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FROM: RIO 10754 MAY 8

MAY 9, 1967

ACTION DEPT INFO ROME BRASILIA SAO PAULO RECIFE

LEFTWING DAILY ULTIMA HORA HEADLINES IN MAY 8 AFTERNOON EDITION QUOTE STERILIZATION - ATTEMPTED SUBORNATION OF BISHOPS CONFIRMED UNQUOTE. FRONT-PAGE STORY CONTINUES QUOTE CALLING IT INNER QUOTE AN INSOLENCE END INNER-DOM FERNANDO GOMES, ARCHBISHOP OF GOIANIA YESTER-DAY CONFIRMED AT APARECIDA (MEETING OF COUNCIL BRAZILIAN BISHOPS) ATTEMPT TO SUBORN BRAZILIAN BISHOPS CARRIED OUT IN ROME BY USAID. PROPOSAL ACCORDING TO PRELATE, WAS TO OBTAIN APPROVAL OF CATHOLIC CHURCH TO PROGRAM OF STERIL-IZING WOMEN, WHICH BEGAN TO BE PUT INTO EFFECT CLANDES-TIMELY IN FACE OF ENERGETIC REFUSAL OF BISHOPS OF BRAZIL TO AGREE WITH SUGGESTION. DOM FERNANDO GOMEZ OBSERVED THAT FEMALE STERILIZATION INNERQUOTE IS CRIME AGAINST OUR SECURITY END INNERQUOTE AND THAT INNERQUOTE USAID MUST HAVE REAL FEAR OF OUR DEVELOPMENT AS FREE AND INDE-PENDENT NATION END INNERQUOTE. HE SAID DOM HELDER (CAMARA OF RECIFE) AND DOM AVELAR (BRANDAO OF TEREZINA) WITNESSED ATTEMPTED SUBORNATION UNQUOTE.

POST ROUTING

To: Actn Inf PO DPO POL POL/R EGON CONS ADMIN USAID USIS PC

2. INSIDE PAGE CONTINUATION IS SAME AS REPORTED DAILY PRESS TELEGRAM TODAY, CLARIFYING THAT ALLEGED CLANDESTINE STER-FILE ILIZATION PROGRAM BEGUN AFTER SUPPOSED PITCH MADE IN ROME AND ADDING THAT PROPOSAL BY UNNAMED USAID AGENT WAS MADE AT LUNCHEON ATTENDED BY THREE ARCHBISHOPS ALREADY NAMED PLUS DOM JOSE NEWTON OF BRASILIA. 3. PRESS ATTACHE QUERY ANSWERED BY ULTIMA HORA GENERAL

AGER AND BY EDITORIAL CHIEF TO EFFECT THEY CONFIDENT DOM FERNANDO ACTUALLY MADE STATEMENT CARRIED BY PAPER.

4. DEPT SHOULD ALSO BE AWARE THAT THIS STORY FIRST CARRIED BY ULTIMA HORA ON MAY 4 IN DESPATCH FROM BRASILIA QUOT-ING OPPOSITION LEADER MARIO COVAS AS ATTRIBUTING REPORT TO ARENA DEPUTY PADRE BEZERRA DE MELO (SAO PAULO), WHO SAID TO HAVE ALLEGED QUOTE NORTH AMERICAN AGENTS TRIED TO SUBORN FOUR BRAZILIAN BISHOPS, OFFERING THEM ONE MIL-LION DOLLARS TO SET UP BIRTH CONTROL IN THEIR DIOCESES UNQUOTE. THIS STATEMENT APPARENTLY ACCOMPANIED COVAS PE-TITION FOR ESTABLISHMENT CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATION INTO REPORTS OF BIRTH CONTROL OPERATIONS IN AMAZON REGION.

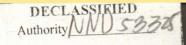
5. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY LIGHT DEPT MIGHT BE ABLE TO SHED ON POS-

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BUBGRAM

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PAGE TWO

SIBLE CONTACT BY USAID REPRESENTATIVE WITH BRAZILIAN BISH-OPS IN ROME. EMBASSY HAS NO RPT NO KNOWLEDGE OF SUCH MEETING.

6. NO DATES SPECIFIED BUT ALLEGED MEETING COULD CONCEIVABLY HAVE TAKEN PLACE DURING VATICAN COUNCIL.

EXEMPT. TUTHILL

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