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Department of State

TELEGRAM

AMEMBASSY RIO DE JANEIRO

1 of 2

CN: 3285

15 MAY 70
2020

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ACTION: SEC STATE WASHDC 4829

INFO: AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 6061

RIO DE JANEIRO 3285

SUBJECT: HEALTH OFFICIAL SAYS GOB STUDYING BIRTH CONTROL

1. HEALTH MINISTRY OFFICER FOR GYNECOLOGICAL MATTERS, DR.

SILVIO SERPA, REPORTED IN NEWSPAPERS MAY 14 TO HAVE SAID THAT
MINISTRY OF HEALTH IS STUDYING POSSIBILITY OF PROMOTING BIRTH
CONTROL IN BRAZIL. MINISTER LAGOA, HOWEVER, WHO PRESENTLY IN
EUROPE, WOULD GIVE FINAL WORD ON SUBJECT UPON HIS RETURN.

SERPA SAID STUDY BEING MADE BY MIN HEALTH TECHNICIANS, BUT
NOTHING HAS BEEN DONE TO INSTITUTE BIRTH CONTROL IN ANY PART
OF COUNTRY.

2. ABOVE STATEMENT MADE IN COURSE ~~KNOW~~ OF INTERVIEW DENYING
KNOWLEDGE OF ALLEGED IRREGULARITIES IN DISTRIBUTION OF BIRTH
CONTROL PILLS ILLEGALLY WITHOUT PRESCRIPTION IN NORTHEAST.

3. COMMENT: THIS IS TO OUR KNOWLEDGE FIRST INSTANCE OF GOB
OFFICIAL SAYING BIRTH CONTROL BEING CONSIDERED AS POSSIBLE GOVT
POLICY. NOT IMMEDIATELY EVIDENT WHETHER THIS OFFICIALLY INSPIRED
TRIAL BALLOON OR SIMPLY UNAUTHORIZED STATEMENT BY MIN HEALTH

DRAFTED BY:

POL:DPmatthews:mmb *sur*

DRAFTING DATE

5-15-70

TEL. EXT.

407

APPROVED BY:

William A. Ellis *W.A. Ellis*

CLEARANCE:

POL:REJohnson
HSO:Dr.Campbell (substance) *sur*
ECON:JQuinn (draft) *sur*

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STA.
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ACTION:

OFFICIAL. SERTA HAS RECENTLY RETURNED FROM INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY IN NEW YORK, WHICH HE ATTENDED WITH AID TRAVEL GRANT, AND ~~HE~~ HIS STATEMENT MAY HAVE BEEN MADE WHILE UNDER INFLUENCE THIS TRIP. EMBASSY WILL ATTEMPT TO DISCRETELY OBTAIN ANY ADDITIONAL FACTS AVAILABLE ON SUBJECT FOR DEPARTMENT'S INFO. BELIEVE IT MIGHT BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE AT THIS STAGE FOR US TO SHOW TOO ACTIVE AN INTEREST PENDING FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS.

ELLIS

11/12

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