

TELEGRAM

Foreign Service of the
United States of America

INCOMING BRASILIA

0 R 101215Z NOV 66

FM AMEMBASSY RIODEJANEIRO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2318 IMMEDIATE
INFO RUESUZ/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 245
RUESUP/AMCONGEN SAOPAULO 189
ZEN/AMCONGEN RECIFE UNN
ZEN/AMCONSUL BELEM UNN
ZEN/AMCONSUL BELO HORIZONTE UNN
ZEN/AMCONSUL CURITIBA UNN
ZEN/AMCONSUL PORTO ALEGRE UNN
ZEN/AMCONSUL SALVADOR UNN
STATE GRNC

CONFIDENTIAL

Control: 1000

Recd: NOV 10, 1966

BT
CONFIDENTIAL RIO DE JANEIRO 5483

NOVEMBER 10

REF: RIO A-437, STATE 67412

SUBJECT: ELECTION ASSESSMENT

INFO

EMBOFFICE	
Brasilia	
P. O.	
Econ	
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A. dm.	
Cons.	
Usis	
PSA	
IRI	
AMEMB	

ACTION TAKEN

1. AS CAMPAIGN FOR NOVEMBER 15 ELECTIONS ENTERS FINAL DAYS EVIDENCE OF CAMPAIGN ATMOSPHERE STILL MINIMAL AND ELIGIBILITY OF SOME OPPOSITION CANDIDATES IN GUANABARA STILL BEING LITIGATED.
2. NUMBER OF FACTORS IN SOMEWHAT UNNATURAL ELECTION PICTURE MAKE ACCURATE FORECASTS IMPOSSIBLE. ONE IMPORTANT UNKNOWN IS WHAT WILL BE PROPORTION OF SPOILED BALLOTS. NUMBER LIKELY TO BE LARGE, IN PART DUE TO CONSCIOUS PROTEST IN FORM OF BLANK BALLOTS (WHICH STUDENTS ADVOCATING BUT OPPOSITION TRYING TO DISCOURAGE) AND IN PART TO COMPLICATED BALLOTING SYSTEM.
3. AT THIS JUNCTURE SEEMS PROBABLE THAT GOVERNMENT'S ARENA PARTY WILL LOSE SOME SEATS, BUT WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE MAJORITY IN SENATE, CHAMBER AND MOST STATE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLIES. OPPOSITION MDB GAINS IN SENATE MAY BE ON ORDER OF ABOUT 6 SEATS AND IN CHAMBER OF ABOUT 25 SEATS. PRINCIPAL MDB GAINS ARE EXPECTED TO BE IN GUANABARA, CITY OF SAO PAULO, AND POSSIBLY MINAS GERAIS AND RIO GRANDE DO SUL.
4. COMMENT: IF ELECTION RESULTS TAKE THESE DIMENSIONS, BELIEVE GOVERNMENT AND MILITARY FORCES SUPPORTING IT WILL ACCEPT THE RESULT WITH ONLY MINOR SURFACE MANIFESTATIONS OF DISCONTENT. ON THE ODD CHANCE THAT ARENA LOSSES WILL BE APPRECIABLY GREATER, MUST BE PREPARED FOR A MORE GIVOROUS REACTION. HOWEVER, SITUATION DIFFERS FROM THAT OF OCTOBER, 1965 IN THAT PRESIDENCY AND ALL GOVERNORSHIPS WILL CLEARLY BE IN ARENA OR UNAFFILIATED BUT DOMESTICATED HANDS FOR NEXT FOUR YEARS. TUTHILL

Pol-14 (Part 1)

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