

TELEGRAM

Foreign Service of the
United States of America

OUTGOING

Amembassy Office BRASILIA 184 215

CONFIDENTIAL

Charge: Embassy

Classification

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ACTION: Secstate WASHINGTON 184

Date: March 31, 1966

INFO: Amembassy RIO DE JANEIRO 215

1:52 p.m.

1. Archbishop of Brasilia (and archbishop over military chaplains and church affairs in Brazilian Armed Forces) Dom José Newton (protect source) told Emboff March 31 in strictest confidence that had visit this week from emissary of military commander Brasilia requesting Dom Newton officiate Thanksgiving Mass March 31 to celebrate 2nd anniversary Brazilian Revolution. Archbishop states he asked that invitation not be extended to save him embarrassment refusal. Dom Newton states told emissary (army colonel) he could not participate in public ceremony honoring Revolution when the present Government was against the Catholic Church, its bishops and its clergy, when its economic policies were causing everyday hardships for the general population, and when the government failed to provide adequate schools and education, etc.

2. Dom Newton told Emboff he convinced Government intended use his celebration of Thanksgiving Mass as attempt show Catholic Church supporting Revolution. Dom Newton, who opponent of present regime from its very inception, believes Brazilian Government may try take some action against him but he says he does not care as he knows he has support of general public.

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