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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-04 NSAE-00

NSC-10 P-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-20 USIA-12 AID-28 PC-04

IO-13 RSR-01 /132 W

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PIR 281605Z FEB 70  
FM AMEMBASSY RIO DE JANEIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3545  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
AMCONSUL RECIFE  
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO  
USCINCSO

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y I T E X T P A R A S 1 ( A ) A N D ( B )

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

SUBJECT: POLITICAL POINTS MADE BY PRESIDENT MEDICI IN  
COLLECTIVE PRESS INTERVIEW

1. IN COLLECTIVE PRESS INTERVIEW TELEVISED AND RADIO-  
BROADCAST NATIONALLY FEBRUARY 27 PRESIDENT MEDICI, IN  
RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS ON POLITICS, DENIED THAT HE  
HAD "PROMISED" INSTALL FULL DEMOCRATIC REGIME BY END  
OF TERM; SAID IT STILL TOO EARLY TO CONSIDER REVOKING  
IA-5 AND IMPLIED THAT REVOCATION, THOUGH ULTIMATELY  
DESIRABLE, MIGHT BE LONG TIME COMING; DEALT APPARENT  
DEATH BLOW TO ANY AMBITIONS FOR ELECTIVE OFFICE ON PART  
HIS MINISTERS OF STATE; AND INDICATED THAT STATE  
GOVERNORS WILL BE FREE TO SEEK OTHER ELECTIVE POSITIONS  
AS LONG AS THEY DO NOT MISEMPLY FOR THAT PURPOSE POWERS  
OF CURRENT OFFICE.

2. FOLLOWING IS MORE DETAILED RESUME OF WHAT PRESIDENT  
SAID ON ABOVE-NOTED AND OTHER POLITICAL MATTERS:

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(A) HE HAD NOT SAID IN FIRST ADDRESS TO NATION HE WOULD DELIVER THE COUNTRY TO HIS SUCCESSOR IN FULL DEMOCRATIC REGIME, BUT RATHER, THAT HE HOPED TO BE ABLE TO DO SO.

(B) AS HEAD OF SNI IN JULY 1968, WHEN THERE CLEAR REBELLION AMONG MASSES, STUDENT, TEACHERS, WORKERS AND EVEN CONGRESS, HE HAD ASKED PRESIDENT ADOPT ENERGETIC MEASURES. IN HIS VIEW IA-5, WHEN IT FINALLY CAME IN DECEMBER 1968, WAS LONG OVERDUE, AND IT IS STILL TOO EARLY TO REVOKE IT. THE "REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS" ENVISAGES DISPENSING WITH INSTITUTIONAL ACTS AS SOON AS SITUATION PERMITS. SUCH SITUATION CANNOT BE CREATED BY GOVERNMENT ALONE, BEING DEPENDENT ALSO ON COLLABORATION OF ALL PERSONS INFLUENTIAL IN NATIONAL LIFE. MEANWHILE SPECIAL POWERS GIVEN PRESIDENT BY IA-5 "DO NOT DISTURB NOR WILL THEY DISTURB THE EXISTING DEMOCRATIC CLIMATE". THE CONSTITUTIONALLY PRESCRIBED INSTITUTIONS ARE FULLY FUNCTIONING; MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS WERE HELD LAST NOVEMBER; THE RIGHTS ESTABLISHED BY CURRENT DEMOCRATIC ORDER ARE WITHHELD ONLY FROM THOSE WHO SEEK DESTROY THAT ORDER.

(C) "FULL DEMOCRACY" IS IDEAL WHICH HAS NEVER BEEN REALIZED IN BRAZIL, AND THEREFORE IT IMPROPER REFER TO A "RETURN" TO IT. MOST IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION IS NOT JURIDICAL FORMS, BUT, RATHER, MANNER IN WHICH SUCH FORMS ARE PUT INTO PRACTICE. THE PERFECTING OF DEMOCRATIC REGIME, IN WHICH ADMINISTRATION IS ENGAGED, REQUIRES PROFOUND CHANGE IN MENTALITY OF THOSE PARTICIPATING IN POLITICAL PROCESSES (SO THAT ZEAL FOR COLLECTIVE INTEREST COMES TO PREVAIL OVER MACHINATIONS OF INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP INTERESTS.

(D) GUBERNATORIAL ELECTIONS WILL BE CARRIED OUT ACCORDING TO RULES ESTABLISHED IN CONSTITUTION AND EXISTING POLITICAL LAWS. WITH REGARD CANDIDACIES HIS MINISTERS OF STATE, HE HAD NOT SELECTED THEM WITH IDEA THAT WITHIN FEW MONTHS THEY SHOULD SEEK ELECTIVE OFFICE BUT RATHER WITH INTENTION THEY DEDICATE SELVES EXCLUSIVELY TO MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITIES. WITH REGARD TO THOSE HOLDING OTHER PUBLIC OFFICES -- FEDERAL, STATE OR LOCAL -- INCLUDING THE PRESENT STATE GOVERNORS, "I

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DESIRE ONLY THAT THEY DO NOT PUT THEIR OFFICES, THROUGH  
MISEMPLOYMENT OF THE POWERS THEREOF, AT THE SERVICE OF  
THEIR POLITICAL AMBITIONS."

3. PRESIDENT'S STATEMENTS SHOULD END THE CONSIDERABLE  
CONFUSED SPECULATION WHICH HAS EXISTED CONCERNING  
ADMINISTRATION'S INTENTIONS ON ABOVE-NOTED MATTERS.  
ELBRICK

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