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TO : Department of State MAY 14 1963 PM 1 06

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF
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MAY 15 1963

RM/AN
ANALYSIS & DISTRIBUTION
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file

FROM : AmEmbassy RIO DE JANEIRO DATE: May 8, 1963

SUBJECT: Admission of Latin American Nationals to U.S. Service Academies.

REF : CA-3261, September 21, 1962.

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Despite the best efforts of Embassy officers and the Service Attaches, the Brazilians belatedly declined the invitation.

The following is a translation of Foreign Office Note No. DCInt/79/539.22(22) of March 20, 1963:

"The Ministry of Foreign Relations presents its compliments to the Embassy of the United States of America and has the honor to refer to the offer of nine vacancies to Brazilian candidates in the armed forces academies of the United States of America.

"In reply, the Ministry of Foreign Relations has to communicate that the contents of the Embassy's note were brought to the attention of the Armed Forces General Staff which, though very grateful for the generous offer, finds itself obliged to decline owing to current Brazilian legislation on military instruction."

COMMENT:

On past occasions, the Foreign Office simply ignored our approaches in this matter. The present citation of legal bases for declining suggests that the GOB wishes to terminate the dialogue.

Some Brazilian military officers with whom the question

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In Out

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Drafted by: POL:CCCarson/rstp

Contents and Classification Approved by: DCM - Minister Mein

Clearances: AIRATT: Col. Lucas NAVATT: Capt. Ireland (in draft)
ARMATT: Col. Walters

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was discussed have pointed out that it would not be legally possible to commission a graduate of United States service academies in the Brazilian armed forces unless the cadet also, either before or after, completed a full course of study in the respective Brazilian academy. Such procedure, it was noted, would be undesirable for many reasons, the chief one being that the total study period would be excessively long and an officer so educated would begin his career at an age several years behind his own contemporaries. Other officers have expressed doubt as to whether an officer receiving training in the United States in his formative years would be able to adjust himself to the relatively meager facilities of the Brazilian armed forces. In other words, the conclusion was that such an officer would become a discontented misfit.

Certain amounts of false pride and ultranationalism are undoubtedly involved in these reservations. Brazilians, with ample justification, hold their service academies as objects of great prestige and as expressions of the Brazilian personality. In the light of this, it is easier to understand their unwillingness to do anything that could be interpreted, by Brazilians or foreigners, as an implication that the national academies are anything less than the best in the world-- or at least the best for Brazilians.

Existing reservations notwithstanding, the Embassy recommends that we continue to extend these invitations each year. We may eventually overcome the resistance.

For the Ambassador:

John Keppel
John Keppel
Counselor for
Political Affairs

Exempted from automatic decontrol
by Charles C. Carson, Political Officer

*I saw this in B. Mary - a H. in the B. Mary, graduate of USMA
(- 5 stripes last year) - very unhappy as H in B. Mary - sought US
contacts - disliked by contemporaries.*

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