

TELEGRAM

INCOMING

Foreign Service of the
United States of America

AMEMBASSY BRASII IA

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Classification

Control: RIO 14591

Recd: DEC 24, 1968
12:11 PM

R 232145Z DEC 68
FM AMEMBASSY RIO DE JANEIRO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6005
RUEOJFA/DIA
INFO RUESUZ/AMEMBASSY BRASIIA 3028
RUESEI/AMCONSUL RECIFE 1891
RUESUP/AMCONSUL SAO PAULO 2217
RULPAL/USCINCSO
STATE GRNC
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C O N F I D E N T I A L RIO DE JANEIRO 14591

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JOINT EMBASSY/DEFENSE MESSAGE

SUBJECT: CURRENT POLITICAL CRISIS

1. OVER WEEKEND LT. COLONEL ERNANI D'AGUIAR, CHIEF OF PUBLIC RELATIONS IN THE PRESIDENCY, TOLD ARMA THE FOLLOWING:

A. PRESIDENT WAS DEEPLY DISTURBED TO HAVING TO RESORT TO IA-5 AND PLANS TO APPLY IT MODERATELY.

B. THE CASSATION LIST WILL BE PUBLISHED THE FIRST WEEK IN JANUARY AND WILL INCLUDE THE NAMES OF SEVEN DEPUTIES AND TWO SENATORS.

C. CONGRESS WILL DEFINITELY REOPEN WITHIN THREE TO SIX MONTHS.

D. CENSORSHIP WILL BE EASED BUT ALL PUBLISHERS WILL BE WARNED THAT THE PRESS LAW WILL BE RIGOROUSLY APPLIED IN THE FUTURE. EDITIONS WHICH VIOLATE PRESS LAW WILL BE SEIZED AND OTHER ECONOMIC SANCTIONS APPLIED AGAINST NEWSPAPERS WHICH DO NOT COOPERATE.

E. A CONFIDENTIAL PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY SHOWS A FAVORABLE REACTION TO IA-5.

2. COMMENT: D'AGUIAR REPRESENTS MORE MODERATE MILITARY ELEMENT REFERRED TO IN RIO 14526, PARA 4. IRRESPECTIVE OF WHETHER HIS PREDICTIONS WILL COME TO PASS, FACT THAT HE IS ABLE TO MAKE THEM WITH CONSIDERABLE CONFIDENCE IS HOPEFUL SIGN THESE MODERATE ELEMENTS NOW MAKING THEIR VIEWS FELT WITH SOME SUCCESS. TUTHILL
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