



Department of State

TELEGRAM

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA POL-15

ACTION
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RF
FI

SECRET
Classification

PORTO ALEGRE 244

SEPT 23, 1969

R 222044Z SEP 69
FM AMCONSUL PORTO ALEGRE
TO ZEN/AMEMBASSY RIO DE JANEIRO 1126
INFO RUESUZ/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 123
BT
SECRET PORTO ALEGRE 244

ACTION COPY

ACTION TAKEN *Sc*

SUBJ: MEDICI AND SUCCESSION

DECLASSIFIED
Authority *NND53155*

REF: PORTO ALEGRE 242

1. GEN MEDICI DID IN FACT RETURN PORTO ALEGRE SEPTEMBER 17 AS REPORTED REFTTEL. HOWEVER DID NOT RETURN RIO NEXT DAY. HE HAD LENGTHY MEETING WITH GOV PERRACHI WEDNESDAY AND MET WITH STAFF THURSDAY. FRIDAY HAD MEETING LASTING NEARLY ALL DAY WITH GENERAL OFFICERS ENTIRE THIRD ARMY AREA. GOV PERRACHI ALSO ATTENDED THIS MEETING LATTER STAGES. SATURDAY MEDICI ONCE AGAIN CLOSETED GOV LATTERS RESIDENCE AND MET OTHER CIVILIAN LEADERS ESTABLISHMENT AS WELL. NONE THESE MEETINGS PUBLICIZED AND NO INFO AVAILABLE SUBSTANCE DISCUSSIONS. MEDICI DUE RETURN RIO TODAY.

2. MEDICI'S SON DINED CONSULAR RESIDENCE THURSDAY NIGHT. INFO THIS AND OTHER SOURCES SUGGESTS MEDICI REMAINS RELUCTANT ACCEPT PRES DUE CONCERN HEALTH AND EVEN MORE UNWILLINGNESS SUPPLANT HIS OLD FRIEND COSTA E SILVA ON ANY BUT MOST HONORABLE AID ABOVE BOARD TERMS. AT MINIMUM THIS WOULD INCLUDE FORMAL RESIGNATION BY PRES AND AT BEST WOULD INCLUDE FORMAL DESIGNATION MEDICI AS PREFERRED SUCCESSOR. EVEN THEN MEDICI WOULD PREFER ASSUMING OFFICE SOME KIND CARETAKER ROLE RATHER THAN FULL TERM. DESPITE EVIDENT RELUCTANCE WHICH SOME ENEMIES CONSIDER PROTESTING TOO MUCH INFORMED OBSERVERS HERE THINK MEDICI STILL CANDIDATE BEST CHANCE ASSEMBLING REQUIRED BACKING ARMED FORCES AND ACQUIESENCE REMAINDER.

3. COMMENT: FROM WHAT I HAVE LEARNED OF MEDICI I BELIEVE HE WOULD ACCEPT PRES IF PRESSED ON HIM AND MECHANICS ACCEPT-ABLE HIS SCRUPLES. HE IS HUMAN AND NOT WITHOUT EITHER SHREWD-NESS OR AMBITION. HOWEVER HE BELIEVES DEEPLY UNITY ARMED FORCES

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FILES WITHIN (5) DAYS.



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ONLY DEFENSE OF COUNTRY AGAINST INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL PRESSURES THREATENING IT AND THIS IN TURN DEPENDS RESPECT HIERARCHICAL PRINCIPLE. HENCE HE LIKELY PUSH FOR GEISEL WHO SENIOR TO HIM BEFORE TAKING STEPS ADVANCE OWN CAUSE. HE WOULD ACCEPT MAINLY PRESERVE UNITY HE FEELS INDISPENSABLE IF NO OTHER CANDIDATE ABLE DO SO.

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