



Department of State

SOC 13-3 BRAZ

TELEGRAM

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ACTION ARA 19

INFO SPM 01, PC 15, AID 30, HEW 07, INR 07, P 04, CIA 04, DOD 01, NSAE 00
RSC 01, USIA 12, RSR 01, /102 W

8/30/67
Brasilia 819

R 301154Z AUG 67
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 536
INFO AMEMBASSY RIO DE JANEIRO 619
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO 218
AMCONSUL RECIFE 51

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RIO POUCH OTHER CONSULATES

SUBJ: HEALTH MINISTER DENIES BIRTH CONTROL CHARGES

1. MINHEALTH LEONEL MIRANDA QUOTED BY AUG. 29 PRESS AS SAYING IN AUG. 28 PRESS CONFERENCE THAT MINISTRY HAD NOT BOUND EVIDENCE OF MASS "STERILIZATION" OF BRAZILIAN WOMEN IN NORTH. BASED ON INVESTIGATIVE REPORT PREPARED BY

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MINISTRY OFFICIAL, MIRANDA DID NOT BELIEVE CHARGES OF MARANHAO STATE LEGISLATURE THAT WOMEN WERE "FORCED" TO USE INTERUTERINE DEVICE, MUCH LESS THAT "FOREIGN MISSIONS" WERE INTERESTED IN DISPERSING CONTRACEPTIVES. ALTHOUGH HE PERSONALLY FELT BIRTH CONTROL WAS UNNECESSARY IN BRAZIL, SAID THIS WAS "MATTER OF CONSCIENCE" FOR THOSE CONCERNED. ALSO SAID WOULD AGAIN LOOK INTO BIRTH CONTROL CHARGES DURING LATE SEPTEMBER VISIT TO AMAZON REGION.

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2. MEANWHILE, CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES INVESTIGATION (CPI) OF BIRTH CONTROL IN BRAZIL CONTINUES. CALAZANS FERNANDES, IDENTIFIED AS "JOURNALIST," TOLD CPI AUGUST 23 THAT US, THROUGH AID AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES, WAS SPONSORING BIRTH CONTROL PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT LATIN AMERICA AND THAT BRAZILIAN NORTHEAST WAS MAJOR TARGET AREA. CLAIMED PEACE CORPS WAS ASSISTING THESE PROGRAMS. CPI WILL REPORTEDLY HEAR IN LATE SEPTEMBER DELEGATION FROM MARANHAO LEGISLATURE WHICH CLAIMED WIDESPREAD AND FORCED APPLICATION OF IUD IN STATE.

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3. COMMENT: MINHEALTH'S STATEMENT USEFUL IN HELPING PLACE STERILIZATION CONTROVERSY IN PROPER PERSPECTIVE, BUT WILL PROBABLY NOT STOP EXTREMIST TESTIMONIES BEFORE CPI.

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