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INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

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1. JORNAL DO BRASIL CARRIED STORY OCTOBER 31 SAYING PRESIDENT CASTELLO BRANCO INCLINED TURN OVER PRESIDENCY TO SUCCESSOR IN JANUARY, 1966, RATHER THAN FINISH OUT MANDATE PREVIOUSLY EXTENDED BY CONGRESS TO JANUARY 1967. PAPER RELATED VERSION OF EVENTS SURROUNDING DRAFTING OF ARTICLE 26 OF SECOND INSTITUTIONAL ACT (PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION), ACCORDING TO WHICH PRESIDENT PERSONALLY DRAFTED VERSION CALLING FOR SUCCESSION IN NOVEMBER, 1965, BUT WAS DISSUADED BY MILITARY MINISTERS AND JURACY MAGALHAES. IN THIS ACCOUNT MINISTERS WON OVER PRESIDENT TO COMPROMISE LANGUAGE WHICH

PAGE TWO RUESUA 036 UNCLAS

ALLOWED HIM TO CALL FOR ELECTION OF SUCCESSOR ANY TIME BEFORE OCTOBER, 1966. CORREIO DA MANHA PRINTED SIMILAR STORY SAME DAY, SAYING PRESIDENT DISPOSED STEP DOWN AS SOON AS OPPORTUNITY PRESENTS ITSELF.

2. ON NOVEMBER FIRST, O GLOBO CITED SOURCES AT LARANJEIRAS PALACE AS CONFIRMING CASTELLO HAD IN FACT SUGGESTED NOVEMBER ELECTIONS IN ORDER TO DEMONSTRATE THAT HE WOULD NOT USE METHODS OF FORCE, SUCH AS INSTITUTIONAL ACT, FOR HIS PERSONAL BENEFIT, AND THAT HE WAS DISSUADED FROM THIS "EXCESS OF SCRUPLE" BY REVOLUTIONARY LEADERS. SOURCES DENIED, HOWEVER, THAT PRESIDENT HAS ANY IMMEDIATE INTENTION OF CALLING ELECTIONS.

3. ABOVE IS SUBMITTED AS INDICATION OF TREATMENT WHICH SUBJECT OF PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION RECEIVING IN PRESS. GORDON

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Examined by RMR
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