

AIRGRAM

p04 BRAZ

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HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department of State

INFO : BONN, BELEM, BELO, PORTO ALEGRE, RECIFE, SAO PAULO, SALVADOR, BRASILIA

FROM : Amembassy RIO DE JANEIRO

DATE: November 20, 1969

SUBJECT: Der Spiegel Article Libels Juracy Magalhães

REF :

The October 27 issue of the West German weekly news magazine Der Spiegel contains a feature article on the slaughter of Indians in Brazil's interior. The article compares the murder of Brazilian Indians by land-hungry settlers to Hitler's murder of six million Jews. Referring to the ease with which large landowners or even members of the Indian Protective Service bribe Government officials to transfer title to the "abandoned" land to their names, after having killed off the Indian inhabitants, the article names two important behind-the-scenes men who furnish this bribery money--Senator Felinto Muller, former Governor of the State of Mato Grosso and now leader of the Government ARENA party in the Senate; and Juracy Magalhães, former Foreign Minister and Ambassador to the U.S., now a private businessman.

Magalhães, who brought the article to our attention, is having a friend in Germany engage a lawyer to either force Der Spiegel to print a retraction or to begin a lawsuit for libel. He stated, and it appears plausible to us, that he has not had the slightest connection with Indian matters since he spent a six-day visit to an Indian village as a young man. Magalhães' German friend believes that in a lawsuit he would be able to win DM 500,000 to 1,000,000. If he does obtain such an award, Magalhães plans to donate it to a German charitable organization after deducting legal expenses.

Since retiring from public life in 1967, having served as Foreign Minister, Justice Minister, and Ambassador in the Castello Branco administration, Magalhães has become president or director of ten Brazilian companies. He lives in Rio but makes frequent business trips about the country, particularly to Salvador, where his son Jutahy, Vice Governor of Bahia, and his five grandchildren live.

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Drafted by:

POL:DPMatthews:cs 11/20/69

Contents and Classification Approved by:

POL:REJohnson

Clearances:

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Authority NND 969000

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Magalhães appears happy to be out of public life in the current unpropitious climate for politicians and pleased with the opportunity to earn considerably more money than he ever did as a Government official.

ELBRICK

A handwritten signature, likely "Elbrick", written in dark ink. The signature is stylized, with a large, looped initial and a trailing flourish.

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