

AIRGRAM

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A-1218

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TO : Department of State

1963 APR 30 AM 7 22

FROM : Amembassy BRASILIA Office

DATE: April 24, 1963

SUBJECT : Threats of Leonel Brizola Against Congress

REF : Rio de Janeiro's telegrams 1905 of April 3, 1963, and 1924 of April 5, 1963, and Department's telegram 1822 of April 5, 1963.

The Embassy's telegrams under reference reported statements issued by Senate President Auro Soares de Moura Andrade (PSD, São Paulo) on April 2, 1963, and April 3, 1963, concerning threats to the physical security of Congress. The Department's telegram requested the Embassy's interpretation and a description of the background of these statements.

On April 1, Federal Deputy Leonel Brizola (PTB, Guanabara) reportedly said in the coffee bar of the Chamber of Deputies that he would consider his efforts to attain revolutionary change through parliamentary action to be at an end on Monday after Holy Week, i.e., on April 15. This statement was probably made in the context of a discussion of the Holy Week recess of Congress, then in the debating stage, which extended from April 5 to April 15.

GROUP 4

Downgraded at 3-year intervals.

Declassified 12 years after date of origin.

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FORM 4-62 DS-323

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Contents and Classification Approved by: POL:JLeppe1

Clearances:

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Authority NND 939529

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At various times Brizola has given Congress ultimatums for action on basic reforms -- 60 days from the opening (which took place on February 1, so that the expiration date would be approximately March 31 or April 1), 45 days from a statement made during the week of March 25-29 (presumably expiring about May 9-13), etc. His remarks have been paralleled by obvious appeals for direct action to the inhabitants of the slum towns, called satellite cities, which have grown up around Brasília. There had been talk of a "march on Congress".

Brizola's April 1 statement in Brasília came at a time when the country was somewhat tense because of a "politico-military" crisis in Guanabara. The Federal Government had on March 29 ordered federal troops to assume security responsibility for government buildings in Guanabara in an attempt to counter UDN Guanabara Governor Carlos Lacerda's police action against the Congresso Pro-Cuba scheduled for March 28-30 in Rio de Janeiro. For months the Goulart Government had been attacking oppositionist Lacerda in the press and with various harassing actions (such as price-controlling foodstuffs out of the Guanabara markets), and the March 29 action was interpreted by many as a sort of attempted intervention^I, a hostile pre-coup move by the Goulart government against one of its major adversaries.

I- A juridical procedure whereby the government of a state, territory, or municipality is suspended by action of the federal government, which then administers the "intervened" government by direct executive action.

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