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SUBJECT : General de Gaulle's Visit to Brazil, October 13-16, 1964

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SUMMARY

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The purpose of this report is to place on the record a compendium of the main events and local reaction connected with the recent sojourn in Brazil of the President of France. Our evaluation of the effect of the visit remains as preliminarily set forth in Embtel 894. That evaluation is much in accord with one made by President Castello Branco himself in a subsequent conversation with the Military Attache (Embtel 1004) to the effect that:

(1) From the Brazilian point of view, the visit was an historic and pleasant experience in good will;

(2) The visit, however, would not have any serious effect on Brazil's foreign policy--Castello Branco having made it clear to de Gaulle that Brazil today is firmly committed to the OAS, to the West and to world peace and not interested in any "third force" movement; and

(3) de Gaulle made no specific offers of assistance, military or otherwise, to Brazil but spoke a good deal about technical assistance which France might be able to extend.

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Rio de Janeiro

Brazil was the tenth and last country on de Gaulle's Latin American tour. His party consisted of Mme. de Gaulle and Foreign Minister Couve de Murville, plus sixty newsmen. They visited Rio de Janeiro, Brasilia and São Paulo.

The de Gaulle entourage arrived in Rio's Guanabara Bay from Montevideo at ten o'clock in the morning of October 13 aboard the cruiser Colbert and was received at the Naval Ministry dock at eleven o'clock by President Castello Branco and government and diplomatic dignitaries. A ticker-tape parade followed through the principal downtown avenue culminating at the War Memorial where de Gaulle bestowed a wreath and expressed the usual sentiments. Still precisely on schedule, de Gaulle departed for Brasilia at twelve o'clock aboard President Castello Branco's personal airplane and after more arrival ceremonies in Brasilia, delivered a speech before an estimated 3,500 students at the University of Brasilia and another responding to testimonials of the Federal Supreme Court. A diplomatic reception and state banquet were held that evening in his honor. October 14 was highlighted by de Gaulle's speech before the National Congress. In the afternoon the French President journeyed to São Paulo by one of the three French Caravelle aircraft at his disposal and again submitted to the usual arrival ceremonies and a banquet given by São Paulo Governor Ademar de Barros. After visiting two industrial installations there, he returned the next morning to Rio de Janeiro, delivered a speech before the War College, and capped his visit with a banquet on board the Colbert for more than 500 luminaries. De Gaulle departed on the morning of October 16.

The Brazilian press treated the visit as that of a great and curious Western leader representing a leading ally whose exact relation to Brazil remained somewhat unclear. The responsible dailies such as the Jornal do Brasil and the Estado de São Paulo stressed the personal magnitude of Brazil's visitor but added that they would receive him with warm applause but retain a "cool head". Moving over to the anti-government press, the Correio da Manhã urged the GOB to extract aid commitments from the French, and, in another editorial, implied that France was "the only one among the rich (nations)" who recognized that the bad effects of trade between the rich and poor nations had to be remedied through political means, e.g., a guaranteed price which would aid the underdeveloped countries accumulate development capital. This paper continued to present a subdued anti-American emphasis in its material throughout the period that de Gaulle was in the country. The far left was represented by Ultima Hora's predictable coverage stressing France's independence from the United States in world affairs and in juxtaposition, Brazil's "economic monologue" with the United States where "we see the prices of our principal export products deteriorate from month to month ... unsettling still more our balance of payments and aggravating alarmingly our commercial deficit".

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