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Control: 4357

Rec'd: MARCH 6, 1963

11:05 P.M.

NUMBERED

FROM: MILITARY ATTACHES RIO DE JANEIRO

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 062050Z, MARCH (ARMY MESSAGE).

ACTION USAF, DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY, DIA/CIIC, ONI, DEPARTMENT OF STATE; INFORMATION CINCARIB QUARRY HTS, COMUSARCARIB FT. AMADOR, CINCLANTFLT, COMUSAIRCARIB ALBROOK AFB, CON15NAVDIST PANAMA, COMSOLANT, 1127 USAF FAB FT BELVOIR VIRGINIA.

FROM MILITARY ATTACHES J-6 FOR COFS FOR AFNIN;

ARMY FOR ACSI.

SUBJECT IS BRAZILIAN-FRENCH DISPUTE OVER LOBSTER FISHING FLEET.

REFERENCE: OUR J-5.

MSG IN TWO PARTS.

PART ONE: SUMMARY OF SITUATION; FRENCH FRIGATE PAUL GOFFNEY IS ON STATION WITH SIX FRENCH LOBSTER BOAT ABOUT ONE HUNDRED MILES OFF NORTHEAST COAST BRAZIL. DESTROYER TARTU REPORTED RETURNING TO AFRICA OR FRANCE; BAF AND BRAZILIAN NAVY MAINTAINING CONSTANT CONTACT WITH FRENCH SHIPS. AUTHORITATIVE "JORNAL DO BRASIL" REPORTS THAT FIVE MARCH DESTROYER PERNAMBUCO APPROACHED WITHIN THREE HUNDRED METERS OF GOFFNEY AND FISHING FLEET WITH ALL GUNS IN COMBAT POSITION, CRUISER BARROSO ARRIVED RECIFE FIVE MARCH CARRYING ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY TONS MUNITIONS, CRUISER TAMANDARE AND THREE DESTROYERS EXPECTED ARRIVE RECIFE SIX MARCH. BAF ISSUED COMMUNIQUE THREE MARCH STATING POSITION FRENCH BOATS WAS FOUR DEGREES FORTY MINUTES SOUTH AND THIRTY THREE DEGREES FORTY FIVE MINUTES WEST, THAT NO HOSTILE ACTIONS WERE BEING TAKEN BY FRENCH SHIPS AND BAF WAS MAINTAINING CONSTANT CONTACT.

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ACTION ASSIGNED TO: AORA/EST/LB	ACTION TAKEN: none	DIRECTIONS TO RM/R: file
NAME OF OFFICER: RJ Burton	DATE OF ACTION: 3/7/63	
OFFICE SYMBOL:		

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Authority NNA 939529

POL 33-4 BRAZ-FR

XR OS 12-12 FR

XR INCO - FISH BRAZ

ARMY

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-2- 061050Z, MARCH (ARMY MESSAGE). FROM: MILITARY ATTACHES
RIO DE JANEIRO.

PRESS REPORTS THIRD REGIONAL MARINE BATTALION AT RECIFE ON ALERT. FOURTH ARMY COMMANDER ISSUED STATEMENT ARMY READY TO GIVE FULL SUPPORT TO BAF AND NAVY. AIR MINISTER VISITED RECIFE AREA OVER WEEKEND ON ROUTINE INSPECTION TRIP BUT ALSO REVIEWED AIR OPERATIONS AGAINST FRENCH VESSELS; BAF HAS MOVED F-80 JETS FROM FORTALEZA TO RECIFE (B-2) AND REPORTED TO HAVE MOVED B-26'S FROM NATAL TO RECIFE.

PRESS STATES BAF HAS EIGHTY AIRCRAFT CONCENTRATED RECIFE AND BRAZILIAN NAVY HAS TWO CRUISERS AND NINE DESTROYERS ON DUTY THIS OPERATION;

FOREIGN OFFICE POSITION IS BRAZIL WILL NOT NEGOTIATE WITH FRENCH WHILE FRENCH FISHING BOATS AND WARSHIP REMAIN OFF BRAZILIAN COAST. PRESS REPORTS FRENCH FISHING VESSELS RUNNING LOW ON FUEL AND SUPPLIES;

PART TWO: COMMENT: SITUATION LUDICROUS BUT THERE HAS BEEN SUBSTANTIAL MASSING OF BRAZILIAN AIR AND NAVAL FORCES. BRAZILIAN MILITARY EXTRACTING EVERY OUNCE OF GLORY FROM "LOBSTER WAR". FRENCH INTENTIONS UNKNOWN. BELIEVE BRAZILIAN FORCES HAVE MANEUVERED THEMSELVES INTO POSITION IN WHICH THEY WOULD BE OBLIGED USE FORCE IF FRENCH ATTEMPTED RENEW FISHING ACTIVITIES PRIOR REACHING AGREEMENT THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS; GENERAL EXPECTATION BRAZIL IS SITUATION WILL BE RESOLVED THROUGH DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS.

GROUP THREE.

BA/22.

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