

INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

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FM AMEMBASSY RIO DE JANEIRO

SP

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHINGTON 2604 PRIORITY

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INFO ZEN/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 350

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RUESUP/AMCONGEN SAO PAULO 230

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RUESDO/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO 169

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MAY 20.

DOD

RSR

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED NO REPORTS OF NOTEWORTH REPERCUSSIONS WITHIN OR OUTSIDE ARMED FORCES TO MAY 19 OUSTER OF THIRD ARMY COMMANDER GENERAL JUSTINO ALVES BASTOS. HIS REPLACEMENT GENERAL ORLANDO GEISEL DUE ARRIVE PORTO ALEGRE THIS AFTERNOON AND USUME COMMAND.

2. SECOND ARMY (SAO PAULO) COMMANDER GENERAL AMAURY KRUEL HAS MADE NO PUBLIC STATEMENTS SUBSEQUENT TO BASTOS REMOVAL. KRUEL'S AIDES REPORTED BY PRESS TO HAVE DENIED HE PREVIOUSLY MADE ANY DECLARATIONS OF SUPPORT FOR BASTOS POSITION.

PAGE TWO RUESUA 679 C O N F I D E N T I A L

3. MINISTRY OF WAR SOURCES INDICATED TO DEFENSE ATTACHES BELIEF GOVT WOULD NOT REMOVE KRUEL FOR TIME BEING UNLESS HE COMMITS TACTICAL BLUNDER. THERE SOME SPECULATION THAT KRUEL NOW REALIZES HIS POLITICAL AMBITIONS BE SAO PAULO GOVERNOR UNATTAINABLE AND HE WILL SOON REQUEST RETIRE WITH RANK OF MARSHAL. GOVT MAY BE CONSIDERING CONCRETE MOVE, HOWEVER, IN VIEW STATEMEN BY PLANNING MINSTER TO EMBOFF LAST NIGHT THAT KRUEL WOULD BE "TAKEN CARE OF NEXT WEEK."

4. COMMENT. ALMOST COMPLETE LACK OF REACTION TO BASTOS FIRING, AND SWIFTESS AND SURGICAL PRECISION WITH WHICH REPLACEMENT EXECUTED REDOUND TO CREDIT OF PRESIDENT AND WAR MINISTER WHO HAVE DEMONSTRATED THEY ON SAME FREQUENCY AS CONCERS TACTICS OF POLITICAL GAME AT THIS POINT.

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