

63
INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Control: 3728

Rec'd: August 6, 1963
12:59 a.m.

ARA

Info

FROM: Rio de Janeiro

SS

TO: Secretary of State

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SP

NO: 259, August 5, 10 p.m.

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ACTION DEPARTMENT 259, INFORMATION BRASILIA 29, POLAD CINCSO 21

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Reference: Embassy telegram 246, Paragraph 4 *Page 15 Bury*

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USIA

Article 46 Government Pay Bill which published July 18 DIARIO OFICIAL makes provision for members of military police, civil police, penitentiary service personnel and firemen serving in Guanabara to "request" return to Federal service status. Option to be made within 90 days laws publication and "approval of request will be conditioned on existence of vacancy."

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Guanabara UDN Deputy Adaucao Cardoso exploiting issue to charge Goulart administration with plans intervene in Guanabara. While Embassy believes this charge somewhat far-fetched, political implications obvious. Justice Minister Jurema acting as government spokesman on issue. It reported that he will name "high level" Justice/Military Committee to prepare regulations for federalization to report "within 30 days." Lacerda and UDN basing arguments around two points: 1) Laws provision for transfer conditioned on vacancies --- with claims that only vacancies which exist are in connection conceivable transfer some 2000 military police to Brasilia. In this connection it should be noted that Guanabara Security Secretary has told Embassy officers that this would be estimated number effected by option. On other hand, press estimates state that up to 90 per cent of military police force (total force roughly 8500) will opt for Federal service. 2) Second point of UDN deals with possible employment federalized forces within

FILE

Guanabara.

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-2- 259, August 5, 10 p.m., from Rio de Janeiro

Guanabara. Military police considered to be an element of military reserve, and there press speculation that federalization would be combined with military incorporation of units, placing force effectively under army command. Should this transpire, force might still be legally employed for limited functions within state. (e.g. protection of Federal institutions and patrol duties of Embassies and Legations).

Federal Government has continued to pay salaries Guanabara elements in question since capital transfer to Brasilia. This being presented as moral justification for move. Jurema has admitted other side of issue, commenting in ULTIMA HORA interview that Lacerdas open opposition to Goulart regime made it necessary for GOB to "keep him under close observation."

While transfer of units to Federal authority could clip Lacerdas wings and confront him with difficult tasks in maintaining public order, issue might rebound to his advantage, making him appear once again as beleaguered individual running effective state government in face constant attack by Federal authorities.

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