

Department of State TELEGRAM

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87 ACTION ARA 20

INFO OCT 01,850 00, NSCE 00, USIE 00, CCO 00, CIAE 00, DODE 00, JPM & OH

INR 07.L 03. NSAE 00. NSC 10.P 03, RSC 01.PRS 01.SS 20.AID 28.PC 04.

RSR 01/105 W

089127

O R 252125Z SEP 69

FM AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1668

INFO AMEMBASSY RIO DE JANEIRO

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMCONSUL RECIFE

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JOINT STATE USIS MESSAGE

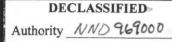
SUBJECT: NEWSPAPER CHALLENGES REGIME CENSORSHIP

REF: BRASILIA'S 410

- I. FEDERAL CENSORS CONFISCATED ABOUT 30,000 COPIES OF O ESTADO'S SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 21 EDITION AS REPORTED TO RIO BY AMEMBASSY BRASILIA. SEIZURE WAS MOTIVATED BY EDITORIAL STRONGLY CRITICIZING REVOLUTIONARY REGIME FOR DESTROYING POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS. ALSO CHARGED THAT MILITARY BY ASSUMING ROLE OF ELECTORAL BODY WOULD TAKE COUNTRY TO CHAOS.
- 2. O ESTADO'S OWNERS PUBLISHED IN AFTERNOON JORNAL DA TARDE TODAY FULL TEXT OF INTERAMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION'S PROTEST AGAINST FEDERAL SEIZURE OF SUNDAY EDITION WHICH HAD BEEN TELE-GRAPHED TO MILITARY TRIUMBIRATE.
- 3. PROTEST CALLED SEIZURE "CRASS VIOLATION OF FREEDOM OF PRESS" EXPRESSED HOPE JUNTA "WILL PUT AN END TO THIS AND ALL OTHER SPECIES OF CENSORSHIP."
- 4. COMMENT: MESQUITA BROTHERS, OWNERS O ESTADO AND JORNAL

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DA TARDE, HAVE OPENLY CHALLENGED REGIME IN MANNER CALCULATED WEAKEN IT FURTHER. BECAUSE OF MORAL STATURE OF LATE FATHER THEY HAVE BEEN ABLE PUBLISH MANY THINGS REGIME DOES NOT LIKE, BUT THIS MUCH MORE SERIOUS. UNLESS HELPED BY POWERFUL ALLIES INSIDE REGIME ITSELF, SUCH AS GENERAL SARMENTO, MESQUITAS CANNOT EXPECT AVOID RETALIATION. IF THIS HAPPENS, INTERNATIONAL MEDIA CERTAIN TO CAMPAIGN IN DEFENESE ONE OF WORLD. MOST PRESTIGIOUS NEWSPAPERS.

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