



Department of State

TELEGRAM

17

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA POL 23-8

ACTION
POL
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RF

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
Classification

SAO PAULO 911
SEPT 17, 1969

R 162007Z SEP 69
FM AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
TO RUESUA/AMEMBASSY RIO DE JANEIRO 2346
INFO RUESUZ/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 578
BT
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SAO PAULO 911

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND53155

SUBJECT: FURTHER REACTION AMBASSADOR'S KIDNAPPING
REF : SAO PAULO'S 903

1. WE NOTE GROWING SEKPTICISM IN SAO PAULO POLITICAL AND JOURNALISTIC CIRCLES ABOUT GOB CLAIMS THAT IT MAKING PROGRESS IN IDENTIFYING OR ARRESTING AMBASSADOR'S KIDNAPPERS.
2. WHEN ASKED WHY THEY DOUBT GOB CLAIMS, PEOPLE CITE CONFLICTING STORIES WHICH POLICE AND MILITARY AUTHORITIES HAVE GIVEN PRESS CONCERNING CASE. OTHERS SIMPLY REPLY THEY DO NOT TRUST GOB TO TELL TRUTH, I.E., IT HAS A CREDIBILITY GAP.
3. ANOTHER REASON CITED BY SOME OBSERVERS AS GIVING THEM CAUSE TO DOUBT GOB CLAIMS OF PROGRESS IS OBSERVABLE TENDENCY FOR RIGHT-WING ELEMENTS TO BLAME U.S. FOR KIDNAPPING. AS REPORTED REFTEL SOME HAVE ACCUSED AMBASSADOR OF BEING NEGLIGENT ABOUT HIS SECURITY. HARDLINE FOURTH AIR ZONE COMMANDER, BRIGADIER JOSE DA SILVA VAZ, REPORTEDLY TOLD SAO PAULO CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOSE MARIA MARIN ON SEPTEMBER 14 THAT CIA HAD ENGINEERED KIDNAPPING. CONGEN AND USIS OFFICERS HAD ALREADY HEARD THIS ACCUSTATION BUT HAD NOT TAKEN IT SERIOUSLY. HOWEVER, REOCCURANCE OF SAME THEME FROM DIFFERENT SOURCES HAS LENT SERIOUSNESS TO CHARGE. REASONS GIVEN TO SUPPORT VIEW THAT U.S. ORDERED KIDNAPPING HAVE BEEN VARIED. ONE VERSION IS THAT U.S. WANTED DEMORALIZE GOB TO MAKE IT MORE AMENABLE U.S. PRESSURES ON SUCH MATTERS AS SOLUBLE COFFEE, ETC. ANOTHER VERSION WAS THAT U.S. WAS TRYING INGRATIATE ITSELF WITH STUDENT LEFT; THEREFORE, WE OBTAINED RELEASE OF STUDENTS.
4. CONGEN SOURCES INTERPRET RIGHT-WING MILITARY CHARGES AGAINST U.S. AS SURE SIGN THAT AUTHORITIES ARE NOT MAKING GOOD PROGRESS IN SOLVING CASE. THEREFORE, THEY VENTING FRUSTRATION BY BLAMING U.S. SOURCES REFER TO PARALLEL SITUATION LAST YEAR WHEN POLICE THEMSELVES WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR STORIES THAT CAPTAIN CHARLES CHANDLER HAD BEEN CIA AGENT. GP-4.

CORRIGAN
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Authority NW 43245
By MP/Amw, NARA, Date 27 May 2015