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TO : DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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JUN 22 1964

FROM : AmEmbassy, RIO DE JANEIRO

DATE: June 18, 1964

SUBJECT : Ambassador Gordon Visits Mato Grosso, June 5-7.

REF :

At the invitation of Governor Fernando Correa da Costa, the Ambassador, Consul General Bond, and a party of Embassy officials visited Mato Grosso, June 5-7, 1964. As of interest to the Department, copies of the Ambassador's program and newspaper clippings describing the visit are enclosed.

In Cuiabá on June 5 the Ambassador, the Governor and local officials signed three agreements providing AID assistance in the state of Mato Grosso: a loan of \$4.3 million to CEMAT (Centrais Elétricas Matogrossenses) and Food-for Peace commodity grants to two colonization projects in the northern, heavily-forested part of the state. The CEMAT loan will assist the expansion of electricity generating, transmitting, and distribution facilities in the cities of Cuiabá, Corumbá, and Campo Grande, raising presently overtaxed generating capacity of 19,000 KW to 48,000 KW by 1966. Mato Grosso, which offers great potential for economic development and population absorption, almost doubled its population in the 1950-1960 decade, but power shortages have threatened to become a factor seriously limiting future growth. The Food for Peace projects will provide commodities valued at approximately \$60,000 to colonies at Rio Ferro and Gleba Arinos. The economy of these settlements will be built around natural rubber, and the commodities will help tide the colonists over the interim period until the trees start producing.

The balance of the weekend, June 6-7, was spent travelling through the State -- to Corumbá, Campo Grande and Urubupunga. The Ambassador had an opportunity to exchange impressions with a number of prominent Mato Grosso and national officials, principal among the latter, Minister of

/Planning

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Drafted by:

ECON:CWGrover:lsc

Contents and Classification Approved by:

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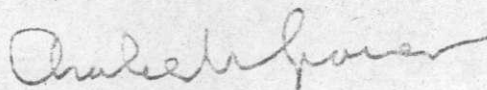
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Planning and former Ambassador to the US, Roberto Campos, who joined the Ambassador's party for the trip.

The Ambassador was well received wherever he stopped, and large crowds reacted warmly to his frequent responses in Portuguese to the honors accorded him. As evidence of the unanimity of feeling, at an homenagem held at the State legislative assembly, speakers for both the government and opposition bancadas were highly complementary of the United States, a fact noted appreciatively by the Ambassador in his response.

For the Chargé d'Affaires a.i.



Charles W. Grover
Industry Officer

Not att m m
Enclosure: As stated.

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