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8.14.68

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ACTION ARA 16

INFO GPM 04, H 02, NSC 10, CIAE 00, DODE 00, INR 07, P 04, RSC 01, USIA 12,

NSA 02, SPM 01, AID 28, E 15, PC 04, HEW 07, COM 08, RSR 01, /122 W
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R 141932Z AUG 68

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 880

INFO AMCONSUL RECIFE

AMEMBASSY RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

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SUBJ: CONGRESSIONAL REACTION TO PAPAL ENCYCLICAL

1. CONGRESSIONAL REACTION TO PAPAL ENCYCLICAL HAS BEEN ALMOST UNIVERSALLY FAVORABLE THUS FAR. MESSAGE TO POPE EXPRESSING "VIGOROUS SUPPORT" FOR ENCYCLICAL BEING CIRCULATED IN CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES AND REPORTEDLY MORE THAN HALF OF CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP HAS ALREADY SIGNED. SPEECHES BY SEVERAL DEPUTIES FROM BOTH OPPOSITION AND ARENA HAVE PRAISED ENCYCLICAL.

2. STRONGEST SPEECH GIVEN BY ARCH CONSERVATIVE DEPUTY AND CATHOLIC PRIEST ARRUDA CAMARA (ARENA-PERNAMBUCO). STATED ENCYCLICAL COULD BE CONSIDERED "ONE OF GREATEST MONUMENTS OF CATHOLIC DOCTRINE." SAID DEVELOPED NATIONS HAD IMPERIALIST MOTIVES FOR INTRODUCING BIRTH CONTROL IN UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES. ADDED THAT "IT NOT FOR LOVE OF OUR POOR THAT POWERFUL NATIONS TRY TO INTRODUCE CORRUPTION AND TRANSGRESSION OF NATURAL AND DEVINE LAW IN OUR COUNTRY."

3. TO DATE ONLY WILSON CALMON (ARENA-AMAZONAS) HAS ATTEMPTED PUBLICLY TO CAST DOUBT ON WISDOM OF ENCYCLICAL. CALMON NOTED WIDESPREAD POVERTY IN WORLD AND CALLED ON DEPUTIES TO REALIZE HARDSHIPS ENDURED BY WORKERS EARNING MINIMUM WAGE AND ATTEMPTING RAISE LARGE FAMILIES.

4. ENCYCLICAL HAS ALREADY REPORTEDLY CAUSED CUNHA BUENO (ARENA-

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SAO PAULO) TO WITHDRAW HIS BILL PROPOSING GOVERNMENTAL ASSISTANCE TO WOMEN DESIRING FAMILY PLANNING AID. IT EXPECTED THAT REACTION TO ENCYCLICAL IN CHAMBER WILL RESULT IN ROUGH SLEDDING FOR BILL--AUTHORED BY JANDUHY CARNEIRO (MDB-PARAIBA) AND LIBERAL BY BRAZILIAN STANDARDS--CONCERNING FAMILY PLANNING AND BIRTH CONTROL MEASURES.

EXEMPT TUTHILL

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