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BRASILIA

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

7101925

LIMDIS

Memorandum of Conversation

Approved in S 2/10/71 Part IV of VI

DATE: February 1, 1971

TIME: 9:45 a.m.

PLACE: The Secretary's Office

SUBJECT: Human Rights Question

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MADE BY CMS 2/10/71

PARTICIPANTS: United States

The Secretary
Assistant Secretary Charles A. Meyer
Robert W. Dean, Brazil Country Director

Foreign

Mr. Mario Gibson Barboza, Brazilian Foreign Minister
Mr. Celson Diniz, Chargé d'Affaires, Brazilian Embassy

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Secretary Rogers referred to allegations in the press and some circles of public opinion in the United States of instances of repression and harsh police methods in Brazil. Although he recognized that this was an internal Brazilian matter, it continued to cause concern among some circles in the United States and affected adversely Brazil's image. The Secretary asked whether the GOB might take some steps to improve this situation. Gibson extended an invitation to the Secretary to visit Brazil and to see his country at first hand. He said that the manner in which he would be received, the speeches made and the functions arranged would indicate the friendship between the two countries and also show the direction the Government of Brazil was taking.

Another response to the image problem, according to Gibson, was the reply which the GOB has prepared and submitted in response to the query of the OAS Human Rights Commission about allegations of abuse and torture in Brazil which had come to the Commission's

ARA/BR:RWDean:mjf

(Drafting Office and Officer)

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attention. After much soul-searching the GOB had decided to reply to the Human Rights Commission even though it had not replied (on the grounds of sovereignty) to an earlier request from the International Red Cross. He said the reply was a thorough one, based on inquiries and research done throughout Brazil. This reply would either be accepted by the OAS Human Rights Commission and filed, or presented to the OAS General Assembly for further examination. In either case Gibson felt that Brazil's reply to the OAS was an important step in dealing with the image problem.

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