

# TELEGRAM

INCOMING

Foreign Service of the  
United States of America

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Classification

Control:

Recd:

MAY 9, 1967

FROM: RIO 10754 MAY 8

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 INSOLENT END INNER-QUOTE DOM FERNANDO GOMES, ARCHBISHOP OF GOIANIA YESTERDAY 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 STERILIZING WOMEN, WHICH BEGAN TO BE PUT INTO EFFECT CLANDESTINELY 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 INDEPENDENT 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	Init
PO	✓		<i>AS</i>
DPO		✓	<i>AS</i>
POL			
POL/R			
EGON			
CONS			
ADMIN			
USAID		✓	
USIS		✓	
PC		✓	
FILE			

SOC 13

*Reading file*

Action taken:

*file*

Initials:

2. INSIDE PAGE CONTINUATION IS SAME AS REPORTED DAILY PRESS TELEGRAM TODAY, CLARIFYING THAT ALLEGED CLANDESTINE STERILIZATION 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 MANAGER 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 QUOTING 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 MILLION DOLLARS TO SET UP BIRTH CONTROL IN THEIR DIOCESES UNQUOTE. THIS STATEMENT APPARENTLY ACCOMPANIED COVAS PETITION 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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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  
B

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