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INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

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CONFIDENTIAL

Action

ARA MNNESD762WQP  
RR RUEHCR  
Info DE RUESUA 791 3282320  
ZNY CCCCC  
SS R 242127Z  
G FM AMEMBASSY RIODEJANEIRO  
SP TO RUEHCR/SECSTATE WASHDC 1224  
L INFO ZEN/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 138  
P RUESUP/AMCONGEN SAOPAULO 69  
STATE GRNC

USIA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NOVEMBER 24

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1. SPEAKING AT ALAGOINHAS, BAHIA, NOVEMBER 24; PRESIDENT CASTELLO BRANCO ISSUED VIRTUAL CHALLENGE TO MILITARY "HARD LINE". ALTHOUGH FULL TEXT OF SPEECH NOT YET AVAILABLE, ACCORDING PRESS PRESIDENT STATED "REGARDING NEWS OF INSURRECTION, GOVERNMENT PREFERS TO CONFRONT IT RATHER THAN BY-PASS IT AS I RECOGNIZE NO AUTONOMOUS FORCE WITHIN MILITARY CIRCLES OF COUNTRY. IF IT EXISTS, LET IT MEASURE ITS TRUE DIMENSIONS AND PASS FROM A DELETERIOUS CONSPIRACY TO AN OPEN ACTION". REMAINDER OF SPEECH APPARENTLY DEVOTED TO DESCRIPTION OF GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS AT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF INTERIOR, ETC.

2. THIS IS FIRST SUCH PUBLIC CHALLENGE THAT PRESIDENT HAS ISSUED. IT IS ALSO FIRST TIME SINCE IA-2 THAT PRESIDENT HAS IN PUBLIC

PAGE TWO RUESUA 791 C O N F I D E N T I A L  
EXPLICITLY ACKNOWLEDGED DISSIDENCE OR OPPOSITION WITHIN RANKS OF MILITARY. APPARENTLY INTENDED AS FURTHER INDICATION OF PRESIDENT'S WILLINGNESS TO JOIN ISSUE WITH MILITARY "HARD LINE" OVER INVESTITURE OF NEGRAO DE LIMA.

3. THAT NEGRAO DE LIMA INVESTITURE MAY STILL BE OPEN QUESTION, HOWEVER, WAS INDICATED BY JOAO LIMA PADUA, FRIEND AND ADVISOR TO NEGRAO, WHO TOLD EMBOFF TODAY THAT HE CONSIDERED ISSUE TO BE UNSETTLED. HE SAID THAT IPM ON COMMUNIST PARTY HAS SUBMITTED REPORT DENOUNCING NEGRAO AND RECOMMENDING THAT NEGRAO'S MANDATE BE CASSATED AND HIS POLITICAL RIGHTS SUSPENDED. TRIBUNA DA IMPRENSA OF NOVEMBER 24 HEADLINES STORY OF IPM RECOMMENDATION, ADDING THAT IT HAS BEEN ENDORSED BY FIRST ARMY COMMANDER AND FORWARDED TO MINISTER OF WAR.

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