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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

• PRIORITY

Intelligence Information Cable

COUNTRY BRAZIL

TDCS -3/577,752

DATE OF INFO. 4-6 APRIL 1964

DISTR. 6 APRIL 1964

SUBJECT

AGREEMENT BY MILITARY AND CIVILIAN LEADERS OF THE
REVOLUTION TO GIVE GENERAL COSTA E SILVA WIDE POWERS
TO OUST PRO-COMMUNIST ELEMENTS IN GOVERNMENT AND TO NAME
GENERAL CASTELLO BRANCO PRESIDENT OF BRAZIL

PLACE &
DATE ACQ.

(6 APRIL 1964)

REF

IN 55203

SOURCE
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APPRAISAL:

FIELD REPORT NO.

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SANITIZED
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By *isl* NARA, Date 8-2-11

1. AS OF 6 APRIL 64 IT WAS EXPECTED THAT A "REVOLUTIONARY OPERATIONAL ACT" WOULD BE DECREED TO GIVE GENERAL ARTUR COSTA E SILVA, THE HEAD OF THE BRAZILIAN ARMED FORCES, WIDE AUTHORITARIAN POWERS TO USE UNTIL 10 APRIL, AT WHICH TIME GENERAL HUMBERTO DE ALENCAR CASTELLO BRANCO WOULD BE NAMED THE NEW PRESIDENT OF BRAZIL. THE REVOLUTIONARY ACT WAS AGREED UPON BY THE EIGHT BRAZILIAN GOVERNORS WHO HAVE SUPPORTED THE REVOLUTION, THE LEADERS OF THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC UNION (UDN), AURO DE MOURQ ANDRADE, PRES OF THE SENATE, AND BY LEADERS OF

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GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
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STATE/INR DIA ARMY/ACSI NAVY AIR JCS SECDEF NSA NIC AID USIA OCI ONE OCR ORR OQ EXO
DD/I, AD/CI 2 FBI

IMMEDIATE TO: DIRNSA (PROD WO)
STATE (RCI)(FOR HUGHES)
JCS

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AFSSO

NIC
DIA/CIIC
WHITE HOUSE SIT ROOM

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THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY, ERNANI AMARAL PEIXOTO AND FORMER PRES JUSCELINO KUBITSCHEK. THE ACT WAS WRITTEN BY BILAC PINTO, PRES OF THE UDN, AND FERREIRA DA SOUSA.

2. THE REVOLUTIONARY ACT WAS DRAFTED ON 5 APRIL AFTER AN IMPASSE HAD DEVELOPED AT A MEETING OF THE EIGHT GOVERNORS AND GENERAL COSTA E SILVA DURING THE LATE EVENING OF 4 APRIL. COSTA E SILVA, ALTHOUGH PREFERRING A CIVILIAN CANDIDATE FOR THE PRESIDENCY, SAID HE WOULD AGREE TO THE NOMINATION OF A MILITARY MAN. HE DID INSIST, HOWEVER, THAT THE PRO-COMMUNIST REPRESENTATIVES BE REMOVED FROM CONGRESS SO THAT THE MILITARY MAN WOULD NOT BE HAMPERED IN CARRYING OUT NEEDED REFORM MEASURES. COSTA E SILVA SAW NO OTHER ALTERNATIVE TO ACCOMPLISHING THIS EXCEPT BY CLOSING CONGRESS, SINCE THE LEFTIST MINORITY OF THE BRAZILIAN LABOR PARTY (PTB) WOULD NEVER PERMIT CONGRESSMEN TO BE SUMMARILY EJECTED. CARLOS LACERDA, GOVERNOR OF GUANABARA, OPPOSED COSTA E SILVA VIGOROUSLY AND SAID IF SUCH ACTION TOOK PLACE HE WOULD DISSOCIATE HIMSELF FROM THE REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT. THE MEETING ENDED WITH NO FINAL DECISION BEING TAKEN.

3. ON THE MORNING OF 5 APRIL LACERDA SENT A MESSAGE OF HIS RESIGNATION WITH GUANABARA STATE DEPUTY DANILO NUNES TO COSTA E SILVA. HOWEVER, GENERAL SYZENO SARMENTO, AIDE TO COSTA E SILVA, INTERCEPTED THE MESSAGE AND DID NOT SHOW IT TO COSTA E SILVA.

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NEY BRAGA, GOVERNOR OF PARANA, WHO WAS AWARE OF THE CONTENTS OF LACERDA'S MESSAGE, CALLED LACERDA AND SECURED HIS AGREEMENT NOT TO BREAK THE NEWS TO THE PRESS. AT THIS TIME BRAGA AND OTHERS WENT INTO ACTION TO FIND A COMPROMISE SOLUTION, AND FROM THIS ENDEAVOR CAME THE REVOLUTIONARY ACT.

4. COSTA E SILVA, ON THE EVENING OF 5 APRIL, AGAIN CALLED IN THE GOVERNORS AND TOLD THEM HE WOULD BE AGREEABLE TO ANY REASONABLE COMPROMISE WHICH WOULD AVOID CLOSING CONGRESS BUT WHICH WOULD REMOVE THE PRO-COMMUNIST MEMBERS. COMMENT: COSTA E SILVA WAS ALREADY AWARE OF THE CONTENTS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY ACT, BUT THE GOVERNORS WERE NOT.) THE GOVERNORS AGREED WITH THE GENERAL AND TOLD HIM THEY HAD DECIDED ON GENERAL CASTELLO BRANCO AS THEIR PREFERENCE FOR PRESIDENT. COSTA E SILVA SAID HE WAS PLEASED WITH THEIR DECISION AND ARRANGED A MEETING BETWEEN THE GOVERNORS AND CASTELLO BRANCO, WHICH WAS HELD IN THE EARLY HOURS OF 6 APRIL AT CASTELLO BRANCO'S HOME. DURING THIS MEETING, THE GOVERNORS WERE SHOWN THE REVOLUTIONARY ACT GIVING COSTA E SILVA WIDE POWERS OF ARREST AND DISMISSAL FROM OFFICE. ALL THE GOVERNORS, INCLUDING LACERDA, AGREED THAT THIS WOULD ENABLE CASTELLO BRANCO TO BEGIN HIS TERM FROM A POSITION OF STRENGTH. POLITICALLY, COSTA E SILVA WOULD BEAR THE ONUS OF THE ACTION, SINCE HE WOULD COMPLETE THE NECESSARY

CLASSIFICATION — DISSEMINATION CONTROLS

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FORM 5-63 2096

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ARRESTS BEFORE CASTELLO BRANCO WOULD BE VOTED IN ON 10 APRIL.

[] COMMENT: COSTA E SILVA SAID HE HAD IN MIND TO REMOVE MORE THAN FORTY FEDERAL DEPUTIES, TWO GOVERNORS, MIGUEL ARRAES AND SEIXAS DORIA, AND TO REMOVE FROM THE ARMED FORCES SEVERAL PRO-COMMUNIST, ULTRA NATIONALIST OFFICERS.)

5. [] COMMENT: AS OF NOON ON 6 APRIL, THE REVOLUTIONARY ACT HAD NOT BEEN PUBLISHED.)

6. FIELD DISSEM: STATE ARMY NAVY AIR FBI CINCSO CINCLANT.

(END OF MESSAGE)

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