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September 19, 1963

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RIO 604

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FROM: Rio de Janeiro

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TO: Secretary of State

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NO: 604, September 18, 7 p.m. (SECTION I OF II)

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ACTION DEPARTMENT 604, INFORMATION PRIORITY BRASILIA 67,
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Somewhat jittery political climate persists following September 12 events. Various groupings and individuals apparently in process of determining their course of action. Since Brasilia uprising appears to have been part of larger plan, conceivable that efforts might be made to parlay issue into further attempts at violence. ARMA sources indicate that state of military alert somewhat relaxed after high degree maintained past few days. However, various sergeants groups continue to meet. Subversive elements concentrating efforts on army sector, since any further attempt without support that group would probably abort once again.

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Developments within various sectors during last 24 hours as follows:

Military: Rio press reports September 18 that Navy Minister Mota pressing punitive action against rebels. Situation potentially complicated by arrest (reported DIARIO CARIOCA) of navy petty officer Antonio Tomas, Guanabara state deputy Suplente. Meanwhile, Zochcavalheiro (subject Supreme Court ruling) reportedly still being held incommunicado in Sao Paulo. It also reported that two sergeants arrested in Minas Gerais after publication of manifesto supporting September 12 rebels.

War Minister Jair issues official note September 17 denying

rumored Brasilia

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-2- 604, September 18, 7 p.m. (SECTION I OF II) from Rio de Janeiro

Count by Association
rumored Brasilia telephone censorship. Jair and Navy Minister Moto traveling to Brasilia September 18 with Air Minister already there. (ARMA at airport when commercial plane took off; among other passengers were Brizola, Garcia Filho, Albino Silva.).

JORNAL DO BRASIL headlines September 18 report that Military Ministers "demanding state of seige" citing recent military police unrest in northeast, Brasilia rebellion, and strike situation as basis for "legalizing situation which has kept armed forces in state of alert". Goulart, according that newspaper promised answer upon return from Mato Grosso, but has thus far avoided showdown with Ministers. Embassy skeptical of story, although it quite likely subject discussed following September 12 events and could possibly be revived.

Congress: GOB majority leader Tancredo Neves has indicated that order of business will not be altered, with first item of consideration still being issue of agrarian reform. There some apparent equivocation whether this stand reflects Goulart positions with reports that majority vice-leader Leopoldo Pere petitioning (with blessing Justice Minister Jurema) for prior consideration Sergeant's eligibility issue. On latter issue, Congress now faced with several alternatives: Original Magalhaes Melo proposal (Embassy telegram 589), Peres proposal which textually reflects position taken by War Minister Jair, and anticipated proposal of Deputy Garcia Filho which would have military candidates placed on leave status during campaigns, with subsequent transfer to reserve if directed.

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According CORREIA DA MANHA, Deputy Arthur Lima "in name of Nationalist Parliamentary Front (FPN)" declared September 17 that that group would not accept state of siege. (It should be noted that Articles 206-208 of Constitution reserve right of declaration state of seige to Congress when in session.)

Students: UNE-sponsored rally September 17 drew reported 3000 persons. Few people in evidence UNE site when Charge passed around 8 p.m. Only prominent leftist leaders to attend were Padre Alipio and Francisco Juliao, although advanced publicity had stated Brizola, Max da Costa Santos, et al would participate. Group expressed strong support for sergeants, listened to Alipio and Juliao call for immediate revolution.

It also reported that Minas Gerais student groups have expressed solidarity with rebels.

Labor: Bank workers have declared strike for various areas of country, causing Goulart to decree bank holiday September 18 and 19. Strike may last until September 25 when regional labor court decision due their case. CGT leader Clodsmidt Riani states (according JORNAL DO BRASIL) that organization will initiate this week "campaign of popular mobilization in favor approval sergeants 'amendment'". Hercules Correa (who reportedly maintaining contact with General Crisanto de Figueiredo) and

Oswaldo Pacheco

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Oswaldo Pacheco spearheading movement calling for general strike in event "state of seige" declared. Plans for such strike apparently embryonic, with Riani stating that, "nothing has been decided". Labor Attache continues believe Coulart can prevent effective general strike -- if he so desired -- though some leaders irresponsible left could cause difficulties lasting few days.

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