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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

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February 21, 1968

CONFIDENTIALMEMORANDUM FOR MR. WALT W. ROSTOW
THE WHITE HOUSESubject: Brazil: Possible Invitation to President
Costa e Silva from President Johnson

When the Brazilian Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Raimundo Padilha, returned to Brazil February 7 he told the Brazilian press that through him President Johnson had invited President Costa e Silva to visit the United States (Rio's 5318). In a later discussion with an Embassy officer, Padilha said he conveyed the invitation to President Costa e Silva who "reacted favorably" and noted that "normal diplomatic channels should now be used" (Rio's 1889). Bill Bowdler has told us he has been trying to find out the facts of the matter so that we could instruct our Embassy on how to handle inquiries from the Brazilian press and GOB officials.

In this morning's Brazilian press, there was a reference to George Christian's statement yesterday about President Stroessner's visit and renewed speculation about a possible visit by Costa e Silva. Ambassador Tuthill has an appointment with President Costa e Silva early tomorrow afternoon and would like to know what he may say to the Brazilian President in case the matter comes up.

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5
State Dept. GuidelinesCONFIDENTIALBy jc, NARA, Date 9-10-01

GROUP 3

Downgraded at 12-year intervals;
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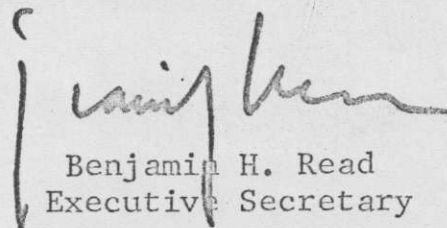
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The Department does not believe that Costa e Silva should be invited to the United States on an official visit this year. The way his administration has been developing, and the increasing possibility that his regime will assume even more authoritarian overtones, adds to the inadvisability of the President associating himself too closely in public with Costa e Silva this year.

Should Brazil decide to participate in Hemisfair, Costa e Silva could easily be included with other Latin American presidents in being greeted by the President in Texas.

The Department believes we should try and avoid any further publicity in Brazil about the so-called "invitation" and, if not inconsistent with what the President has said, would like to instruct Ambassador Tuthill as follows: if President Costa e Silva raises the matter, Ambassador Tuthill should inform him that President Johnson desires to maintain their close and friendly relations and that the President would, of course, be glad to have Costa e Silva visit the United States at some mutually convenient time; the schedule of such visits for 1968 has already been set although perhaps such a visit could be arranged for some time next year; should Costa e Silva visit the United States in connection with the opening of Hemisfair President Johnson would be glad to greet him in Texas along with other visiting Latin American presidents.

I understand that Bill Bowdler has already briefed you to some extent on this matter and that Bob Sayre has discussed it with you by telephone. We would appreciate a call from you, if possible this afternoon or this evening, as to what we may tell Ambassador Tuthill.


Benjamin H. Read
Executive Secretary

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Enclosures:

1. Copy of Rio's telegram 5318.
2. Copy of Rio's telegram 1889.

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 684
INFO AMEMBASSY RIO DE JANEIRO IMMEDIATE 834

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BRASILIA 1889

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE INVITATION TO COSTA E SILVA

1. AT HIS REQUEST, DEPUTY RAIMUNDO PADILHA, (CHAIRMAN OF CHAMBER DEPUTIES FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE), CALLED ON POL COUNSELOR FEBRUARY 12 TO DISCUSS PRESUMED INVITATION FROM PRESIDENT JOHNSON TO COSTA E SILVA.

2. POL COUNSELOR ASKED PADILHA FOR DETAILS OF INVITATION AND LATTER GAVE FOLLOWING ACCOUNT: EARLY EVENING FEBRUARY 1. BRAZILIAN MEMBERS OF CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP GROUP WERE AT HOTEL SHERATON, WASHINGTON. PRESIDENT JOHNSON, ACCOMPANIED BY

PAGE 2 RUESUZ 1889 ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY, SENATORS CARLSON AND JAVITS, WEST VIRGINIA GOVERNOR HULETT SMITH, AND OTHERS, VISITED BRIEFLY WITH BRAZILIAN GROUP. PADILHA WAS INTRODUCED TO PRESIDENT AS GROUP LEADER AND THEY SPOKE FOR ABOUT TWO-THREE MINUTES. PRESIDENT PRAISED BRAZIL, RECALLED HIS MEETING WITH COSTA E SILVA AT PUNTA DEL ESTE, AND, ACCORDING TO PADILHA,

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By jc NARA, Date 9-10-01

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ASKED PADILHA TO ACT AS INTERMEDIARY AND TRANSMIT TO COSTA E SILVA INVITATION TO VISIT US. PADILHA CONTINUED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THE PRESIDENT'S COMPLIMENTARY REMARKS ABOUT BRAZIL AND ITS PRESIDENT TO BE NORMAL PROTOCOLARY ONES BUT THAT INVITATION WAS STATED "FIRMLY AND CATEGORICALLY".

3. PADILHA SAW COSTA E SILVA AFTERNOON FEBRUARY 9 IN PETROPOLIS. SAID HE GAVE ABOVE ACCOUNT TO PRESIDENT WHO REACTED FAVORABLY TO INVITATION, NOTING THAT NORMAL DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS SHOULD NOW BE USED. AT SAME TIME, ACCORDING PADILHA, COSTA E SILVA AUTHORIZED HIM TO QUERY US AS TO STATUS OF

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INVITATION -- WHICH PADILHA WAS DOING VIA THIS VISIT. PCL COUNSELOR TOLD PADILHA HE WOULD SEEK DETAILS AND LET HIM KNOW ASAP. COMMENT: PADILHA IS SERIOUS CONGRESSMAN, NOT NORMALLY GIVEN TO FLIGHTS OF FANCY, AT SAME TIME, IT APPEARS HE MAY BE PRESSING US IN ORDER GET HIMSELF OFF HOOK HAVING PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED AN QUOTE INVITATION UNQUOTE, IN EITHER CASE, WOULD APPRECIATE CABLE REPLY SOONEST RE STATUS OF "INVITATION".

4. I SHALL BE IN BRASILIA UNTIL NOON LOCAL TIME FEBRUARY 13.

TUTHILL

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