



Department of State

TELEGRAM

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TO AMEMBASSY RIO DE JANEIRO PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

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SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR GIBSON'S INITIAL CALL ON THE SECRETARY

1. FOLLOWING IS UNCLEARED, FYI ONLY, NOFORN AND SUBJECT TO REVISION UPON REVIEW:

2. AMB GIBSON, ACCOMPANIED BY MINISTER SA ALMEIDA, MADE INITIAL CALL ON THE SECRETARY THIS AFTERNOON (FEBRUARY 14). ACTING CHIEF OF PROTOCOL CONGER AND KUBISCH ALSO PRESENT. GIBSON PRESENTED COPIES OF CREDENTIALS, ORIGINALS OF WHICH ARE TO BE PRESENTED TO PRESIDENT WHEN THAT CALL IS MADE. HE ALSO GAVE SECRETARY ADVANCE COPY OF PERSONAL LETTER FROM PRESIDENT COSTA E SILVA TO PRESIDENT NIXON (CONTENTS OF WHICH WERE ALONG GENERAL LINES EARLIER CONVEYED TO BELTON IN RIO).

3. GIBSON TOOK OCCASION TO SUMMARIZE FOR SECRETARY RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN BRAZIL. HE REFERRED TO NEAR ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CHAOS THAT PRECEDED GOULART'S OUSTER IN 1964 AND SUMMARIZED SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS MADE BY CASTELLO BRANCO AND COSTA E SILVA GOVERNMENTS, PUTTING BEST POSSIBLE FACE ON EVENTS LEADING UP TO IAGS AND ITS AFTERMATH. HE SAID THAT COSTA E SILVA WAS COMMITTED TO BRAZIL'S DEMOCRATIC EVOLUTION AND THAT COUNTRY TODAY COULD PERHAPS BEST BE DESCRIBED AS "DICTATORSHIP WITHOUT A DICTATOR." STRESSING HISTORIC FRIENDLY TIES BETWEEN OUR

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TWO COUNTRIES AND THEIR IMPORTANCE FOR PEACE AND PROGRESS TO HEMISPHERE, GIBSON ASKED FOR SECRETARY'S SYMPATHETIC UNDERSTANDING OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND CURRENT SITUATION IN BRAZIL.

4. THE SECRETARY TOOK NOTE OF PRESIDENTIAL LETTER AND FOLLOWED GIBSON'S ORAL PRESENTATION WITH CLOSEST ATTENTION, MAKING NO SUBSTANTIVE COMMENT ON EITHER. IN CONVEYING A WARM WELCOME TO GIBSON, SECRETARY SAID THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD FRIENDLIEST OF FEELINGS TOWARD LATIN AMERICA AND HAD BEEN DISCUSSING OUR RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICA ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS IN RECENT DAYS.

5. FOLLOWING THE MEETING WITH SECRETARY, GIBSON MADE SEVERAL OTHER CALLS IN DEPARTMENT, OF WHICH ONLY SUBSTANTIVE ONE, RELATED TO PERU, BEING REPORTED IN SEPTEL.

GP-3. ROGERS

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