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ACTION INR 07

INFO OCT 01, CIAE 00, DODE 00, PM 05, H 02, L 03, NSAE 00, NSC 10, P 03,  
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FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8963  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 4622

REF: STATE 178529

FOR BRAZIL STUDY GROUP

1. BRAZIL VIEWED BY GOG AS MAJOR LA POWER BECAUSE OF ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE, SIZE, POPULATION AND STRENGTH OF ARMED FORCES. GUATEMALANS PROBABLY RATE MEXICO, COLOMBIA AND CHILE AS MORE IMPORTANT LA POLITICAL LEADERS. BRAZIL'S DIRECT INFLUENCE ON GUATEMALA MARGINAL, EXCEPT ON COFFEE POLICY AS NOTED BELOW.

A. BECAUSE OF CLOSENESS US-GOG TIES, GOG ATTITUDE TOWARD BRAZIL WOULD BE EFFECTED SOMEWHAT BUT PROBABLY NOT DECISIVELY BY NATURE US-GOB RELATIONS.

B. BRAZILIAN MILITARY POWER UNDOUBTEDLY RESPECTED BY GOG BUT OF LITTLE IMMEDIATE IMPORTANCE TO BILATERAL RELATIONS.

C. GUATEMALA VIEWS BRAZIL PREEMINENTLY AS IMPORTANT TO ITS ECONOMIC DESITINY. WHAT HAPPENS IN BRAZIL RE COFFEE, WHETHER AS RESULT OF NATURE OR PRIVATE-SECTOR ACTION OR PUBLIC POLICY, DETERMINES TO SIGNIFICANT DEGREE WHAT HAPPENS TO GUATEMALAN INCOME FROM COFFEE EXPORTS. BRAZIL HAS NOT BEEN INSENSITIVE TO GUATEMALAN CRITICISM OF ITS COFFEE POLICIES AND PRACTICES (SUCH AS FUTURES CONTRACTS) IN PAST. IN INTERNATIONAL COFFEE ORGANIZATION BRAZIL HAS ON OCCASION GIVEN UP SHORT-TERM ADVANTAGES IN ORDER TO OBTAIN GUATEMALAN COLLABORATION, AND

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GOB REGULARLY HAS INVITED PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR LEADERS CONCERNED WITH COFFEE TO VISIT BRAZIL.

1. TYPE OF GOVERNMENT IN POWER IN BRAZIL, WITH POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF EXTREME LEFTIST REGIME WHICH WOULD BE ANATHEMA TO GUATEMALANS, NOT OF CRUCIAL IMPORTANCE TO GOG-GOB. RELATIONSHIP, THOUGH GOG PREFERENCE WOULD BE FOR CONSTITUTIONAL GOB. NO BASIC CHANGE IN GOB INFLUENCE ON GOG SINCE 1964.

2. EXCEPT IN CASE OF COFFEE, GUATEMALANS LITTLE INFLUENCED BY BRAZILIAN DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES.

3. MISSION UNAWARE OF ANY BRAZILIAN ATTEMPTS CHANGE OR INFLUENCE GOG POSITION ON MAJOR ISSUES.

4. NO OUTSTANDING BILATERAL ISSUES. COFFEE POLICY ONLY IMPORTANT MULTI-LATERAL ISSUE.

5. BRAZILIAN DIPLOMATIC MISSION SHOWED INITIATIVE BY MAKING GOB DONATION TO RELIEF OF FLOOD VICTIMS. BRAZILIAN DIPLOMATS WELL REGARDED BY GOG OFFICIALS.  
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