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United States of America

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Date: October 17, 1966  
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2. Notwithstanding police disclaimer, MDB deputies consider detention of Andrade as warning to unseated deputies not to participate in Chamber activities. In reply, four of the five deposed opposition deputies have spent weekend in Congress building accompanied by alternating teams of fellow deputies. Opposition expects to have sufficient number deputies present to permit afternoon session October 17, at which deposed deputies prepared to take floor.

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3. Opposition is interpreting phrase in Chamber president Cardoso's Oct. 15 statement to effect that depositions would have to be ratified by Chamber "according to Constitution" to mean two-thirds majority, or 272 favorable votes. Since only 253 deputies in ARENA, Chamber will not recognize depositions. According to press Oct. 17, Cardoso intended that affected deputies continue in Chamber until end of legislative term (January 21), but agreeing that executive decrees would have effect of prohibiting their reelection on Nov. 15, thus removing them from political scene. According this report, Cardoso felt his position represented workable compromise between need for independence of Congress and Revolution's need to purge undesirable elements.

4. Comment: Assuming deposed deputies are recognized by chair at next session of Chamber, various alternatives open to Government, e.g.: (A) Accept Cardoso's "compromise" and take no action. This highly unlikely since would be tacit acceptance of legislature's right to review executive's deposition decree. (B) Arrest deputies if they attempt exercise former rights. Problem here would be sanctity of Congress should unseated deputies continue take refuge there. (C) Order recess of Congress until end of term.

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This would entail decreeing new constitution as well as other important legislation such as administrative reform and federal budget. Executive presumably would prefer taking steps against individual congressmen justifiable under Revolutionary legislation, rather than move against Congress as whole. There no definite indication as yet, however, as to what Government's reaction will be.

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