



Department of State

TELEGRAM

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UNCLASSIFIED 538

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83

ACTION ARA 16

INFO SSO 00, NSCE 00, CCO 00, USIE 00, CIAE 00, DODE 00, GPM 03, H 02, INR 07,

L 03, NSAE 00, NSC 10, P 04, RSC 01, SC 01, SP 02, SS 20, SAH 03, AID 28,

PC 04, CU 04, O 02, OPR 02, SY 03, OC 06, RSR 01, /122 W

O P 042345Z APR 68

FM AMEMBASSY RIO DE JANEIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 967

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY 1618

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO 1072

AMCONSUL RECIFE 1188

UNCLAS RIO DE JANEIRO 6885

SUBJECT: GUANABARA SITREP: STUDENT SITUATION

1. AT CONCLUSION 6:30 PM REQUIEM MASS CANDELARIA CHURCH CROWD ESTIMATED AT 2,000 FILED OUT IN FORMATION TO BEGIN SILENT MARCH. CROWD LED BY CLERGYMAN IDENTIFIED AS DOM SECUNDING OF SAO PAULO AND 16 DOMINICAN PRIESTS. WHEN CLERGY GAVE DESTINATION AS SMALL PARK NEAR HOTEL GLORIA AT WHICH FIELD MASS BANNED BY ARMY WAS TO HAVE BEEN HELD, STATE POLICE FORCES REPORTEDLY THREW TEAR GAS AND CHARGED WITH HORSES TO DISPERSE MARCHERS. AS CROWD BROKE, POLICE

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PURSUED SMALL GROUPS. SHORTLY THEREAFTER DEMONSTRATORS EVAPORATED AND BY 2030 CALM APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN RESTORED. TRUCKLOADS OF STATE POLICE WITH SIRENS GOING CIRCULATED THROUGH DOWNTOWN FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT.

2. SECURITY OFFICIALS EXPRESS CONFIDENCE THEY CAN MAINTAIN CONTROL. HOWEVER, IF SITUATION DEGENERATES, FEDERAL AUTHORITIES PREPARED INITIATE FULL INTERVENTION STATE OF GUANABARA. AUTHORITIES STRESS DETERMINATION TO PRESERVE ORDER AT ALL COST.

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Authority NND 9169000



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3. RADIO AND TV COVERAGE OF EVENTS WAS BLACKED OUT AND ONE RADIO STATION WAS TAKEN OFF AIR "FOR REPORTING TOO STRONGLY EARLIER IN DAY." TUTHILL

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