

INCOMING TELEGRAM

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FROM: Rio de Janeiro

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 2522, June 26, 11 p.m. DECLASSIFICATION DATE 3-1-77

PER R. Elly

OFFICE ARA

FADRC FOI CASE NO. 610029 Leeds

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Embassy telegram 2509

Chamber yesterday approved President Joao Goulart's request for permission leave country order attend Papal coronation.

Indications are he will depart June 28 and return July 1.

Press reports emphasize, presumably at instigation palace sources, that Goulart, although accompanying Brazilian delegation, is going as President of Brazil and (borrowing words from Papal Nuncio's official invitation) "of world's largest Catholic country".

Delegation will be headed by new Foreign Minister Evandro Cavalcante Lins e Silva and will probably include some if not all of following: (1) Auro Moura Andrade - President of Senate and member Conservative Social Democratic Party; (2) Lafayette Andrade - President of Supreme Court; (3) Hermes Lima - most recently Foreign Minister and now member Supreme Court; (4) Dom Jose Newton - Archbishop of Brasilia; (5) representative Chamber Deputies as yet unnamed; and (6) Henrique de Souza Gomes - Brazilian Ambassador to Holy See.

/Papers

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-2- 2522, June 26, 11 p.m., from Rio de Janeiro

Papers continue carry rumors, usually linked to administration, Goulart expects meet President Kennedy during trip. Pro-regime ULTIMA HORA today headlines Kennedy-Goulart meeting as already established. Embassy has not been approached by GOB on possibility such meeting.

Pro-regime press stressing identity views Goulart and new Pope on world peace and other "progressive" policies and also prospect Goulart being in Rome in company important Catholic heads of state such as de Gaulle, de Valera and King Baudoin in addition President Kennedy.

Embassy comment: View recent successful Goulart trip Chile and Uruguay in furtherance regime's determination "project Brazilian personality upon international stage", GOB found present opportunity irresistible public relations vehicle.

Projected trip also being used to prove regime's stability following last weeks Cabinet shakeup. Gesture also evident move neutralize past and present accusations regime's association with Communism and focus on what Goulart calls his "Christian formation" to show that what Goulart really stands for are principles enunciated in encyclical PACEM IN TERRIS and he ready help new Pope carry them forward. Goulart undoubtedly glad get away from strife and turmoil domestic scene for few days and get easy and favorable publicity at same time.

Embassy presently uncertain Goulart's true intentions regarding rumors he plans seek out President Kennedy, while in Rome. In circumstances, Embassy would point out that while any Goulart-Kennedy meeting susceptible to publicity indicating US approval Goulart and current orientation his government would be undesirable, overriding consideration is that any action on our part that could be interpreted as snub to Brazil would be most unfortunate.

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