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FROM: RIO DE JANEIRO

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TO: Secretary of State

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RMR

LIMIT DISTRIBUTION

DURING REVIEW WITH FINANCE MINISTER DANTAS OF VARIOUS ECONOMIC POLICY MATTERS ON WEDNESDAY EVENING, REPORTED IN EMBTEL 1990, HE EXPRESSED GRAVEST CONCERN AT SOME ASPECTS RECENT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN BRAZIL. HE CONSIDERED ONE PURPOSE CURRENT POLITICAL AGITATION FROM LEFT WING AS AIMING DIRECTLY AT TORPEDOING HIS OWN ECONOMIC PROGRAM AND ANY OTHER KIND OF EFFORT TO GOVERN BRAZIL EFFECTIVELY. HE SIGNLED OUT BRIZOLA AS PRINCIPAL FIGURE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS CAMPAIGN. WITHOUT CLEAR-CUT PRESIDENTIAL STAND AGAINST IT, HE FELT GOVERNMENTS WHOLE PROGRAM WAS ON DEFENSIVE, WHEREAS ITS SUCCESS IN FACE OF TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES AND RESISTANCE OF VARIOUS GROUPS AFFECTED BY SPECIFIC MEASURES SUCH AS SUBSIDY WITHDRAWAL AND CREDIT RESTRICTION REQUIRED THAT GOVERNMENT BE CONSTANTLY ON A CONCERTED OFFENSIVE, AS THEY HAD BEEN IN WEEKS IMMEDIATELY PRIOR HIS WASHINGTON TRIP. SAID HE EXPECTED TO REVIEW SITUATION WITH GOULART ITENSIVELY WITHIN FEW DAYS, AND THEN TO GO ON TV FOR VIGOROUS OFFENSIVE ANATHEMATIZING BRIZOLA AND HIS ANTI-GOVERNMENT CAMPAIGN BY NAME AND IN DETAIL.

I QUESTIONED HIM ABOUT THE CURRENT ROLE OF ALMINO AFONSO. HERE HE WAS SOMEWHAT MORE RESERVED, INDICATING DOUBT AS TO WHETHER ALMINO WAS IRRECOVERABLE COMMITTED AGAINST GOVERNMENTS LINE, ALTHOUGH MAY INDICATION CERTAINLY POINTED THAT WAY.

SCP-3

GORDON

Intercolled by RMR

JTC

APR 29 1963

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