

# TELEGRAM

Foreign Service of the  
United States of America

INCOMING

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA POI-18

SECRET

Classification

Control: PORTO ALEGRE 115

ACTION

POL

CHRON

RF

R 172130Z MAR 69

FM AMCONSUL PORTO ALEGRE

TO RUESUA/AMEMBASSY RIO DE JANEIRO 1009

INFO RUESUZ/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 99

STATE GRNC

BT

S E C R E T PORTO ALEGRE 115

Recd: MAR 28, 1969

ACTION COPY

ACTION TAKEN SL

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND53155

SUBJ: COMMAND CHANGES AND PRECIDENTIAL SUCCESSION

1. DURING LENGTHY CONVERSATION MY HOME LAST NIGHT GENERAL CARLOS ALBERTO FONTOURA, CHIEF STAFF THIRD ARMY, SAID FOL:

2. GEN GARASTAZU MEDICI, PRESENT CHIEF SNI, WILL ASSUME COMMAND THIRD ARMY NEAR FUTURE (CONFIRMED TODAYS PRESS)

3. FONTOURA WILL ASSUME COMMAND SNI.

4. MEDICI WILL REMAIN COMMAND THIRD ARMY ONLY EIGHT OR TEN MONTHS AFTER WHICH HE WILL BECOME MINISTER OF WAR.

5. MEDICI WILL THEN SUCCEED PRES COSTA E SILVA PRESIDENCY 1970.

6. ON LEAVING THIRD ARMY BRAGA WILL BECOME CHIEF PERSONNEL (ALSO CONFIRMED TODAYS PRESS) WITH JOB KEEPING OFFICER CORPS IN LINE DURING NEXT TWO YEARS.

7. I ASKED EXPLICITLY IF ANY CHANCE PRESIDENT MIGHT CHOOSE EXTEND TERM OFFICE. FONTOURA REPLIED NO. SAID THIS NOT IN PRESIDENTS NATURE UNLESS NEED APPEARED OVERWHELMING. WITH MEDICI AS HEIR APPARENT THERE WOULD BE NO NEED.

8. COMMENT ABOVE STATED AS DEFINITE PROGRAM AND NOT PERSONAL SPECULATION PROBABILITIES. THOUGH FONTOURA NOT EXPLICIT I GAINED IMPRESSION EXISTENCE DEFINITE GROUP CONTAINING AT MINIMUM PRESIDENT, GEN JAIME PORTELLA, MEDICI, BRAGA, AND FONTOURA. PROBABLY OTHERS AS WELL. ALSO HAD IMPRESSION THEY THINK THEY HAVE ALL POWER NEEDED PUT ABOVE PROGRAM INTO EFFECT.

9. ABOVE APPEARS BE PARTIAL CONFIRMATION RIO'S FILED NO HBR-6503 DTD 19 MARCH.

HEWITT

BT

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN EVALUATED

AND IS CLASSIFIED SECRET UNLESS INDICATED OTHERWISE

Classification (S) DAYS.