

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Monday - June 24, 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Your Appointment with Brazilian Ambassador Vasco da Cunha, Tuesday, June 25, 11:45 a.m.

Ambassador da Cunha's call is to say goodbye. He is scheduled to leave Washington June 30. He has reached mandatory retirement age, so will be leaving the Brazilian Foreign Service after a distinguished 40-year career.

The Ambassador is one of the few statesmen worthy of the name in Latin America. He is smart and urbane. But more important, he is a man of vision. He has recognized and acted on the premise that close cooperation between the US and Brazil is essential to peace and progress in this hemisphere. As Foreign Minister of Brazil, he chaired the Meeting of Foreign Ministers which cut all ties with Cuba. He also helped shape the decision to send Brazilian troops to the Dominican Republic.

His feeling toward you is best described in the personal note he sent you after your March 31 speech (Tab A).

There are no substantive issues to take up. I recommend you make these points in farewell:

1. We are very sorry to lose him and are deeply grateful for his stewardship as Ambassador during the past two years and for his counsel and support in previous years.
2. We are pleased that a successor has already been named (another distinguished career diplomat -- Mario GIBSON Barboza) and you look forward to working with him.

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6
NLJ 01-297
By us NARA, Date 1-3-03

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

-2-

3. You send warm personal regards to President Costa e Silva.
4. You also send a special greeting to Mrs. da Cunha. (She has a serious heart condition and has remained in Rio since last fall.)
5. You are sorry he is leaving before the trip to Hemisfair.

Walt Rostow

Attachment

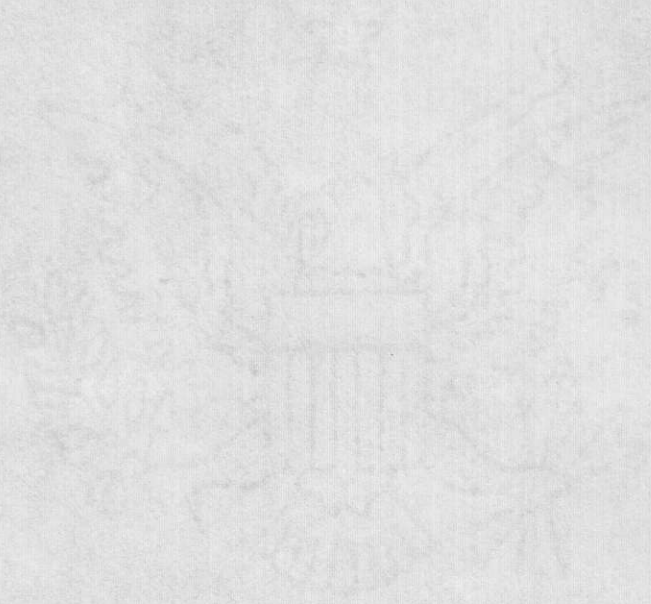
Tab A - Letter from Ambassador Vasco da Cunha to President, dated April 2.

P.S. You might ask him - as a wise Brazilian, American, and citizen of the world - what guidelines he would suggest for U.S. - Brazilian relations - which will matter so much to our children and grandchildren.

W.

9a

A



Washington, D. C.
April 2, 1968

His Excellency
Lyndon B. Johnson
President of the United States of America
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President,

I was deeply struck by Your Excellency's speech on television on Sunday night and feel it my duty as a citizen of this Continent - to the development and welfare of which you are so powerfully contributing - to express my admiration for your great gesture and generous approach towards the re-establishment of peace against aggression and the upholding of unity in your great country.

I trust you will not mind, Sir, if I trespass somewhat on the boundary of your national politics, by addressing you on this subject. However, what happens in, or is done by, the United States of America has such far reaching effects on the lives and welfare of men all over the world, that I feel entitled to send you the expression of my warmest wishes for the success of your disinterested initiative and of my personal admiration for your most high-minded statemanship.

Respectfully yours
Vasco Leites da Cunha