

# TELEGRAM

INCOMING

BRASILIA

Foreign Service of the  
United States of America

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ACTION  
POL-2  
INFO  
FILES

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Classification

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R 291455Z MAY 68  
FM AMEMBASSY RIO DE JANEIRO  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 1939  
INFO RUESUZ/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 1808  
STATE GRNC

Recd: 29MAY68  
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ACTION COPY

BT  
CONFIDENTIAL RIO DE JANEIRO 8398

ACTION TAKEN.....

LIMDIS

FOR SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

*Handwritten:*  
Distribution:  
P/E  
*[Signature]*  
NL

1. IN MY JUDGMENT THERE IS A PARALLEL BETWEEN BRAZIL AND FRANCE IN THE COMMUNICATIONS GAP THAT EXISTS BETWEEN THE GOB AND VIRTUALLY EVERY CLASS EXCEPT THE MILITARY, AND TO LESSER EXTENT THE ECONOMIC ELITE. OUR OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF EXTENT THIS GAP AND ITS FUTURE IMPLICATIONS IS CONTAINED IN OUR RECENT CASP (A-687), OUR AIRGRAM ON BRAZILIAN YOUTH (A-722) AND OUR ROUNDUP FOLLOWING THE RECENT STUDENT DISORDERS (RIO'S 6911). I BELIEVE THAT IT REPRESENTS THE MOST SERIOUS LONG-RANGE POLITICAL PROBLEM IN BRAZIL TODAY.

2. THE GOB HAS THE PHYSICAL CAPABILITY TO DEAL WITH ANY ANTICIPATED DEMONSTRATIONS. STUDENTS, WHILE VOCAL AND GENERALLY RESPONSIVE TO DEMAGOGUERY, HAVE NOT IN THE PAST BEEN INCLINED TO UNITE OR TO SACRIFICE THEMSELVES EVEN IN THE NAME OF MUCH NEEDED AND LONG SOUGHT REFORMS. NOR HAVE THEY REPRESENTED A SERIOUS SECURITY THREAT IN RECENT YEARS. FRANCE HAS A TRADITION OF POPULAR UPRISINGS; BRAZIL'S UPHEAVALS HAVE BEEN RELATIVELY NON-VIOLENT AND HAVE COME THROUGH MILITARY ACTION.

3. NEVERTHELESS THE DISORDERS IN FRANCE AND THE U.S. ARE UNLIKELY TO BE LOST ON BRAZILIAN YOUTH AND LABOR, AND AGITATION HERE CAN BE EXPECTED TO INCREASE INTERMITTENTLY IN TEMPO AND PROBABLY IN INTENSITY. IF IT STARTS TO GET OUT OF HAND IT WILL MEET WITH A STRONG RESPONSE. LOGIC AND HISTORY WOULD SEEM TO INDICATE THAT THIS RESPONSE WOULD BE SUFFICIENT, BUT RECENT EVENTS IN FRANCE HAVE DEMONSTRATED THAT LOGIC AT LEAST MAY BE AN INADEQUATE GUIDELINE.

4. IN BRAZIL SOME OF THE SAME TENDENCIES FOUND IN FRANCE EXIST; MANY OTHERS DO NOT. THIS SITUATION HAS HAD AND WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE NOT ONLY MY PERSONAL ATTENTION BUT THE ATTENTION OF EVERY MEMBER OF MY STAFF.

GP-3. TUTHILL

BT  
1255/RM

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