

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

DATE: April 2, 1970

SUBJECT: Medici Administration's Position on Population Control

PARTICIPANTS: Ministro Carlos CALERO Rodriguez, Asst. Secretary General
for International Organizations, Foreign Ministry
Stephen Low, Counselor of Embassy, Amembassy BRASILIA
Richard E. Johnson, Political Counselor, Amembassy RIO

PLACE: Foreign Office, Brasilia

DIST
AMB
DCM
MINECON
POL 2
ECON
USIS
POL/R
SCI
MILGP 2
DAO 3
DEAN
INR/CS/BR
INR/RAR/LA
ARA/LA/BR
BRAS 2
BELEM ✓
PALEGRE
RECIFE
SPAULO
SALVADOR
S/PM
CF-2

In the course of a conversation on various subjects, Calero chanced to mention that Brazil finds it necessary to oppose strongly the position which the US takes on population control at international meetings. This led to a lengthy digression onto the question of population control in Brazil. Calero refused to accept the argument that population controls would aid Brazil's development, advancing the familiar Brazilian thesis that population growth is essential to populate the interior, and said he failed to understand why the US insisted on trying to force others to "reduce their populations." Embassy officers pointed out to him that our efforts both at home and abroad were confined to providing the individual with the knowledge and techniques to make his own free choice. In response to a question, he envisaged no possibility of a change in policy on the subject of birth control under the Medici Administration. Birth control devices and advice will be available to those needing them, but "propaganda" on birth control will not be permitted, he said.

POL: RE Johnson; ael 4/6/70