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SOC 10 BEAZ

Department of State

TELEGRAM

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R10 2139

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ACTION ARA 19

INFO GPM 03, RSC 01, HEW 07, NSAE 00, INR 07, P 04, CIA 04, DOD 01, SCS 04,
SCA 02, AID 30, USIA 12, MED 02, OC 06, CCO 00, SSO 00, RSR 01, PC 04,
/107 W

R 252020Z SEP 67
FM AMEMBASSY RIO DE JANEIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7870

UNCLAS RIO DE JANEIRO 2139

FOLLOWING RECEIVED FROM PORTO ALEGRE AND REPTD FOR YOUR INFO
QUOTE

P 221533Z SEP 67
FM AMCONSUL PORTO ALEGRE
TO RUESUA/AMEMBASSY RIO DE JANEIRO PRIORITY 455
RUESU/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY 22
STATE GRNC

UNCLAS PORTO ALEGRE 91
SUBJECT: FLOOD SITUATION

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1. RIVERS SUBSIDING AT INTERIOR POINTS BUT CREST NOT YET
REACHED PORTO ALEGRE. SOUTH EAST WINDS CONTINUE TO
BACK UP GUAIBA ESTUARY AND BOTTLE UP FLOODWATERS. THIS
SECOND DRY DAY BUT MORE RAIN FORECAST FOR TONIGHT AND TOMORROW.
LOW LYING PARTS PORTO ALEGRE AND ADJACENT CITIES UNDER TWO
TO THREE FEET WATER. NUMBER OF HOMELESS CONTINUES TO RISE

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BUT PRECISE ESTIMATE UNAVAILABLE. GOVERNOR NAMED COORDINATING BODY FOR RELIEF EFFORTS AND CONSULATE MAINTAINING INFORMAL CONTACT THIS GROUP AND THIRD ARMY. AS YET NO FORMAL REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE RECEIVED.

2. WATER OVER SIDEWALKS MOST OF DOWNTOWN PORTO ALEGRE. POTABLE WATER SYSTEM STILL FUNCTIONAING BUT WILL BE KNOCKED OUT IF MAIN PUMPING STATION FLOODED. NO DESEASE PROBLEM YET BUT HEALTH DEPARTMENT TAKING PRECAUTIONS. POWER AND PHONE SERVICE BEING KNOCKED OUT ON BLOCK BY BLOCK BASIS. NO MAJOR FOOD SHORTAGE YET BUT COULD DEVELOP IN THREE OR FOUR DAYS IF SITUATION WORSENS.

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3. CONSULATE WITHOUT ELECTRIC POWER AND TELEX NOT FUNCTIONING. WESTERN POWER AND ITT FUNCTIONING. WESTERN HAS EMERGENCY POWER FOR TWENTY FOUR HOURS AND ITT FOR TWENTY FOUR HOURS AND ITT FOR LONGER. LONG DISTANCE PHONE COMMUNICATIONS SPORADIC AND UNREALIABLE. REQUEST EMBASSY USE WESTERN OR ITT.

4. MOST AMERICANS LIVE ON HIGH GROUND AND TO KNOWLEDGE CONSULATE NONE THREATENED BY FLOODWATERS.

EMBASSY REQUESTED PASS THIS WORK DEPARTMENT IN EVENT EXAGGERATED NEWS STORIES GENERATE INQUIRIES. AMERICANS ADVISED CONSERVE AND BOIL WATER AND LAY IN FOOD STOCKS WE CHECKING SHOT RECORDS OFFICIAL PERSONNEL.

5. MILITARY AND CIVIL AIRFIELDS AS YET UNAFFECTED AND COMMERCIAL AIR SCHEDULES NORMAL SO FA.

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6. CONDITIONS IDEAL FOR WATER SKIING. HEWITT UNQUOTE. BELTON

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