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Concern Grows Over President-elect Carter Brazilian Policy

SecState WASHDC PRIORITY

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SUMMARY.

1. ~~SUMMARY~~. Ambassador Crimmins' speech commemorating U.S. bicentennial to Minas Gerais legislature and drawing heavily on ~~passage from~~ Declaration of Independence has been criticized by unnamed Itamaraty officials who interpret it as a human rights message from President-elect Carter. Officials cite timing of speech and see it as a further form of pressure ~~against~~ against Brazilian-German nuclear accord. Embassy has responded that statements ~~alleged to be~~ considered provocative were drawn from Declaration of Independence, Constitution and Bill of Rights, that virtually same speech was given a year ago to Brazilian audience in Sao Paulo without re-action, and passages in question refer exclusively to American context, not Brazil. There indications Foreign Minister is displeased with leaks, surprised by ~~Mission's~~ ^{EMB'S} Mission's restrained reaction, and ~~fully~~ understands intended context of speech. Incident, which appears closed, nevertheless, ~~im~~ points up growing Brazilian

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CLASSIFICATION

OPTIONAL FORM 153
(Formerly FS-413)
January 1975
Dept. of State

50153-101

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 7201

sensitivity to and fear of possible changes in U.S. policy
President-
re Brazil with the advent of ~~President~~ President-elect Carter's admin-
istration. END SUMMARY.

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OPTIONAL FORM 153A
(Formerly FS-413A)
January 1975
Dept. of State

50153-201

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✓ 2. long-scheduled Ambassador's November 23 speech in Belo Horizonte to Minas Gerais legislature in commemoration of U.S. bicentennial has provoked an abnormal and frenetic press response from unidentified sources in Itamaraty. Press is reporting that Foreign Ministry has closely analyzed speech and interpreted it as a "message" from President-elect Carter on human rights. Same unnamed elements in Ministry see ~~XX~~ linkage between speech and President-elect's stance on German-Brazilian nuclear accord (septel), hyperbolically claiming "little by little Brazil is being encircled."

3. Parts of speech which drew attention were Ambassador's references to critical assumptions and assertion implicit and explicit in declaration of Independence, Constitution and Bill of Rights: (1) Man is endowed with certain natural human rights that cannot be taken away from him, (2) among these inalienable rights are those to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, (3) to protect man in the exercise of these rights, governments are established by common voluntary consent, and (4) when Governments cease to fulfill the purpose for which men created them, or deny the inalienable rights of the citizens to whom they owe their very existence, they can be changed or, in the last resort, overthrown. Ambassador had given speech on ~~virtually~~ same theme in

✓ ✓ considerably longer and widely disseminated
✓ December, 1975 to Brazilian-American Cultural Union in Sao Paulo
✓ without provoking ~~reaction~~ defensive

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4. In backgrounder in Folha de Sao Paulo, ~~MMXX~~ unnamed Itamaraty official called speech "an intolerable and unjust intervention," citing timing as critical element. Source noted Brazil was coming out of election period with various interpretations about who actually won. He added that country is also anxious over efforts towards economic austerity and effect OPEC ~~increases~~ ^{are} ~~increased~~ in petroleum prices ~~is~~ likely to have on Brazil. Source claimed Americans were using human rights angle during an unstable period as a form of pressure against German-Brazilian nuclear accords, a ~~poor~~ position also supported, according to the press, by a high ranking official of the Ministry of Mines and Energy. Net effect according to Folha, was that Itamaraty appears to be at the moment rethinking the results and the consequences of the election of President-elect Carter.

5. November 26 Estado printed Mission's response to ^{criticism} ~~criticism~~, which pointed out that: (1) all declarations considered provocative were transcribed directly from the three basic documents of the USC, the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights; (2) speech with only small changes was same one Ambassador delivered in Sao Paulo in December, 1975; and (3) ^{passages} ~~text~~ in wuzz question referred exclusively to the American context with no intention that it be compared to the Brazilian situation.

6. Estado also quoted third-country diplomat in Brasilia who claimed Brazilians were paranoid re election of President-elect Carter, and that they were passing their time looking for hidden

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~~Press~~

uniformly

~~uniforunately~~

Press coverage was not ~~uniforunately~~ hypersensitive with Jornal

✓ do Brasil highly complementary to Ambassador's ~~speech~~ speech.

EMB'S

5. November 26 Estado printed ~~Mission's~~ response to criticism which ~~pointed~~ pointed out that: (1) all declarations considered provocative were transcribed directly from the three basic documents of the USG, the Declaration of ~~Independence~~ Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights; (2) speech with only small changes was same one Ambassador delivered in Sao Paulo in December, 1975; and (3) passages in question referred exclusively to the American context with no intention that it be compared to the Brazilian situation.

6. Estado also quoted third-country diplomat in Brasilia who claimed Brazilians were paranoid re election of President-elect Carter, and that they were ~~pass~~ passing their time looking for hiddenx

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messages from the new President in everything said with respect to bilateral relations. Estado added that sources close to the Foreign Minister's staff were ~~dis~~ displeased with reactions of Brazilian diplomats to the Ambassador's speech. The article noted that the Foreign Ministry has awaited with some anxiety the ~~response~~ response of the Americans "which was not as violent as had been expected."

7. Press' claim that higher levels of Itamaraty were disturbed by leaked reaction ~~as~~ against Ambassador's speech was supported by ~~comment~~ comment of senior advisor on Foreign Minister's staff, Jose Nogueira Filho. Nogueira suggested directly to Ambassador that Foreign Ministry had understood context of Belo Horizonte speech and was not reading into it meaning allegedly ascribed to Itamaraty by press.

8. COMMENT. While incident now seems to be behind us, it does point up the continuing Brazilian anxiety and defensiveness over impending change of administration in U.S. and what it may ~~portend~~ portend for Brazil's ~~interest~~ interest. Anxiety has mounted since President-elect's comments about Brazil's military government in Playboy interview, his continuing emphasis on human rights and his recent comments about using diplomatic means to bring about ~~reconciliation~~ ^{consideration} of the transfer of sensitive nuclear technology (See septel for Brazilian reaction to Embassy's backgrounder such as ~~the~~ as the FRG-Brazil agreement. / on President Ford's policy declaration of October 28.)

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