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TELEGRAM

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ACTION ARA 16

INFO GPM 04, H 02, NSC 10, CIAE 00, DODE 00, INR 07, P 04, RSC 01, USA 12,

NSA 02, AID 28, E 15, PC 04, AGR 20, RSR 01, /126 W

037097

R 062240Z JAN 69
FM AMEMBASSY RIO DE JANEIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6213
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMCONSUL RECIFE
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
USCINCSO

CONFIDENTIAL RIO DE JANEIRO 0107

SUBJ: ALBUQUERQUE LIMA SEEKS LIMELIGHT AS CHAMPION BASIC REFORMS

RE: RIO'S 14705

1. MININTERIOR GENERAL ALBUQUERQUE LIMA, IN RIO TELEVISION APPEARANCE OVER WEEKEND WHICH REPORTEDLY WILL BE SHOWN ON TV STATIONS OTHER MAJOR BRAZILIAN CITIES, STRESSED NEED FOR BASIC REFORMS, PARTICULARLY AGRARIAN REFORMS, IN INTEREST DEVELOPING NATIONAL MARKET; SAID REFORM PROGRAM SHOULD GIVE PRIORITY TO AREAS GREATEST SOCIAL TENSION, I.E., NORTHEAST; AND AFFIRMED HE DID NOT LAMENT WHAT WAS HAPPENING TO TRADITIONAL POLITICAL GROUPS, WHO THUS FAR HAD DONE NOTHING TO ADVANCE COUNTRY TOWARD ITS GREAT DESTINY.

2. IN SUBSEQUENT INTERVIEW WITH O GLOBO REPORTER, REPORTEDLY SAID 1970 AND PROBABLY ALSO 1974 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS WILL BE DECIDED "IN REVOLUTIONARY AREA, OUTSIDE TRADITIONAL OR CONVENTIONAL SECTOR", THOUGH SUCCESSION WOULD NOT NECESSARILY BE MILITARY, SINCE THERE MANY CIVILIANS WHO HAVE PROPER REVOLUTIONARY QUALIFICATIONS; AND FORESAW FOR NEXT FEW MONTHS EXTENSIVE REFORMULATION OF LARGE SECTORS NATIONAL LIFE, STATING BASIC REFORMS OF ARCHAIC STRUCTURES WOULD BE HALLMARK PRESENT REVOLUTIONARY STAGE, NOT REPRESSIVE ACTIONS, THOUGH SUCH ACTIONS ALSO WOULD BE TAKEN.

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3. ALBUQUERQUE LIMA'S STATEMENTS SIMILAR TO THOSE MADE IN PRESS INTERVIEW REPORTED REFTEL. HIS CONTINUED PUBLICITY OFFENSIVE ALONG THESE LINES PROBABLY AIMED PRIMARILY AT IMPROVING HIS OWN POLITICAL PROSPECTS THROUGH APPEALS TO REFORM-MINDED MIDDLE-AND LOWER-GRADE OFFICERS. AT SAME TIME HIS ACTIONS CONSTITUTE, WHETHER INTENTIONALLY OR NOT MOVE TO BRIDGE PSYCHOLOGICAL GAP BETWEEN YOUNGER OFFICERS AND THEIR OLDER, GENERALLY MORE COMPLACENT SUPERIORS AND TO EXERT PRESSURE ON ADMINISTRATION FOR DYNAMIC "REVOLUTIONARY" ACTION. TUTHILL

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