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By: CW, NARS, Date: 2-2-76

To : The Secretary
Through: S/S
From : INR - Thomas L. Hughes

Intelligence Note

MAR 31 1964

Subject: Military Move to Oust Goulart Apparently Underway

Regional Military Commander Kicks Off Move Against Goulart. Anti-Goulart actions have been initiated in the central state of Minas Gerais. Troops led by General Olympic Mourão Filho, commander of the Fourth Military Region with headquarters in Juiz de Fora, second largest city in the state, have been mobilized and may be moving on Rio de Janeiro, about two and a half hours away by highway. State Governor Magalhães Pinto is supporting the uprising and has reportedly requisitioned all privately-owned petroleum supplies in the state. The main highways in the State have been blocked, and buses are being used to transport troops to strategic locations. Similar steps are expected to occur shortly in neighboring São Paulo State, according to various sources.

Action Perhaps Not Coordinated With Principal Anti-Goulart Military Leaders. It is possible that Mourão Filho's actions are not being taken on orders of the principal leaders of the anti-Goulart sector in the Army, although the latter are reliably reported to be planning an all-out effort against the Brazilian President sometime this week. In the past, Mourão Filho has not always proven responsive to advice from other, more responsible officers, and has engaged in almost continual plotting against Goulart. Nevertheless, he is the principal military commander in a key state, and his troop movements will probably lead to an eventual showdown between pro- and anti-Goulart forces in the military and civilian sectors. The

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key to any successful military effort will be control over the First Army Command in Rio de Janeiro, where most important army forces are located.

Issue May Be Decided in 48 Hours. The situation has not clarified, but the issue will probably be decided within the next 48 hours. Thus, elements supporting the anti-Goulart movement could move to assume control over the First Army in Rio. The two most prominent anti-Goulart military leaders, Army Chief of Staff Castello Branco and Second Army (São Paulo) commander Amaury Krueel, may attempt to stimulate military moves in São Paulo and other southern states, and seek to overcome or neutralize pro-Goulart elements elsewhere in the country. Navy and Air Force roles are likely to be minor. A clash between rival military forces and/or civilian groups is always possible, but the outcome of the movement should be determined by speedy maneuvers and the capturing of key military establishments. Extreme leftist forces, represented by such organizations as the Central Labor Command (CGT), the Popular Mobilization Front (FMP), the National Union of Students (UNE) would probably oppose a move against Goulart with a call for a nationwide general strike.

If there should be a clash, or even a standoff, between opposing forces in the Rio area, the outcome of the crisis will probably remain in doubt for several days. In this case, agitation stimulated by extreme leftist supporters of the President and countermoves on Goulart's part in political and military circles may lead to widespread civilian disorders and possibly civil war.

In view of the extensive preparations already made by anti-Goulart military figures, it seems unlikely that they will fail to grasp the

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opportunity presented by Mourão Filho's actions. If, however, they should hesitate, they will have lost much of the initiative in the current crisis.

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