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INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

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Authority NN095900

1. PRESIDENT CASTELLO BRANCO TOUCHED ON VARIOUS TOPICS DESCRIBED BELOW IN CONVERSATIONS AT DINNER FEBRUARY 20 AND LUNCH FEB. 22 IN BRASILIA WITH (AND AS REPORTED BY) DEFENSE ATTACHE BRIGADIER GENERAL VERNON WALTERS. (OTHER TOPICS COVERED IN SEPTEL.)
2. PRESIDENT MORE RETICENT ABOUT POLITICS THAN USUAL ON BOTH OCCASIONS. FROM HIS RELUCTANCE TO TALK AND SOME KNOWLEDGE OF PRESIDENT DAO DERIVED PERSONAL REPEAT PERSONAL IMPRESSION

PAGE TWO RUESUA 537 C O N F I D E N T I A L
 PRESIDENT FEELS COSTA E SILVA MAY NOT BE QUALIFIED FOR JOB OF PRESIDENT, YET HE CANNOT TURN HIM ASIDE WITHOUT RISK OF GRAVE SPLIT IN ARMY AND ARENA, AND HAS NOT QUITE MADE UP HIS MIND WHAT HE MUST DO. PRESIDENT DID EXPRESS REGRET FORMER PRES. DUTRA, BECAUSE OF SLIGHT SENILITY, ALLOWING HIS NAME BE USED BY OPPOSITION IN CONNECTION COSTA E SILVA CANDIDACY. HIS DOCTOR, WHO WAS PRESENT, SAID PRESIDENT WAS CALMEST WHEN HE HAD MADE UP HIS MIND WHAT HE SHOULD DO OR AT TOUGHEST MOMENT OF A CRISIS. (PRES DID NOT TAKE USUAL COFFEE ON EITHER OCCASION.)

3. PRESIDENT SAID WARMIN COSTA E SILVA HAD BEEN VERY TIRED ON ARRIVAL BUT WAS RESTING AND WOULD BE UP TO SEE HIM SHORTLY. HE SAID COSTA E SILVA HAD HAD SLIGHT HEART DIFFICULTIES ON SEVERAL PREVIOUS OCCASIONS. HE SPOKE OF WARMIN IN FRIENDLY AND SOLICITOUS WAY.

4. PRESIDENT COMMENTED CRYPTICALLY SOME MILITARY (AMAURY KRUEL AND JUSTINO ALVES BASTOS) WERE UNHAPPY OVER RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS FOR GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATES, BUT GAVE NO INDICATION WHAT IF ANY

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Pres 1882
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