

Foreign Service of the United States of America

AmEmbassy Brasilia

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> Date: June 22, 1968 8:59 PM

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ACTION : SecState Wash DC 843 IMMEDIATE

INFO Amembassy RIO DE JANEIRO 1051 PRIORITY

> AmConsul RECIFE 219 PRIORITY

AmConsul São PAULO 407 PRIORITY

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

BRASILIA 2928

Reaction to Student Situation SUBJECT:

Rio 9144; São Paulo 1920; Brasilia 2927 REF

Although many major figures absent from Brasilia 1. over weekend, soundings of congressmen and officials of executive branch indicate that government reacting calmly thus far to current student demonstrations. At present there no suggestion that drastic measures being contemplated by federal authorities. General opinion is that if demonstrations remain at appe present level they will continue be dealt with by police. Troops will be used only if situation gets out of hand.

In conversation with EmbOffs there was noticeable reaction from congressmen of both parties against what they felt to be police brutality in Rio June 20/21 and

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DKanes/HSOkun/pf 6/22/68

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overreaction in Brasilia June 22. Pictures of studentpolice clashes in Rio appearing in today's press were
widely cited as proof that Guanabara police action was
excessive. This opinion shared even by normally progovernment figures such as Chamber of Deputies president
Jose Bonifacio.

3. On more speculative plane, some sources noted world-wide nature of students protests and said they viewed current Brazilian events as merely one more manifestation of this phenomenon.

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