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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 15, 1966
10:25 PM

Mr. President:

The following are CIA's comments on the situation in Brazil as reported by UPI.

White House Situation Room

James H. Caser
Briefing Officer

(8)

MEMORANDUM: Brazilian Government Moves Against Opposition

1. There has been no official Brazilian comment on this morning's United Press International report (UPI 076A) that the Military Inquiry Commission investigating Communism has brought charges against some 971 Brazilians.

2. However, the UPI report is probably accurate; the CIA station in Rio reported on 15 October that approximately 1,000 people had been charged.

3. At the time of the April 1964 revolution, the government initiated investigations of persons suspected of corruption or communism. Thereafter, a number of commissions began work and were subsequently dissolved. The report of the present Commission on Communism is the culmination of this long investigative process. Many of those charged are leading political figures--including former presidents Goulart and Kubitschek--who lost their political rights and were either jailed or went into exile immediately after the revolution.

4. The Commission has recommended the preventive arrest of some 102 persons, most of whom fled Brazil some time ago or have gone into hiding. If they can be located, they will be probably arrested and prosecuted. Former Deputy Francisco Juliao--leader of Brazil's once-feared Peasant Leagues--was sentenced in absentia to eight years in prison two weeks ago, and many of those named have already been similarly treated.

5. Some of the others charged may lose their political rights, but that decision will ultimately be made by the Supreme Military Tribunal and President Castello Branco. Many lists have been submitted in the past, but the President has elected to act against only some of those accused.

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BRAZIL 10/15 NX

RIO DE JANEIRO (UPI)--AN ARMY INTELLIGENCE REPORT FRIDAY ACCUSED SOME 971 PERSONS, INCLUDING TWO EX-PRESIDENTS AND A PRESENT STATE GOVERNOR, OF VARYING DEGREES OF INVOLVEMENT WITH COMMUNISTS.

THE REPORT WAS SUBMITTED TO THE MILITARY HIGH COURT FOR ACTION. IT NAMED FORMER PRESIDENTS JUSCELINO KUBITSCHEK AND JOAO GOULART AS WELL AS GUANABARA STATE GOV. FRANCISCO NEGRAO DE LIMA.

TNE NAMES OF AN EX-GOVERNOR AND SEVERAL FORMER AND PRESENT CONGRESSMEN ALSO WERE LISTED. PREVENTIVE PRISON WAS ASKED FOR 102 OF THE 971 PERSONS ON THE LIST.

THOSE FOR WHOM PRISON WAS RECOMMENDED INCLUDED LUIS CARLOS PRESTES, FORMER CHIEF OF THE BRAZILIAN COMMUNIST PARTY, AND FORMER DEPUTY FRANCISCO JULIAO, WHO ORGANIZED THE SO-CALLED PEASANT LEAGUES IN THE NORTHEAST.

PRESTES DISAPPEARED ON THE DAY OF THE APRIL 1, 1964 REVOLUTION. JULIAO IS IN EXILE IN MEXICO. GOULART IS LIVING IN EXILE IN URUGUAY. KUBITSCHEK TRAVELS BETWEEN RESIDENCES IN NEW YORK AND LISBON.

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