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Authority State 2-22-77

By RS, NARS, Date 3-14-77

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JANUARY 13

REF: KUBISCH TELECON INQUIRY JANUARY 12.

1. REGARDING DESIRABILITY MESSAGE OF SYMPATHY FOR SUFFERING AND DAMAGE INFLICTED BY HEAVY RAINS AND FLOODS RIO DE JANEIRO AND ENVIRONS THIS WEEK, WE NOW BELIEVE THAT WITH CONTINUATION OF HEAVY RAINS LAST NIGHT AND PREDICTION ADDITIONAL RAINS OVER NEXT 48 HOURS, A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT JOHNSON TO PRESIDENT CASTELLO BRANCO WOULD BE DESIRABLE. PRESS AND RADIO LAST NIGHT AND THIS MORNING REPORT MESSAGES OF SYMPATHY RECEIVED ALREADY

PAGE TWO RUESUA 257 LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
FROM MAYOR OF LONDON AND KING OF BELGIUM, BOTH OF WHOM VISITED RIO WITHIN RECENT MONTHS.

2. IN EVENT DEPT DOES NOT CONSIDER PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE DESIRABLE OR FEASIBLE, WE WOULD STRONGLY RECOMMEND MESSAGE FROM ASST SECRETARY VAUGHN TO ACTING FONMIN, EXPRESSING BOTH FOR HIMSELF AND FOR SECRETARY RUSK IN LATTER'S ABSENCE FROM WASHINGTON, SYMPATHY AND READINESS TO ASSIST WITH RELIEF AND REHABILITATION.

3. LATTER SUGGESTION BASED ON FACT THAT VAUGHN AND RUSK RECENTLY VISITED RIO, AND WE BELIEVE SUCH MESSAGE WOULD EVEN BE USEFUL AS SUPPLEMENT TO PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE.

4. AS DEPT WILL HAVE NOTED FROM EARLIER EMBTELS ON DISASTER,
PRESENT SITUATION IS WORST CONCENTRATED RAINFALL IN APPROXIMATELY
EIGHTY YEARS. RAINE
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