



Pol 15-5 BRAZ
Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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ACTION ARA 15

INFO NSAE 00, GPM 03, SC 01, RSC 01, USIA 12, H 02, NSC 10, L 03, INR 07, P 04,

CIA 04, DOD 01, SP 02, SS 20, AID 30, RSR 01, /116 W

R 221855Z NOV 67
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 611
INFO AMEMBASSY RIO DE JANEIRO 711
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO 253
AMCONSUL RECIFE 84

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 1494

SUBJ: AMENDMENT FOR DIRECT PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS DEFEATED

REF: BRASILIA'S A-82

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1. CONGRESS NOV 22 REJECTED BY VOTE OF 198 TO 146, WITH TWO ABSTENTIONS, PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ESTABLISHING DIRECT POPULAR ELECTIONS FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT. DEFEAT OF AMENDMENT, AN OPPOSITION INITIATIVE, WAS FOREGONE CONCLUSION. OF PRINCIPAL INTEREST IS THAT THIRTY ARENA CONGRESSMEN (ABOUT 10 PERCENT OF PARTY MEMBERSHIP) VOTED

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FOR AMENDMENT, DESPITE PARTY LEADERSHIP'S OFFICIAL RECOMMENDATION MORNING NOV 21 THAT NO ARENA MEMBER SUPPORT ANY MEASURE ALTERING CONSTITUTION. MDB CONGRESSMEN ENTHUSIASTICALLY APPLAUDED VOTES OF ARENA MAVERICKS.

2. ARENA MEMBERS VOTING FOR AMENDMENT INCLUDED FOUR

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CONGRESSMEN WHO ARE PRINCIPAL SUPPORTERS WITHIN PARTY OF LACERDA'S FRENTE AMPLA. APPARENTLY DID NOT INCLUDE SENATORS CARVALHO PINTO OR MILTON CAMPOS, WHO AMONG FOREMOST ARENA ADVOCATES OF DIRECT ELECTIONS. CARVALHO PINTO AND CAMPOS MAY HAVE ABSTAINED. MANY ARENA SUPPORTERS OF AMENDMENT HAD VOTED EARLIER AGAINST ADMINISTRATION ON LUBRICANTS TAX BILL AND ON PROCEDURES FOR CONSIDERING CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ON CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT (BRASILIA'S 1454).

3. ARENA VOTE POINTS UP PARTY'S CONTINUED DISUNITY AND WEAK CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP, IN WHICH MAJOR FACTOR HAS BEEN ADMINISTRATION'S FAILURE ACCORD CONGRESS RESPONSIBLE POLITICAL ROLE.

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