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ACTION ARA 16

INFO CIAE 00, DODE 00, GPM 04, H 02, INR 07, L 03, NSC 10, P 04, RSC 01, SB 02

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FM AMEMBASSY RIO DE JANEIRO

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C O N F I D E N T I A L RIO DE JANEIRO 14379

JOINT EMBASSY-USIS MESSAGE

IN CONVERSATION WITH PAO TODAY JORNAL DO BRASIL PRESIDENT-DIRECTOR NASCIMENTO BRITO AND ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR AMBASSADOR SETTE CAMARA OUTLINED CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION AS THEY SEE IT. FOLLOWING ARE MAIN POINTS:

1. JORNAL DO BRASIL NO LONGER REPRESENTS VIEWS OF OWNER-PUBLISHER. FIVE OMNIPRESENT CENSORS RESPONSIBLE FOR EVERYTHING PRINTED. PAO QUERIED WHY NOT ADOPT SYSTEM ESTADO SAO PAULO, WHICH REFUSED SELF CENSORSHIP AND PLACED ENTIRE RESPONSIBILITY ON CENSORS THEREBY GETTING MORE INTO PAPER THAN OTHER SAO PAULO PRESS. BRITO ANSWERED JORNAL DO BRASIL ALSO REFUSED SELF-CENSORSHIP BUT MILITARY AUTHORITIES RIO MUCH TOUGHER ON CENSORSHIP THAN THAT SAO PAULO AREA.

2. ARMY MINISTER LYRA TAVARES IS MAN CURRENTLY IN COMPLETE CHARGE. THIS FORTUNATE UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES SINCE TAVARES FUNDAMENTALLY BALANCED INDIVIDUAL AND ABLE CONTROL OVER-ENTHUSIASTIC OFFICERS WHO WISH OUST COSTA SILVA.

3. PLANS FOR CURRENT SITUATION RESULTING FROM FIFTH INSTITUTIONAL ACT DRAWFOUP BY TWO STAR GENERALS AND PUSHED TOWARDS THE TOP. THESE GENERAL URGED REMOVAL COSTA SILVA BUT WERE STOPPED BY TAVARES.

4. ALMOST CERTAIN THAT FOLLOWING OFFICIALS WILL BE DROPPED FROM GOVT NEAR FUTURE--MAGALHAES PINTO, ALBUQUERQUE LIMA, GENERAL PORTELA, NEGRAO DE LIMA.

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5. MINISTER TAVARES TOLD BRITO THIS MORNING HE HOPED LIFT CENSORSHIP WITHIN ONE WEEK. BOTH BRITO, SETTE CAMARA CONSIDER THIS HIGHLY UNLIKELY SINCE IF CENSORSHIP LIFTED PRESS REACTION WOULD BE SUCH THAT WOULD HAVE TO BE REIMPOSED NEXT DAY.

6. THERE ARE GOING TO BE MANY NEW CASSADOS, INCLUDING MEMBERS OF SUPREME COURT.

7. BRAZIL IS IN FOR A LONG PERIOD WITHOUT BASIC FREEDOMS, NO DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS, NO POLITICAL PARTIES.

8. DANGEROUS SITUATION MITIGATED BY PRESENCE BALANCED LEADER AS LYRA TAVARES. HOWEVER, "TAVARES MAY BE THERE TODAY PERHAPS NOT TOMORROW".

9. ORDERS FOR BRITO - SETTE CAMARAS ARREST CAME FROM GENERAL PORTELA. WERE COUNTERMANDED BY TAVARES. SETTE CAMARA HELD APPROXIMATELY THREE AND ONE HALF HOURS BUT WAS TOLD BY ARRESTING DOPS AGENTS TO PACK SUITCASE SINCE, "HE WOULD BE AWAY FOR A LONG TIME." BRITO AVOIDED ARREST THANKS TO TIP FROM HIGH MILITARY OFFICER FRIEND WHICH GOT HIM OUT OF NEWSPAPER MINUTES AHEAD OF DOPS.

COMMENT: BRITO, SETTE CAMARA RESIGNED BUT UNBOWED. BOTH CATEGORICALLY STATED JORNAL DO BRASIL DOES NOT CONDONE CURRENT EVENTS IN ANY WAY BUT FEEL CAN DO NOTHING MORE AT THIS TIME THAN OBEY ORDERS MILITARY CENSORS. BOTH MEN JUSTIFIABLY PROUD NEWSPAPERS SPLENDID REBELIOUS PERFORMANCE SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14 AND REFUSAL PUBLISH SUNDAY UNTIL DIRECTOR SETTE CAMARA RELEASED. BELTON

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