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Def 12-5 Brazil



Department of State

TELEGRAM

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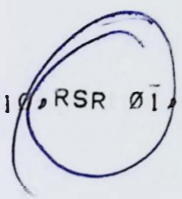
SECRET 831

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ACTION ARA 16

INFO GPM 04, SS 20, INR 07, CIAE 00, NSA 02, NSC 10, RSR 01, RSC 01, /061

R 090045Z AUG 68  
FM AMEMBASSY RIO DE JANEIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3499  
INFO DOD  
USCINCSO  
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Rio 10682  
8/9/68

SECRET RIO DE JANEIRO 10682

1. COMUSMILGP HAS REFERRED TO CINCSO REQUEST FROM BRAZILIAN ARMY TO PURCHASE ON EMERGENCY BASIS GAS MASKS, TEAR GAS, AND COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT. BRAZILIAN ARMY ALSO INTERESTED IN OBTAINING CERTAIN OTHER EQUIPMENT TO BE USED IN RIOT CONTROL TRAINING. COMUSMILGP REPORTS LOCAL SUPPLIES INADEQUATE MEET PRESENTLY FORESEEABLE CONTINGENCIES.

2. I HAVE DISCUSSED THIS REQUEST IN DETAIL WITH COMUSMILGP AND BELIEVE IT IN OVERALL USG INTEREST TO FURNISH THIS MATERIAL AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE. FOR GOB TO PURCHASE GAS MASKS, TEAR GAS AND COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT THROUGH COMMERCIAL CHANNELS WOULD ENTAIL DELIVERIES TOO LATE TO MEET PRESENT NEEDS. MY ENDORSEMENT BASED ON ASSUMPTION END USE TEAR GAS CONTAINERS CANNOT BE IDENTIFIED AS HAVING BEEN USG PROPERTY AND THAT GAS MASKS, TEAR GAS AND COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT WILL BE PAID FOR BY GOB.

3. THERE OBVIOUS POLITICAL RISKS INVOLVED IN FURNISHING THIS EQUIPMENT BUT UNMARKED CANISTERS AND UNOBSTRUSIVE DELIVERY SHOULD HELP MINIMIZE THESE. THERE EXISTS IN BRAZIL A REAL POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER STUDENT AGITATION IN NEAR FUTURE WHICH, WHETHER WE LIKE IT OR NOT, WILL BE MET BY FIRM MEASURES. POLITICAL RISKS WE RUN ARE OUTWEIGHED BY IMPORTANCE OF INSURING THAT SECURITY FORCES HAVE PROPER RIOT CONTROL EQUIPMENT. IF THEY DO NOT THERE IS DANGER THEY COULD RESORT TO CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS WHICH WOULD IN TURN SIMPLY AGGRAVATE SITUATION. TUTHILL

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SECRET

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Authority NND 969000