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Action

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Info

FROM: RIO DE JANEIRO

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TO: Secretary of State

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NO: 1662, MARCH 5, 6 PM

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"ULTIMA HORA" EDITORIAL REPORTED REFTel PLUS COLUMNISTS' DISCUSSIONS DANTAS MISSION APPEARING SAME DAY IN "JORNAL DO BRASIL" SEEM ADD UP TO GOB CAMPAIGN PUT OVER PARTICULAR POINT OF VIEW ON DANTAS MISSION. UH HAS FOR MONTHS PAST FUNCTIONED AS DE FACTO GOULART-PTB MOUTHPIECE, JB AS STAUNCH SUPPORTER ADMINISTRATION FOREIGN POLICY ALSO REFLECTING DANTAS' VIEWS. TAKEN TOGETHER, PAPERS SEEM BE SAYING THAT BECAUSE OF US HEMISPHERIC POLICY CONSIDERATIONS ON ONE HAND, AND BRAZILIAN DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION ON OTHER, US MUST NOT ATTEMPT IMPOSE POLITICAL CONDITIONS AND CANNOT EXPECT DANTAS TO MAKE MORE THAN "TECHNICAL" ADJUSTMENTS ON ECONOMIC SIDE.

WHILE UH HANDLED US SIDE (REFTel), JB CONCENTRATED ON BRAZILIAN, WRITING THAT ON DANTAS MISSION THERE "WILL DEPEND NOT MERELY FATE OF PRESENT CABINET" BUT DECISION WHETHER "ALTERNATIVE, OF UNDENIABLE INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL EFFECTS, WILL FACE COUNTRY... AN ALTERNATIVE ALL OF WHOSE CONSEQUENCES NOT YET EVALUATED". IN US, JB WROTE, DANTAS "WILL NOT HAVE POLITICAL CONDITIONS FOR NEGOTIATING WITHOUT INTERNALLY SHAKING UP COUNTRY...HE WILL HAVE MERELY TO PRESENT BRAZILIAN PLANS AND ADJUST THEM, ONLY TECHNICALLY, TO POLITICAL VARIATIONS THAT MOMENT MAY REQUIRE." IF OTHER MATTERS INCLUDED IN NEGOTIATIONS, "MOST INTENSE ANTI-AMERICANISM" WILL BREAK OUT IN BRAZIL, IN WHICH MANY MAY JOIN, INCLUDING MAGALHAES PINTO, QUADROS, AND "EVEN CARLOS LACERDA." DANTAS

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-2- 1662, MARCH 5, 6 PM, FROM: RIO DE JANEIRO

"WILL BE ABLE TO OFFER PRACTICALLY NOTHING IN EXCHANGE FOR NECESSARY AID." THUS (WROTE A SECOND JB COLUMNIST) DANTAS "ONLY WISHES TO TRAVEL WASHINGTON WHEN HE HAS PRECISE INFORMATION ON AIMS AND INTENTIONS USG." FINMIN "WILL BROACH CONVERSATIONS ON FINANCIAL POLICY EXCLUSIVELY. FINMIN WILL NOT DEAL WITH CUBA QUESTION, MILITARY COMMANDS, ALMINO-OSVINO AXIS."

COMMENT: REASONS FOR THIS (APPARENT) CAMPAIGN PROBABLY:
(1) ATTEMPT MAXIMIZE GOB AND MINIMIZE US BARGAINING POSITION IN EFFORT GET US IMPOSE ONLY MINIMAL PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS AND CONDITIONS ON AID; (2) GOB FEELING MISSION MUST BE PRESENTED THIS LIGHT TO UNDERCUT EXTREME LEFT CHARGES OF "ENTREGUISMO," ALREADY BEING HEARD; AND (3) PREPARE PUBLIC OPINION BLAME US IN EVENT TALKS FAIL. SCP-4

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