

TELEGRAM

Foreign Service of the
United States of America

AMERICAN EMBASSY GOING AmEmbassy Office Brasilia
BRASILIA, D.F.

Pal 13-2

Jul 3 6 23 PM '68
Charge:

CONFIDENTIAL
Classification

Control: 3026

Date: July 3, 1968
6:23 PM

ACTION: SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 862

INFO: AMCONSUL ~~RECEIVED~~ RECIFE 235

AMEMBASSY RIO DE JANEIRO 1073

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO ~~235~~ 424

SUBJECT

BRASILIA 3026

SUBJ: President Meets With Demonstration
Committee: Creates Educational
Reform Working Group

REF: Rio's 9527

1. President Costa e Silva held one hour meeting with members so-called "Committee of One Hundred Thousand" July 2. In separate act same day signed decree establishing university reform working group. Committee--composed of priest, professor, writer and two students--presented President with four demands (Para 1 reftel). In meeting with President only student restaurant and prisoners discussed. Costa e Silva maintained matter of student restaurant a closed question-- it would not reopen. On matter of releasing those

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held by authorities President apparently offered free those who not yet indicted by military court system. Said, however, those already under jurisdiction of military court system would not be freed since he would not interfere in judicial process. This unacceptable to committee who wanted all released. President also agreed that right of students to demonstrate without police repression would be respected. President said would not act under threat that July 4 demonstration would be held if he failed meet demands. Following meeting student members of committee stated July 4 demonstration in Rio would be held unless all prisoners released by midnight July 3.

2. Prior President's meeting with Committee, Guanabara governor Negrão de Lima met with Costa e Silva concerning Rio student situation. Following meeting Negrão told press that President agreed with his position that July 4 demonstration should be permitted. Press reported that Negrão appeared

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worried over upcoming demonstration and, according press, left no doubt that he believed army would dominate situation if violence erupted.

3. Also on July 2 President signed decree establishing eleven member working group to study university reform. Committee, which has two student members, will be chaired by Min Education Tarso Dutra. Has thirty days to complete studies and make recommendations.

4. Comment. (A) President has taken two positive steps to pacify demonstrators by meeting with committee and ~~re~~establishing educational reform working group. However, Rio July 4 demonstration will probably take place since President will not release all prisoners. President's actions will not mollify those students urging demonstration but may satisfy more moderate elements. Turnout for July 4 Rio demonstration will demonstrate degree of success President has had in attempting show he ready

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meet reasonable student demands. (B) Marcus Vinicius Morais, member of President's Civil Household, in conversation with EmbOffs July 3 was outraged over press treatment of President's meeting with committee. Said he present at meeting and maintained President had been very receptive to committee's demands. Said that ironically meeting got most favorable treatment--from administration viewpoint--from leftwing Ultima Hora. Contrasted this with usually responsible Jornal do Brasil front page headline which read "Costa e Silva hears student committee and rejects requests."

(C) Morais' statements interesting and surprising. He one of younger, more moderate members of President's staff. His reaction an indication of atmosphere surrounding Costa e Silva at time when some counselling state of siege--which includes press censorship power.

GP-3

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