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CONFIDENTIAL RIO DE JANEIRO 1546

AUGUST 22 POL BRAZ

REF: RIO 1501

SUBJECT: CARLOS LACERDA REMAINS IN PUBLIC EYE

1. FOLLOWING ATTACK ON GOB LAUNCHED IN LETTER TO EDITOR OF JORNAL DO BRASIL (REFTEL), CARLOS LACERDA FIRED SECOND SALVO IN FORM OF LETTER TO JORNALIST THEOPHILO DE ANDRADE WHICH APPEARED FRONT PAGE O JORNAL 21 AUGUST. FONMIN JURACY MAGALHAES QUOTED IN O GLOBO FOLLOWING DAY SAYING "REAPPEARANCE" OF LACERDA CANNOT BE VIEWED IN ISOLATION FROM OTHER FACTS, SUCH AS PRONOUNCEMENTS OF DISCONTENTED MILITARY, ALLEGATIONS THAT OPPOSITION CANDIDATES WILL BE CASSATED AND EVEN PETITIONS TO IMPEACH PRESIDENT. THESE ARE PREPARATORY ACTS, HE SAID, WHICH LEAD GOVERNMENT TO BELIEVE ITS ADVERSARIES ARE PLANNING MORE SERIOUS ACTIONS AND WILL ATTACK. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, HAT GOB IN COMPLETE CONTROL OF SITUATION AND WILL NOT DEVIATE ONE MILLIMETER FROM ITS PLANS IN FURTHERANCE OF REVOLUTIONARY OBJECTIVES.
2. SECOND LACERDA LETTER WAS PERHAPS SOMEWHAT MILDER IN TONE THAN FIRST (IN LACERDISTA TERMS), BUT WAS MORE OPENLY AN APPEAL FOR SUPPORT IN ARMY. PRESIDENT CASTELLO BRANCO HAS USED ARMED FORCES TO DENATIONALIZE COUNTRY, HE CLAIMED, THUS ABUSING EXCEPTIONAL POWERS CONFERED ON HIM BY THEM WITH RESULT THAT CONFIDENCE OF COUNTRY IN MILITARY DRYING UP. ALSO STATED THAT PRESIDENT, HAVING ELIMINATED ONE BY ONE CIVILIAN LEADERS OF COUNTRY, IS NOW

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ELIMINATING MILITARY LEADERS EN MASSE, REPLACING THOSE "MATURED AND TRIED IN BATTLE" WITH "DIRTIEST AND MOST FOOLISH ROTTEN ELEMENTS OF THE PAST."

3. LACERDA ALSO DEVOTED CONSIDERABLE SPACE TO INFLUENCE OF AMERICAN TECHNICIANS IN GOB. WHILE ALLOWING THERE NOTHING WRONG WITH USING FOREIGN TECHNICIANS, HE SAID THAT IT "ERROR AND CRIME" TO HAND OVER TO THEM DECISIONS OF BASIC ECONOMIC POLICY. AS EXAMPLE OF GOB SUBSERVIENCE TO US TECHNICIANS HE CITED SUGGESTION MADE BY HIM CONCERNING GOVERNMENT GRAIN STORAGE WHICH IGNORED UNTIL SAME SUGGESTION MADE BY OFFICIALS OF US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE. LACERDA PLAYED TO MILITARY ON THIS POINT ALSO, SAYING THAT WHEN HE SUGGESTED CUT IN MILITARY SPENDING THIS EXPLOITED BY PRESIDENTIAL PALACE TO SUGGEST HE HOSTILE TO ARMED FORCES, BUT NOW THAT PRESIDENT JOHNSON HAS MADE SIMILAR STATEMENT, GOB WILL UNDOUBTEDLY OBEY. IN ALL EXAMPLES CITED, LACERDA IMPLIES US ADVICE AND GOB ACTION CORRECT BUT TAKES ISSUE THAT ADVICE TAKEN FROM US RATHER THAN FROM BRAZILIANS.

4. FONMIN IN HIS INTERVIEW DECLINED COMMENT ON LACERDA'S OUTBURSTS, SAYING THAT IN PAST THEY HAD ALWAYS AGREED ON FOREIGN POLICY, WHICH HAS REMAINED THE SAME. ALSO ADDED THAT HE AND LACERDA HAD CAMPAIGNED TOGETHER IN NOW-EXTINCT UDN AND NOT IN HABIT OF GOING BACK ON OLD FRIENDSHIPS.

5. COMMENT: IF SECOND LACERDA LETTER IS "BOMB" PREDICTED BY PRESIDENT (RIO 1497) IT OF FAIRLY LOW YIELD, AND IF GOB SETTING OFF COUNTER-BARRAGE, SHELLS HAVE NOT YET EXPLODED PUBLICLY. FONMIN'S COMMENTS ON LACERDA SO MILD AS TO SUGGEST ATTEMPT PLAY DOWN IMPORTANCE LACERDA'S LATEST FORAYS, RATHER THAN ALL-OUT COUNTER-ATTACK.

TUT HILL

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