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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRASILIA 179

NSC

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SEPTEMBER 23

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NSA

SUBJECT: AFTERMATH OF STONING OF USIS INFO CENTER

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JOINT EMBASSY/USIS

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1. ACTIVITIES AT US INFO CENTER NORMAL SEPI.23
AFTER COMPLETE CLOSURE YESTERDAY. MAYOR OF BRASILIA HAS ANNOUNCED
INQUIRY TO DETERMINE WHO RESPONSIBLE FOR STONING
OF CENTER.

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2. O GLOBO TODAY REPORTS CHIEF OF POLICE, RECTOR OF UNIVERSITY
OF BRASILIA (UNB), TWO STUDENT LEADERS, AND COMMANDANT OF
MILITARY POLICE FOR FEDERAL DISTRICT MET YESTERDAY EVENING.
STUDENTS DISCLAIMED ANY PARTICIPATION IN STONING OF CENTER AND
HAD NO EXPLANATION OF HOW FLAG APPEARED ON CAMPUS OF UNB.

O GLOBO ALSO REPORTS POSSIBILITY OF FLAG BEING RETURNED TO
U.S. EMBASSY AVOIDING IN THIS WAY DIPLOMATIC PROBLEMS.
("...EVITANDO-SE, DESSA FORMA, PROBLEMAS DIPLOMATICAS.")
O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO REPORTS THAT FLAG WAS DISPLAYED TO
LARGE MEETING OF STUDENTS AT UNB YESTERDAY. FLAG LATER
RAISED ON FLAG POLE OF UNIVERSITY AND STATEMENT MADE BY
PRESIDENT OF FEUB THAT "...FLAG RETRIEVED FROM USIS WILL
SERVE AS THE SYMBOL OF THE FIGHT OF THE STUDENTS, ALONG
WITH THE PEOPLE, AGAINST THE MILITARY DICTATORSHIP."

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ULTIMA HORA, REPORTING BASICALLY SAME STORY AS O ESTADO, ALSO REPORTS THAT RECTOR OF UNB ORDERED FLAG REMOVED FROM UNIVERSITY FLAG POLE.

3. EXPRESSIONS OF REPULSION CONTINUE AT HIGH LEVEL. GOVERNMENT LEADER IN CHAMBER DEPUTIES YESTERDAY DEPLORED ACTION DURING SPEECH ON GENERAL STUDENT SITUATION. VICE LEADER OF OPPOSITION IN SPEECH SUPPORTING ACTIONS OF STUDENTS IN GENERAL STATED THAT "...I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT NO ONE IN THE OPPOSITION APPLAUDS THE ACTION OF THE STUDENTS WHO STONED THAT CASA THOMAS JEFFERSON." SIMILAR STATEMENTS MADE BY SEVERAL OTHER DEPUTIES. EDITOR IN CHIEF LOCAL

NEWSPAPER DEPLORED DAMAGE TO CASA THOMAS JEFFERSON AND CONTINUED "IF WE WERE TO ADD UP THE WORK PERFORMANCE WOULD FIND CREDITED TO THE CASA THOMAS JEFFERSON AN EXTRAORDINARY TOTAL OF SERVICES PROVIDED."

4. RECTOR OF UNB AND ASSISTANT FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS APPEARED AT EMBASSY OFFICE 6:00 P.M. SEPT. 23 AND RETURNED A FLAG TO BRASILIA COUNSELOR AND BPAO WITH APOLOGIES. FLAG IS NOT ACTUAL FLAG TAKEN FROM CENTER, BUT WAS SYMBOLIC GESTURE. (FOR SOME UNKNOWN REASONS STUDENTS PRACTICALLY DESTROYED ORIGINAL FLAG.) RECTOR ACKNOWLEDGED THAT STUDENTS FROM UNB PROBABLY CAUSED DAMAGE WHICH HE, AS LEADER OF UNIVERSITY, COULD ONLY LAMENT AS "COWARDLY AND UNJUSTIFIED ACT AGAINST ANOTHER EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL INSTITUTION." STRESSING POLICE NEGLIGENCE, RECTOR MENTIONED THREE SEPARATE TIMES FACT THAT CENTER HAD BEEN COMPLETELY UNPROTECTED--CONFIRMING INDIRECTLY STORIES CIRCULATING HERE THAT POLICE ARE SEEKING BLAME UNIVERSITY AUTHORITIES FOR INCIDENT. AT OUR REQUEST, RECTOR AGREED THAT PHOTO OF FLAG PRESENTATION AND STORY OF HIS COMING TO US WITH APOLOGY

COULD BE USED IN U.S. WE WILL NOT RELEASE LOCALLY BUT WILL CONFIRM, IF ASKED, THAT FLAG HAS BEEN RETURNED. PHOTOS WILL BE TRANSMITTED ASAP.

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5. COMMENT: EMBOFFICE, THROUGH UNIVERSITY'S ASSISTANT FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, HAD BEEN DISCREETLY ENCOURAGING RECTOR TO MAKE AMENDS. HAD SUGGESTED FLAG BE RETURNED SAT IN FOR CENTER WITH SUITABLE PRESS COVERAGE, BUT RECTOR--UNDERSTANDABLY CONCERNED ABOUT HIS POSITION VIS-A-VIS STUDENT BODY--CHOSE QUIETER MANNER OF PRESENTATION. IT CLEAR RECTOR'S APOLOGIES DESIGNED EXCULPATE UNIVERSITY, BUT NOT POLICE.

TUTHILL

Note: Passed USIA at 5:37 p.m. 9/24/66.

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