



Department of State

POL 29

TELEGRAM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Classification

JUNE 14, 1969

| To: | Actn | Inf | Init |
|-------|------|-----|------|
| PO | | ✓ | |
| DPO | | | |
| POL | 1 | | N |
| POL/R | | ✓ | |
| ECON | | ✓ | |
| CONS | | | |
| ADMIN | | | |
| USAID | | | |
| USIS | | ✓ | |
| PC | | | |
| FILE | ✓ | ✓ | 2 |

Action taken:

File

FROM: RIO 4647 JUN 13

ACTION STATE
INFO BRASILIA SAO PAULO RECIFE USCINCSO

SUBJECT: ARREST BELO HORIZONE PRIESTS

REF: RIO 4616

1. CONSULATE BELO HORIZONTE REPORTS 220 PRIESTS MET JUNE 12 WITH ARCHBISHOP, BISHOP AND AUXILIARY BISHOP TO DISCUSS PROBLEM CREATED BY RECENT ARREST FATHER ANTONIO AND THREE (NOT TWO, AS EARLIER REPORTED) PARISHIONERS. SOME FAVORED ENERGETIC NOTE OF PROTEST BUT MAJORITY OPPOSED, APPARENTLY LARGELY ON GROUNDS SUCH NOTE WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED MUCH PUBLICITY. ARCHBISHOP DOM JOAO RESENDE DA COSTA MADE ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL, WHICH UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED, THAT THERE BE READ NEXT SUNDAY IN ALL CHURCHES STATEMENT INFORMING CATHOLICS OF "ONE MORE EPISODE IN PERIOD OF SUFFERING THROUGH WHICH CHURCH PASSING IN BELO HORIZONTE."

2. REPORT ALSO MADE BY PRIEST JUST RETURNED FROM RECIFE AND FORTALEZA ON CHURCH SITUATION THERE, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO RECENT MURDER OF RECIFE PRIEST. BELO CONSULATE HAS NO INFORMATION RE SUBSTANCE REPORT.

ELLIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Classification