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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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TO : Department of State

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MAR 13 8 38 AM 1967

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FROM : AmEmbassy Office BRASILIA

DATE: March 9, 1967

SUBJECT : Attorney General Resigns

RS/AN
ANALYSIS MAR 10 1967

REF :

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

1. Alcino de Paula SALAZAR resigned his position as Attorney General (Procurador Geral da Republica) on March 3 following a series of disappointing experiences in trying to put into law a pet project remodeling the functions of the federal public prosecutors (Ministerio Publico da Uniao). The Attorney General's difficulties were mostly with Minister of Justice Carlos MEDEIROS SILVA, who pigeon-holed the project which Salazar tried to get through by decree.

2. In a newspaper account of the incident, Professor Salazar attempted to hand in his resignation to the Chief of the President's Civil Household, Dr. Luiz NAVARRO de BRITO who persuaded him to see President Castello Branco. The President is said to have explained that he had decided that any bills which involved additional expenditures, which apparently was the case with Salazar's proposal, would have to be submitted to Congress and would not be decreed. This did not satisfy Professor Salazar who handed in his resignation.

3. Comment: There is no indication that the resignation involves a policy clash within the Castello Branco administration. It was more a result of a conflict of personalities between the Minister of Justice and the Attorney General who concluded he would not see his project become law before the end of his term of office because of the Minister's dilatory tactics.

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Authority NND 969000