

TELEGRAM

INCOMING AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

Foreign Service of the
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FM AMEMBASSY RIO DE JANEIRO
TO RUEHFO/USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY
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SUBJECT: RIO TV COMMENTARIES ON NIXON SPEECH

1. RIO'S TWO LEADING TV STATIONS GLOBO AND TUPI CARRIED SPEECH LIVE BY SATELLITE, AND EACH STATION FOLLOWED WITH DISCUSSIONS BY NOTED BRAZILIAN PUBLIC FIGURES AND JOURNALISTS. WITHOUT EXCEPTION, COMMENTATORS EXPRESSED VARYING DEGREES OF SATISFACTION AND PRAISE FOR NIXON APPROACH. MAJOR CAUTIONARY NOTE WAS THAT UNDER U.S. SYSTEM WHILE PRESIDENT PROPOSES, IT IS CONGRESS WHICH DISPOSES, PARTICULARLY ON ECONOMIC MEASURES.

2. IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING SPEECH, TV GLOBO (CHANNEL 4) RAN 45-MINUTE PANEL PROGRAM. PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED VASCO LEITAO DA CUNHA, FORMER AMBASSADOR TO US; ROBERTO CAMPOS, FORMER BRAZILIAN PLANNING MINISTER; LUIZ ALBERTO BAHIA, PRESS SECRETARY TO GOVERNOR OF GUANABARA. ANIMATED DISCUSSION, FAVORABLE TO NIXON APPROACH AND PROPOSALS, INCLUDED FOLLOWING MAIN POINTS:

A. VASCO LEITAO DA CUNHA: PRAISED "OPTIMISTIC SPEECH" AND "CONTINUING GENEROSITY OF U.S. FOREIGN AID PROGRAMS," BUT SAID "IT WOULD REQUIRE CRYSTAL BALL TO PREDICT HOW MUCH OF NIXON ECONOMIC PROPOSALS CONGRESS WILL IMPLEMENT." IN US DEMOCRACY CONGRESSIONAL VOTES FAITHFULLY REFLECT GRASS-ROOTS OPINION IN CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS. NOT CERTAIN HOW MUCH PRESIDENT NIXON CAN IMPLEMENT ON HIS OWN AND HOW MUCH WILL REST WITH CONGRESS, BUT HOPEFUL THAT CONGRESS WILL RESPOND POSITIVELY. PLEASED THAT NIXON HAS DROPPED OLD US "PROPENSITY FOR INSISTING ON US-STYLE DEMOCRACY IN LATIN AMERICA."

B. ROBERTO CAMPOS: PRESIDENT NIXON DESERVES ENORMOUS CREDIT FOR HIS PROPOSALS TO REDUCE IMPORT BARRIERS AND TO UNTIE U.S. LOANS. IT IS "A NOBLE PROPOSAL". BUT UNDER U.S. SYSTEM, CONGRESS WILL HAVE THE LAST WORD. JUST AS LATIN AMERICANS THEMSELVES ARE AM-BIVALENT ABOUT DEMOCRACY, U.S. POLICY SWINGS BETWEEN "EVANGELISM" AND "PRAGMATISM" WITH RESPECT TO DEMOCRACY IN LATIN AMERICA.

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NIXON'S PRAGMATISM REFLECTS UNDERSTANDING THAT "CONVENTIONAL POLITICAL DEMOCRACY" IN LATIN AMERICA, GIVEN IMMENSITY OF AREA'S PROBLEMS, MAY BE TOO SLOW. TOUGH DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN PROBLEMS NOT YET SOLVED BY US HAVE MADE US MORE CONSCIOUS OF ITS LIMITATIONS AND LESS SURE THAT OWN POLITICAL SYSTEM ALWAYS APPROPRIATE FOR EXPORT. THUS THE COMMENDABLE NEW NOTE OF "HUMILITY" IN NIXON SPEECH. ON US PRIVATE INVESTMENT, LATAM OPINION HAS BEEN AMBIVALENT, EVEN TO EXTENT OF "WANTING INVESTMENTS BUT NOT INVESTORS, WHICH IS CHILDISH ATTITUDE." LATIN AMERICA NEEDS PRIVATE FOREIGN INVESTMENT AND "MUST MAKE UP ITS MIND ACCORDINGLY".

C. LUIZ BAHIA: "NIXON'S POINTS ON ECONOMIC MEASURES WERE EXCELLENT, BUT HE SAID LITTLE ABOUT SOCIAL OR HUMAN ASPIRATIONS." ALLIANCE FOR PROGRESS NOT DEAD, THOUGH NIXON HAS CHANGED ITS STYLE AND EMPHASIS. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT IS JUST AS IMPORTANT AS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN LATIN AMERICA. THE CHARTER OF PUNTA DEL ESTE WAS ABSOLUTELY RIGHT IN GIVING EMPHASIS TO POLITICAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ALONGSIDE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. "THIS IS STILL A PACT AND WE SHOULD STILL FOLLOW IT."

3. ON TV TUPI, IN COMMENTARY FOLLOWING NIXON SPEECH, OCTAVIO BONFIM SAID SPEECH REFLECTED MANY THEMES FROM "CONSENSUS OF VINA DEL MAR" AND WOULD PLEASE BRAZILIAN FOREIGN OFFICE AND OTHER LATAM CHANCELLORIES. US AID NEEDED BUT LATIN AMERICANS MUST REALIZE THEIR PROBLEMS ROOTED LOCALLY AND CAN BE SOLVED IN LAST ANALYSIS ONLY BY OWN EFFORTS. NIXON HAS INVITED LATIN AMERICA TO DIALOGUE, NOW UP TO LATAM TO RESPOND. NOBODY CAN PREDICT HOW FAR US CONGRESS WILL GO ALONG WITH NIXON PROPOSALS.

4. TV TUPI PROGRAM "PERSPECTIVA" JUST BEFORE NIXON SPEECH RAN COMMENTARY SAYING LATAM GOVERNMENTS WELCOMED ROCKEFELLER MISSION, AND "NIXON'S ATTITUDE PROVES HE WANTS TO DO THE RIGHT THING."

5. PRESS REACTION REPORTED SEPTEL.

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