

TELEGRAM

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Foreign Service of the
United States of America

ACTION
POL-2
CHRON
RF

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

POL 13-2

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Classification

Control: RIO 9593

Recd: JULY 4, 1968
12:33 PM

O P 032345Z JUL 68
FM AMEMBASSY RIO DE JANEIRO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2764
RUECJFA/DIA WASHDC
INFO RUESUZ/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY 1950
RUESUP/AMCONSUL SAO PAULO 1303
GUESEI/AMCONSUL RECIFE 1385
BULPAL/CINCSO
STATE GRNC

ACTION COPY

ACTION TAKEN.....

Notes
AO

BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L RIO DE JANEIRO 9593

CINCSO FOR POLAD

JOINT STATE/DEFENSE/USIS MESSAGE

DEPT PASS ASST SECRETARY OLIVER

SUBJECT: STUDENT SITUATION

REF: RIO 9382

SUMMARY: CONSIDERABLE APPREHENSION IN GUANABARA THAT VIOLENCE MAY OCCUR DURING STUDENT DEMONSTRATION SCHEDULED FOR JULY 4. THOUGH OPINIONS VARY WIDELY, CONSENSUS IS THAT POSSIBILITY FOR SERIOUS TROUBLE TOMORROW GREATER THAN ON JUNE 26. NONMILITARY SOURCES WARN EMBASSY MAY BE AMONGST TARGETS FOR STUDENT AGITATORS.

1. RELIABLE, WELL PLACED ARMY SOURCES INFORMED ARMA THAT TURNOUT IN STREETS TOMORROW WILL PROBABLY BE CONSIDERABLY SMALLER THAN JUNE 26. CONCERNED, HOWEVER, THAT RELATIVELY POOR SHOWING AND RESULTING STUDENT FRUSTRATION MAY PROMOTE VIOLENCE WHICH IN TURN WOULD COMMIT POLICE TO ACTION. SHOULD POLICE PROVE UNABLE TO COPE, ARMY WILL INTERVENE, IN WHICH CASE STATE OF SIEGE WOULD BE DECLARED. ARMA TOLD CERTAIN MILITARY UNITS ARE IN HIGH STATE OF READINESS. PORTION OF GUARDS BATTALION WILL PROTECT ARMY MINISTRY.

2. GUANABARA STATE POLICE SOURCE REPORT ALL UNITS TOTALING 32,000 MEN IN READINESS. POLICE EXPECT SMALLER CROWD OF DEMONSTRATORS THAN ON JUNE 26 THOUGH GREATER EXPECTATION VIOLENCE. INFORMED EMBOFF THAT SMALL VIOLENT FACTION HAS PLAN ATTACK AMERICAN EMBASSY,

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INVITE POLICE PURSUIT, MERGE BACK AMONG OTHER MARCHERS AND THUS LURE POLICE INTO ACTION AGAINST CROWD. ACCORDING POLICE, THIS PLAN AIMS UNITE CROWD AGAINST AUTHORITIES. POLICE FURTHER SAID STUDENTS TRYING TO BROADEN PROTEST FROM EDUCATIONAL FOCUS TO INCLUDE SALARY PROBLEM, LAND REFORM AND CENSORSHIP, IN HOPE ATTRACTING MORE BACKING FROM WORKERS, TEACHERS, INTELLECTUALS AND ARTISTS.

3. MOST ALARMIST ASSESSMENT COMING TO EMBASSY ATTENTION THUS FAR WAS FROM PROFESSOR CANDIDO MENDES, HEAD OF CANDIDO MENDES FACULTIES. DURING LUNCHEON AT EMBASSY JULY 3 HE TOLD OFFICERS HE HAD JUST COME FROM NOON MEETING WITH EDMIN TARSO DUTRA WHO CONVENED ALL RIO RECTORS AND INSTITUTION HEADS. HE SAID DUTRA ESTIMATED 30,000 WILL MARCH TOMORROW, AS CONTRASTED WITH POLICE PROJECTION OF 20,000 WHICH MENDES ALSO HAD HEARD. DUTRA REPORTED TO HAVE REVEALED GOVERNMENT BELIEF THAT TOMORROWS EVENTS WILL BE IN HANDS OF AGITATORS WHO WANT VIOLENCE AND THEREFORE GOVERNMENT PREPARED USE ARMY. ACCORDING MENDES, DUTRA APPEALED TO EDUCATORS CLOSE ALL THEIR FACILITIES TOMORROW TO DEPRIVE STUDENTS OF HIDING PLACE AND FORCE THEM INTO OPEN. ACCORDING TO MENDES, WHEN DUTRA DID NOT SUPPLY INFORMATION ON REPRESSIVE MEASURES SECURITY FORCES PLAN TO USE, EDUCATORS REFUSED COMPLY.

4. ALLUDING TO STUDENT SOURCES, MENDES SAID STUDENTS DESIRE SET EXAMPLE TOMORROW BY DESTRUCTION. SAID THEY PLAN TO MAKE ALL OUT EFFORT, SPARING PUBLIC MONUMENTS AND GOB OFFICIAL BUILDING EXCEPT MINISTRY OF EDUCATION. AMONG PRINCIPLE TARGETS WILL BE AMERICAN AND FRENCH EMBASSIES (LATTER IN RESPONSE TO GAULLIST ELECTORAL VICTORY). WHERE THEY HOPE TO CAUSE MAXIMUM DAMAGE. HE HE SAID STUDENTS TOMORROW PLAN TO DEVELOP UNIQUE, BRAZILIAN URBAN GUERRILLA APPROACH, UTILIZING PEOPLE IN DOWNTOWN BUILDINGS TO HURL HEAVY OBJECTS INTO STREETS ON SECURITY FORCES. ACCORDING TO MENDES. STUDENTS BUYING MARBLES TO USE AGAINST CAVALRY, AMMONIA AND ANTI-TEARGAS CHEMICALS AND POTATOES WHICH THEY WILL LOAD WITH NAILS TO USE AS WEAPONS. HE ALLEGED STUDENTS PLAN TO KIDNAP POLICEMEN AND ANY HIGH MILITARY MEN THEY FIND. ALSO MENTIONED SUDDEN RETURN LACERDA AS ADDITIONAL FACTOR ALARMING TO GOVERNMENT.

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5. MENDES TOLD EMBOFFS ARMY PLANS TO PRESENT BIG DETERRENT FORCE ON STREETS TO REINFORCE POLICE AND PREVENT DISORDERS. HE REFERRED TO 5,000 TROOPS, TANKS AND CAVALRY.

6. MEMDES ALSO EXPRESSED VIEWS ON JULY 2 MEETING STUDENTS AND W COMMITTEE FORMED DURING JUNE 26 RALLY (REFTEL) WITH PRESIDENT COSTA E SILVA IN BRASILIA. THIS EVENT REPORTED SEPARATELY BY BRASILIA. ACCORDING MENDES, MEETING WAS FIASCO FOR PRESIDENT. SAID COMMITTEE REPORTED IN RIO THEY BROKE OFF SESSION TELLING PRESIDENT THEY DID NOT TRUST OR BELIEVE HIM AND COULD ACCOMPLISH NOTHING WITH HIM. ACCORDING PRESS REPORTS, COMMITTEE ON ARRIVAL BACK IN RIO ANNOUNCED STRUGGLE WOULD BE CONTINUED. ON JULY 2 GENERAL ASSEMBLIES REPORTEDLY WERE HELD AT ALL GUANABARA UNIVERSITIES AND STUDENTS RESOLVED PARTICIPATE IN JULY 4 MARCH IF DEMANDS (REFTEL) NOT MET BY MIDNIGHT JULY 3. MOTHERS GROUP AND ARTISTS AND INTELLECTUALS ALSO MET JULY 2 AND DECIDED DEMONSTRATE TOMORROW. CLERGY TO MEET JULY 3.

7. COMMENT: DEVELOPMENTS TOMORROW LIKELY PROVIDE STRONG INDICATOR FOR FUTURE POSTURE OF REGIME. IF DEMONSTRATION FIZZLES WITHOUT VIOLENCE, STUDENT MOVEMENT WILL BE DAMPENED AT LEAST TEMPORARILY AND PRESIDENT WILL GAIN BREATHER FOR ADDITIONAL MANEUVER. SHOULD DEMONSTRATION LEADERS MUSTER IMPRESSIVE TURNOUT AND/OR VIOLENCE MANIFEST SELF, THEN PRESSURES ON REGIME WILL MULTIPLY AND PRESIDENT'S MILITARY SUPPORT COULD BE IN JEOPARDY, AS GOOD MANY MILITARY ALREADY CONVINCED PRESIDENTIAL INACTION HARMING IMAGE OF REGIME AND CONSEQUENTLY OF ARMED FORCES. TUTHILL BT

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