

TELEGRAM

Foreign Service of the
United States of America

INCOMING

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

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Control: RIO 377

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FM AMEMBASSY RIO DE JANEIRO
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C O N F I D E N T I A L RIO DE JANEIRO 377

REF: RIO 14446, DECEMBER 18, 1968

1. PRESIDENT'S OFFICE JANUARY 14 PUBLISHED EXCHANGE OF MESSAGES BETWEEN COSTA E SILVA AND GROUP OF ARENA SENATORS WHO PROTESTED AGAINST INSTITUTIONAL ACT IN TELEGRAM OF DECEMBER 14. IN TELEGRAM SENATORS SAID THEY DISAGREED WITH IA-5 AS SOLUTION ADOPTED BY EXECUTIVE. DECLARING ADHERENCE TO DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES AND SUPPORT FOR CONSTITUTION AS SATISFACTORY EMBODIMENT OF IDEAS OF 1964, THEY TERMED "POLITICAL RETROGRESSION" UNJUSTIFIABLE. SENATORS AFFIRMED CERTAINTY THAT STABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT OF BRAZIL CAN BE ASSURED ONLY BY PREVALENCE OF LEGAL AND SOCIAL VALUES OF STATE BASED ON LAW AND TOLD PRESIDENT HE COULD COUNT ON THEIR SUPPORT IF SUCH VALUES RESPECTED.

2. IN LENGTHY REPLY COSTA E SILVA SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THEIR DISAGREEMENT BUT BLAMED LACK OF "POLITICAL-PARTY SUPPORT" FOR EXECUTIVE FOR CREATING THE CRITICAL SITUATION WHICH LED HIM TO DECIDE ON IA-5. SAID HIS AIM WAS ABOVE ALL TO PRESERVE PUBLIC TRANQUILITY AND ASSURE PERMANENCE OF REVOLUTION, THREATENED WITH DETERIORATION OF ITS FOUNDATIONS BY "INCOMPREHENSION" OF THOSE WHO HAD DUTY TO PROVIDE EXECUTIVE WITH BEST CONDITIONS FOR WORK AND SECURITY. PRESIDENT CLAIMED HE ALWAYS ATTEMPTED TO "HARMONIZE WITH DIGNITY" POLITICAL SECTOR AND OTHER SECTORS DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR ADVENT OF REVOLUTION. "I CRITICIZED MY PARTY COLLEAGUES, APPEALED TO RESPONSIBLE FRIENDS AND POLITICIANS AND ALMOST IMploRED SUPPORT OF MY PARTY FOR PRESERVATION OF EVOLUTIONARY REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS WHICH TENDED NATURALLY TOWARD PREVALENCE OF LEGAL AND SOCIAL VALUES OF STATE BASED ON LAW...THIS EVOLUTIONARY PROCESS WAS DISTORTED BY INCOMPREHENSION OF THOSE WHO PERHAPS DID NOT SINCERELY DESIRE STATE BASED ON LAW." WENT ON TO ASCRIBE SUSPENSION OF EVOLUTIONARY PROCESS TO LACK OF POLITICAL

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SUPPORT AND VERITABLE HOSTILITY OF PARTY. DECLARED THAT PREVALENCE OF LEGAL AND SOCIAL VALUES ONLY EFFECTIVELY VALID WITHOUT DEMORALIZATION AND DISCREDITING OF ARMED FORCES OF NATION--FAIRHFUL GUARDIANS OF NATIONAL SECURITY, STABILITY AND STRENGTHENING OF MUCH DESIRED STATE BASED ON LAW. CONCLUDED BY ASSURING SENATORS THAT "STABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT OF BRAZIL ARE PERFECTLY AND RESOLUTELY ASSURED BY IA-5."

2. COMMENT: AS IN HIS NEW YEAR'S ADDRESS COSTA E SILVA THREW ENTIRE ONUS FOR IA-5 ON CIVILIAN POLITICIANS AND ARENA PARTY IN EFFECT CHARGING THEM IN SELF-RIGHTEOUS AND UNYIELDING TERMS WITH INSINCERITY AND BETRAYAL OF THEIR DUTIES. ON OTHER HAND HE INVESTED ARMED FORCES WITH ALL THE VIRTUES, EQUATING ANY CRITICISM OF THEM WITH UNDERMINING FOUNDATIONS OF NATION. TONE AND ATTITUDES ADOPTED BY COSTA E SILVA CLEARLY DEMONSTRATE THAT DIALOGUE BETWEEN POLITICIANS AND MILITARY AT PRESENT TIME BOTH IMPOSSIBLE AND NOT DESIRED BY GOVERNMENT. PRESIDENT'S POSTURE NOT ENCOURAGING IN TERMS EARLY REOPENING CONGRESS OR REVIVAL CIVILIAN PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS. GP-3. BELTON
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