

TELEGRAM

Foreign Service of the
United States of America

INCOMING AMEMBASSY OFFICE BRASILIA

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
Classification

Control:

Recd: MAY 4, 1966
10:00 AM

R 032000Z
FM AEMBASSY RIODEJANEIRO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2434
INFO ZEN/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 319
RUESUP/AMCONSUL SAOPAULO 217
ZEN/AMCONSUL RECIFE UNN
ZEN/AMCONSUL BELEM UNN
ZEN/UMCONSUL BELOHORIZONTE
ZEN/CURITIBA UNN
ZEN/AMCONSUL PORTOALEGRE
ZEN/AMCONSUL SALVADOC UNN
STATS GRNC

BT
CONFIDENTIAL MAY 3

SUBJCT: PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION

1. OPPOSITION PARTY MDB APPEARS IN THROES OF DECIDING WHETHER OR NOT TO RUN CANDIDATE IN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION, WITH GENERAL AMAURY KRUEL CURRE TLY RUNNING BLUFF AS POTENTIAL MDB CANDIDATE TO TRY TO SQUEEZE GOVERNMENT ON ELECTORAL DOMICILE ISSUE.
2. MDB PRESENTLY SPLIT INTO SEVERAL SCHOOLS OF THOUGHT WITH RESPECT PRESIDENTIAL RACE. ONE SCHOOL FAVORS RUNNING CANDIDATE BUT FROM CIVILIAN SIDE TO HIGHLIGHT MILITARY ASPECT COSTA E SILVA CANDIDACY. SECOND SCHOOL WOULD REFUSE PARTICIPATE IN ANY WAY IN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORAL PROCESS IN EFFORT DEMONSTRATE THAT IT UNDEMOCRATIC FARCE. THIRD SCHOOL URGES PARTY HOLD SELF READY TO SUPPORT COSTA E SILVA ON CONDITION HE COMMIT GOVERNMENT TO RETURN TO CONSTITUTIONAL NORMALCY. THERE ALSO OBVIOUSLY IS FRICTION THAT WOULD ACCEPT GENERAL KRUEL IF HE MADE SELF AVAILABLE.
3. DURING PAST SEVERAL DAYS, THERE HAS BEEN VERITABLE CIRCUS OVER MDB ALLEGED OVERTURES TO SECOND ARMY COMMANDER GENERWL KRUEL TO BE ITS CANDIDATE. DESPITE DENIALS AND COUNTER-DENIALS ON PART ALL PARTIES CONNCERNED, THERE APPEARS BE SOME FIRE UNDER SMOKE. GENERAL KRUEL IS PROBABLY MOST IMPORTANT MILITARY FIGURE IN COUNTRZ SHOWING INTEREST IN RUNNING FOR PRESIDENT ON MDB TICKET. (GENERAL MOURAO FILHO HAS ANNOUNCED AVAILABILITY, BUT HE LACKS PRESTIGE OF ACTIVE COMMMAND.) AT SAME TIME, KRUEL

Pol-14

-1020-JPC

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
Classification

REPRODUCTION FROM THIS COPY
IS PROHIBITED UNLESS "UNCLASSIFIED."

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND53155

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
Classification

Control:

Recd:

PAGE TWO - RIO TEL 319 - MAY 4.

STUBBORNLY PERSISTS IN EFFORTS TO SECURE REVISION OF TWO-YEAR
ELECTORAL DOMICILE FOR GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATES TO CLEAR PATH
FOR HIS CANDIDACY GOVERNORSHIP SAO PAULO.99

4. EMBAUSY HAS IMPRESSION THESE TWO FACTS CONNECTED AND THAT
GENERAL KRUEL IS IN EFFECT HOLDING OUT THREAT OF CAUSING
DIVISION WITHIN ARMED FORCES BY RUNNING ON MDB TICKET IF GOVERN-
~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~
MENT DOES NOT YIELD IN ELECTORAL DOMICILE ISSUE. SINCE KRUEL
KNOWS HE CANNOT WIN PRESIDENCY WITHOUT PROVOKING SERIOUS SPLIT

IN MILITARY, WHICH UNLIKELY, AND HE UNQUESTIONABLY PREFERS SAO
PAULO GOVERNORSHIP, HE AND MDB SEEM BE COLLUING (LATTER PERHAPS
SIMPLY AS EXPLORATORY, PROBING OPERATION TO SEE IF ANYTHING CAN
BE STIRRED UP) IN RUNNING A BLUFF ON ADMINISTRATIVE HEMBASSY
ESTIMATES ADMINISTRATION WILL CALL BLUFF BY DEFEATING PASSAGE OF
MDB-SPONSORED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT NOW BEFORE CONGRESS
WHICH WOULD EXEMPT MILITARY COMMANDERS (AND OTHERS) FROM ELECTORIAL
DOMICILE REQUIREMENT. IF GOVERNMENT CAVED ON THIS ISSUE, WOULD
NOT ONLY KNOWS SEVERAL MILITARY CANDIDATES WOULD OPEN
DOOR TO HOST OF MILITARY CANDIDATES AT VARIOUS LEVELS THROUGHOUT
COUNTRY. THAT FACTION OF MDB WHICH INTERESTED IN KRUEL CANDIDACY
APPARENTLY BELIEVES HE IS STRONGEST CONTENDER PARTY COULD GET
TO MAKE BEST POSSIBLE, IF UNSUCCESSFUL, SHOW AT PRESIDENTIAL
ELECTION. PARTY SHOULD SOON DECIDE WHETHER IT WILL ADOPT THIS
TATIC OR SOME OTHER AT OCTOBER 3 ELECTION.

GP-4

~~XXX~~ RAINE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classification

REPRODUCTION FROM THIS COPY
IS PROHIBITED UNLESS "UNCLASSIFIED."

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND53155