

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

FEB 10 1971

DATE

MEMORANDUM FOR: RS/AN - Mrs. Swartz

SUBJECT: Processing of Memoranda
of Conversation

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Approved in S 2/10/71 DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation
Part I of 6 Parts

DATE: February 1, 1971

SUBJECT: Amenities and General Comments

TIME: 9:45 a.m.
PLACE: The Secretary's Office

PARTICIPANTS: United States

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The Secretary
Assistant Secretary Charles A. Meyer
Robert W. Dean, Brazil Country Director

Foreign

Mr. Mario Gibson Barboza, Brazilian Foreign Minister
Mr. Celso Diniz, Chargé d'Affaires, Brazilian Embassy

Copies to:

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J	S/S	ARA - 2	

Greetings were followed by a cordial reference by Foreign Minister Gibson to his first six years in Washington as Second Secretary to the Brazilian Embassy when he was between 24 and 30 years of age. These were formative years and he was deeply impressed by the single-minded purpose and cohesion of the American people during those years of World War II. He made reference to present-day problems in the United States which seem to be divisive in their impact. Secretary Rogers pointed out that, contrary to the surface impression, the strength and unity of the United States is as great now as it was then; manifestations of dissent and concern noted by the Foreign Minister are a part of our democratic process of dealing with divergent opinions and aspirations. Despite their concerns and their efforts to improve their position within our society, our black citizens have not turned to communist ideology, nor have they

PP-15-1 BRAZ

ARA/BR:RWDean:mjf

(Drafting Office and Officer)

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shown any desire to leave this country. They are good, participating citizens, and, contrary to the erroneous impressions held by some observers, are giving an excellent account of themselves as soldiers in the Vietnam war.

Foreign Minister Gibson expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to speak with Secretary Rogers. He thanked him and the USG once again for the USAF plane made available to transport to Brazil the body of Ambassador Mozart Valente and for the courtesies extended to the Ambassador's family on the occasion. He said he did not wish to take too much of the Secretary's time but did wish to make several points about developments within his country and in South America. First of all, he said the people of Brazil are increasingly confident about their country and its future. Brazil has made remarkable progress since the economic and political chaos of the latter days of the Goulart government in 1963 and 1964. Its GNP has risen to some 9% from a 2 or 3% level. Inflation, which had reached the astounding rate of 148% in the early months of '64, has been reduced progressively to 23% in 1969 and to below 20% in 1970. Business confidence, both national and foreign, is high. Directors of one American banking firm recently told him that they rate Brazil among the top investment opportunities in the world today.

The Foreign Minister said that President Medici is determined to see social and political improvement in Brazil in addition to economic development. Gibson characterized the present Brazilian regime as authoritarian but said that it was not a dictatorship and that Medici intended to return to democratic norms by the end of his term in 1974. Gibson and others were working in that direction. He acknowledged that presidential elections have been indirect since 1964 and that certain restrictions on civil liberties remain in effect, but he stated his belief that these would be lifted and pointed to last November's countrywide popular elections for Brazil's Congress as one of the important steps in Brazil's return to democratic processes. He said that the landslide victory of government party candidates was a considerable vote of confidence in the Medici government.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

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Attachments

February 9, 1971

TO : S - Mr. Taylor
FROM: James Carson
Director, Secretariat Staff

The attached memorandum of conversation is submitted for approval of content and suggested distribution.

Approve _____

Approve as amended _____

Attachment:

S/S 1922-1927

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