE. LETTER CONCLUDES WITH PROMISE THAT BRAZ EXCESSES OF RECENT WEEKS, WHICH HAD CAUSED UNFAVORABLE PUBLIC OPINION IN U.S. AND OTHER FREE COUNTRIES, WOULD BE TERMINATED. ACCORDING TO ARTICLE, LETTER TO BE DELIVERED BY VILAR DE QUEIROZ, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO FINANCE MINISTER DELFIM NETO.

3. FONOFF SOURCE HAS TOLD US OF PLAN TO SEND VILAR TO SEEK MEETING WITH PRESIDENT-ELECT NIXON. WHILE THIS REPORT MAY INDICATE A PLAN BEING CONSIDERED, TONE OF LETTER SEEMS IMPROBABLE TO US SINCE WE DOUBT MILITARY ACTIVISTS WOULD LOCK AT THIS STAGE WITH FAVOR UPON ANY COURSE OF ACTION WHICH WOULD APPEAR TO WEAKEN IA-5 AND HUMBLE BRAZIL TO FOREIGN POWER. ON OTHER HAND IT ENTIRELY POSSIBLE GOB WILL SEEK EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO OPEN DIALOGUE WITH PRESIDENT-ELECT ON BASIS "NEW STATE" APPROACH. TUTHILL
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