

INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

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Action

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R 272240Z FEB 67
FM AMEMBASSY RIODEJANEIRO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO ZEN/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
RUESUP/AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
ZEN/AMCONSUL RECIFE
ZEN/AMCONSUL BELEM
ZEN/AMCONSUL BELO HORIZONTE
ZEN/AMCONSUL CURITIBA
ZEN/AMCONSUL PORTO ALEGRE
ZEN/AMCONSUL SALVADOR
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ RIO DE JANEIRO 8532

REF: RIO A-776 p06 13-2 BRAZ

SUBJECT: POLICE ROUND-UP OF STUDENTS

1. ON FEB 25 AGENTS OF DOPS AND DFSP WHO HAD BEEN WATCHING AIRPORTS, RAIL TERMINALS, HIGHWAYS AND FERRY LANDINGS BEGAN ROUND-UP OF STUDENTS CONVERGING ON RIO FOR MEETINGS OF ILLEGAL UNIVERSITY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS' ORGANIZATIONS WHICH

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SCHEDULED FOR THIS WEEK. PRESS CITES DOPS SOURCES AS SAYING ABOUT 300 STUDENTS AND OTHERS DETAINED, INTERROGATED AND THEN RELEASED. IN FACT, A SMALL NUMBER OF THESE APPARENTLY STILL BEING HELD. GOVERNMENT SOURCES QUOTED AS SAYING SOME LEFTIST STUDENTS, FOLLOWERS OF CHINESE LINE, HAD PREPARED PLAN FOR TERRORISM WHICH INCLUDED ASSASSINATION OF MINISTERS OF STATE.

2. MEMBERS OF MINJUS STAFF WIDELY QUOTED AS DENYING MINISTER KNEW ANYTHING ABOUT PLANS FOR ROUND-UP, AND THAT ORDERS FOR IT MUST HAVE COME FROM PRESIDENCY VIA SNI.

3. WHILE PRESS REPORTS FOCUS ON DETENTION OF SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] ACTION AGAINST THEM ONLY PART OF BROADER SWEEP COORDINATED BY SNI WHICH NETTED TOP LEADERSHIP OF RADICAL LEFTIST ACAA POPULAR (AP) WHICH HAS BEEN DRIVING FORCE FOR STUDENT POLITICAL ACTIVITY. ACCORDING TO THIS INFORMATION, SWEEP IS PRELUDE TO OPENING OF POLICE (NOT IPM) INQUIRY INTO AP.

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4. NOTWITHSTANDING ROUND-UP, NUMEROUS STUDENTS HAVE REPORTEDLY SUCCEEDED IN REACHING RIO FOR MEETINGS WHICH SCHEDULED DISCUSS, AMONG OTHER THINGS, STUDENT POSITION TOWARD COSTA E SILVA GOVERNMENT, UNIVERSITY REFORM, USAID-MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AGREEMENT AND SUPPLY LAW. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN HOW MUCH OF THIS ACTIVITY, PROTESTS AGAINST POLICE ROUND-UP, OR POSSIBLE FUTURE DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST COSTA E SILVA INAUGURAL THE STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO MOUNT IN ABSENCE OF TOP AP LEADERSHIP.

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SUBJECT: Police Round-up of Students

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