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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE AND RESEARCH

To : The Secretary
Through: S/S
From : INR - George C. Denney *gcdh*
Subject: Brazil: President's Health Reported to be Failing

A serious alteration in the alignments of Brazil's leadership could occur if reports about the failing health of President Costa e Silva are true. The President is believed to be suffering from arteriosclerosis and there are indications that the disease may already have impaired his memory. As recently as September 2, Mrs. Costa e Silva privately expressed concern for what she described as her husband's deteriorating health. She added that she did not want to be the wife of a dead president.

Nature of illness. While arteriosclerosis (hardening of the arteries) is not unusual in a man of Costa e Silva's age (65), available information indicates that the President's heart and brain may have been affected. He appears to have suffered memory lapses and, according to one report, was inexplicably moved to tears during a cabinet meeting. Assuming that Costa e Silva is indeed afflicted with arteriosclerosis--and all indications are that he is--a tentative opinion of medical experts is that his health will continue to deteriorate and that memory lapses will occur with increasing frequency. His condition will likely progress into the "little stroke" category in which non-paralytic cerebral episodes (resulting from a deficiency in the blood supply to the brain) are probable. These attacks could last from a few hours to two or three days, during which time the President would not necessarily be unconscious. Additionally, Costa e

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