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TELEGRAM

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ACTION ARA 20

INFO OCT 01, CIAE 00, DODE 00, JPM 04, H 02, INR 07, L 03, NSAE 00, NSC 10,

P 03, RSC 01, PRS 01, SS 20, USIA 12, AID 28, PC 04, RSR 01, /117 W

123235

R 01 1630Z OCT 69
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1178
INFO AMCONSUL RECIFE
AMEMBASSY RIO DE JANEIRO
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
USCINCSO

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RIO PASS OTHER POSTS.

1. SECGEN CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES PAULO AFFONSO, WHO RECENTLY RETURNED FROM RIO WHERE SPOKE WITH JUSTICE MINISTER GAMA E SILVA AND HIS CHIEF OF CABINET, REPORTS THAT DURING FIRST WEEK OF SEPTEMBER GAMA SUBMITTED TO JUNTA LIST OF APPROXIMATELY 300 NAMES INCLUDING FOUR FEDERAL SENATORS AND FIFTEEN TO TWENTY FEDERAL DEPUTIES TO BE CONSIDERED FOR POSSIBLE CASSATION ON GROUNDS SUBVERSION OR CORRUPTION. GAMA REPORTEDLY DID NOT KNOW HOW MANY JUNTA PLANNED CASSATE BUT URGED CASSATION PROCESS BE COMPLETED SOON BECAUSE IT DRAWS PUBLIC FIRE AND WEAKENS POPULAR CONFIDENCE IN POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS.

2. PAULO AFFONSO GOT IMPRESSION JUNTA PROBABLY WILL ADOPT FOLLOWING SEQUENCE EVENT: 1) CASSATIONS (PROBABLY THIS WEEK). 2) PROMULGATION CONSTITUTIONAL REFORMS, 3) INTERVENTIONS IN SOME STATES (PERHAPS MINAS GERAIS WHERE GOVERNOR PINHEIRO MIGHT BE REMOVED FOR ALLEGED CORRUPTION), 4) ANNOUNCEMENT GENERAL GARRASTAZU MEDICI AS NEW PRESIDENT (PROBABLY NEXT WEEK), 5) CONVOCAION OF CONGRESS IN MID-NOVEMBER TO "LEGITIMIZE" PRESIDENTIAL CHOICE.

3. BY CONVOKING CONGRESS IN MID-NOVEMBER, JUNTA COULD UTILIZE ITS LEGITIMIZATION FUNCTION AND THEN HAVE IT RECESS AS

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OFFICIALLY SCHEDULED NOVEMBER 30. THUS NEW PRESIDENT WOULD BE FREE OF CONGRESSIONAL PRESSURES WITHOUT HAVING RESORT TO UNILATERAL SUSPENSION WHICH WOULD BE UNPOPULAR WAY BEGIN NEW ADMINISTRATION. SINCE CONSTITUTIONAL REFORMS EXPECTED GIVE PRESIDENT WIDER POWERS ISSUE DECREE LAWS, NEW PRESIDENT COULD PROMULGATE MUSCH INITIAL LEGISLATION BEFORE CONGRES RECONVENES NEXT SPRING.

4. PAULO AFFONSO REPORTS ONLY CONCERN FELT IN RIO ABOUT THIS SCENARIO IS FEAR THAT DURING ALMOST SIX WEEKS BETWEEN ANNOUNCEMENT OF NAME OF NEW PRESIDENT AND HIS ASSUMPTION OF OFFICE SOME OF HOTTER HEADS AMONG COLONELS AND LOWER RANKING OFFICERS, WHO PARTIAL TO GENERAL ALBUQUERQUE LIMA AND STIMULATED BY RECENT BOLIVIAN COUP, WOULD HAVE TIME ORGANIZE CHALLENGE TO PRESIDENT-"ELECT". IT HIS VIEW HOWEVER THAT EVEN IF SUCH CHALLENGE MATERIALIZED IT WOULD NOT BE STRONG ENOUGH STOP MEDICI SELECTION NOW.

5. COMMENT: RECENT COMMENTS TO EMBASSY BY RESPONSIBLE DEPUTIES INCLUDING ACTING PRESIDENT HOUSE AROLD CARVALHO AND ARENA VICE LEADER LEON PERES INDICATE GROWING BITTERNESS OVER SITUATION STEMMING FROM FEELINGS OF HELPLESSNESS AND LACK OF ANY MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION IN POLITICAL PROCESS DURING THIS CRITICAL PERIOD. ALTHOUGH NOT CLEAR HOW THESE MEN WOULD REACT ABOVE SCENARIO, THEY AND OTHERS (RIO 7694) HAVE INDICATED THEY MIGHT NOT PASSIVELY ACCEPT A MANEUVER BY JUNTA WHICH WOULD USE CONGRESS MERELY LEGITIMIZE PRESIDENTIAL SELECTION WITHOUT ALLOWING FURTHER CONGRESSIONAL POLITICAL PARTICIPATION. WHAT FORM SUCH OPPOSITION MIGHT TAKE DIFFICULT ASSESSM MAY BE FURTHER RESIGNATIONS OR CRITICAL STATEMENTS, BUT ORGANIZED ACTION DIFFICULT IMAGINE THIS STAGE. GP-3.
LOW

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