

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

CONFIDENTIAL

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TO: The Secretary September 16, 1965  
THROUGH: S/S *BR*  
FROM: ARA - Jack H. Vaughn *lvh*  
Subject: Brazilian Presidential Letter Concerning Ship  
Loan Legislation ACTION MEMORANDUM

The Brazilian Ambassador has informed the Department that President Castello Branco has written a letter to President Johnson concerning the pending ship loan legislation. The letter is now at the Brazilian Embassy in Washington ready to be delivered. Although the letter's exact contents are not known, we understand it stresses the importance of the destroyers to Brazil and requests President Johnson's assistance in securing passage of the ship loan legislation.

The Brazilian Ambassador has been holding the letter, having recommended to his government that it not be delivered until he could first ascertain that it was timely and that you and President Johnson would not find it unwelcome. He does not wish in any way to injure the warm feelings and respect you and President Johnson have for Brazil, and he has asked ARA informally to obtain your views in the matter.

Because of the continuing lack of certainty of legislation this session providing for the loan of destroyers to Brazil, and the great importance attached to this matter by the GOB, we do not believe the Brazilians should be discouraged from delivering President Castello Branco's letter. Even though the legislation may fail to pass, they will at least feel they did everything they could and were fully

supported

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supported by you and President Johnson. If they are re-  
strained, they may regard it as something of a rebuff.

Recommendation:

That you authorize me to inform the Brazilian Ambassador  
that you know of no reason why the letter from President  
Castello Branco to President Johnson should not be delivered.

Approve SR SEP 18 1965

Disapprove \_\_\_\_\_

Clearances: G/PM - Mr. Meyers *JM*  
H - Mr. Leahy *JL*

*JBK*  
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