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Info

FROM: RIO DE JANEIRO

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TO: Secretary of State

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4/11/63

1939

BY COINCIDENCE, I HAD OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS SEPARATELY TODAY WITH DANTAS AND BALBINO THURSDAY'S CURIOUS DEVELOPMENTS IN GUANABARA. THEIR VERSIONS CONCUR, DESPITE ADMITTEDLY ALICE IN WONDERLAND QUALITY. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY.

ON RETURNING FROM NATAL, GOULART LISTENED TO RECORDING LACERDA'S FRIDAY TV SPEECH AND WAS INFURIATED BY PERSONAL ATTACKS, ESPECIALLY REFLECTIONS ON WIFE'S FIDELITY. THIS FURY WAS CONVEYED TO KRUEL AND BALBINO. WITH STRONG PERSONAL LOYALTY TO GOULART, AND GAUCHO TEMPERAMENT OF REACTING VIOLENTLY TO PERSONAL INSULTS, KRUEL WANTED DO BATTLE WITH LACERDA. THURSDAY AFTERNOON, KRUEL, BALBINO, AND CROCKETT DE SA CAME TO RIO INTENDING PROMOTE A STREET DOMONSTRATION IN FRONT OF GUANABARA PALACE. THEY EXPECTED STATE POLICE TO INTERVENE AND THEN TO CALL ON FIRST ARMY TO PROTECT MEETING, WITH CONSEQUENT STRUGGLE BETWEEN TWO FORCES LEADING TO ARMY OCCUPATION OF PALACE AND ARREST OF LACERDA.

POK

ACCORDING TO BOTH DANTAS AND BALBINO, IT WAS COOLER HEADED OSVINO WHO SPIKED THIS PLAN, FOR SEEING POSSIBLE SERIOUS DISORDERS WITH COMPLETELY UNPREDICTABLE CONSEQUENCES. BACKED BY DANTAS, BALBINO, AND ALMINO AFONSO, HE TOLD KRUEL FIRST ARMY WOULD GIVE NO COVERAGE TO SUCH A PLAN.

BRH2

PARADOX IN THIS SEQUENCE IS THAT KRUEL WAS GOING TO MAKE USE OF COMMUNIST AND BRIZOLA ELEMENTS IN GUANABARA WHOM HE NORMALLY DETESTS, WHILE OSVINO WAS PLACED IN POSITION OF DEFENDING LACERDA FROM STAGED INTERVENTION.

MR POL

FROM OTHER ASPECTS DANTAS AND BALBINO ACCOUNTS, IT IS CLEAR THAT GOB

18 BRH2

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-2- 1939, APRIL 5, 7 PM., FROM: RIO DE JANEIRO

THAT GDB HAS BY NO MEANS ABANDONED THOUGHT OF FINDING SOME LEGAL PRETEXT FOR INTERVENING GUANABARA. BOTH MINISTERS STATE THEY USING THEIR INTERMEDIARIES WITH LACERDA TO TRY PERSUADE HIM TO MAKE SOME SORT PEACEFUL GESTURE TO TAKE THIS PRESSURE OFF. I EMPHASIZED TO BOTH THAT INTERVENTION WOULD HAVE GRAVE INTERNATIONAL CONSEQUENCES SINCE LACERDA WELL KNOWN IN BOTH US AND EUROPE. FOREIGN OPINION WOULD CERTAINLY CONSTRUCT INTERVENTION NOT AS REACTION TO INSULTS TO PRESIDENT, BUT RATHER AS RETALIATION FOR LACERDA'S PROHIBITION OF PRO-CUBA CONGRESS.

DANTAS ALSO STATED THAT OSVINO WAS SUBSTANTIALLY MORE MODERATE THAN HIS REPUTATION WOULD SUGGEST. SAID OSVINO HAD BEEN GIVING HIS STABILIZATION PROGRAM FULL BACKING, INCLUDING BACKING AGAINST BRIZOLA AND HIS EXTREMIST FRIENDS. THOUGHT IT WOULD BE GREAT ERROR TO CONSIDER OSVINO AS COMMUNIST AFFILIATED OR IN BRIZOLA CAMP. (ARMY ATTACHE'S INFORMATION FROM BRAZILIAN ARMY SOURCES IS THAT OSVINO WANTED TO INTERVENE AND KRUEL WAS ONCE AGAIN MODERATING INFLUENCE.)

BALBINO ALSO DESCRIBED EXULTANTLY THE DISMISSAL OF CIBILIS VIANNA FROM CIVIL HOUSEHOLD, ANNOUNCED IN YESTERDAY'S PRESS. SAID THIS WAS DIRECT RESULT OF CIBILIS' ACTION IN INSERTING ANTI-FOREIGN BANK PARAGRAPH INTO BANK REFORM LEGISLATION, DONE WITHOUT REFERENCE TO EITHER PRESIDENT OR EVANDRO LINS. REPLACEMENT BY DIOGO GASPAR, FORMER COORDINATOR CARVALHO PINTO PLAN OF ACTION IN SAO PAULO, ALSO MEANT REMOVAL LARGE GROUP JUNIOR BRIZOLA NOMINEES UNDER CIBILIS. CIBILIS HAD LEARNED OF DISMISSAL ONLY AFTER PUBLICATION IN DIARIO OFFICIAL, A TACTIC DELIBERATELY TAKEN BY EVANDRO LINS TO AVOID BRIZOLA COUNTER-PRESSURE.

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