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FROM : Amembassy RIO DE JANEIRO DATE: December 4, 1969

SUBJECT : Justice Minister Buzaid Hopes Recessed State and Municipal Legislatures Will Open by March

REF :

In his press conference on December 2, Minister of Justice Buzaid said that the investigations into irregularities in seven state legislatures and nine municipal councils, which have been in recess for a number of months, will be concluded shortly. He hopes that these bodies will be open by the beginning of the next legislative period (March), by which time the causes of their closings will have been disposed of. When asked whether cassations would result from the investigations, Buzaid reportedly replied that they would not. State legislatures presently under government-ordered recess are those of: Guanabara, São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Goiás, Pará, Sergipe, and Pernambuco.

COMMENT: For several months there has been public speculation that shortly after taking office President Medici would issue an institutional act suspending the parliamentary recess of state and municipal legislatures. That this may be accomplished without further cassations is an encouraging sign and should help strengthen the government's public image.

ELBRICK

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