

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

May 4, 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. BUNDY

SUBJECT: Brazil

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NSC 8.12.75
By IP, NARS, Date 8.25.75

1. I refer to your comment in staff meeting this morning that some work had to be done regarding the U.S. Government position vis-a-vis the issue of civil liberties in Brazil.
 2. Jim Greenfield tells me that ABC is having a 30 minute show on Thursday night about Brazil. Primarily, the show is about the Brazilian economic situation. The show will include 7 or 8 minutes of George Ball; it will also include 7 or 8 minutes of President Branco, assuming that ABC can get it.
 3. George Ball had his contribution taped today. With respect to invasion of civil liberties, Ball made these points -- (a) generally speaking, the arrests took place in the first days of the revolution; (b) there have been some excesses; (c) we have been encouraged that the investigations and trials appear to be taking place under due process of law (no star chambers and rail-roading); and (d) that we trust that this orderly and legal procedure will continue.
- With respect to the economic situation, Mr. Ball agreed that, indeed, Brazil does have problems but noted that there are indications that Brazil is doing something about it.
4. I asked Jim Greenfield to send us a transcript of the interview. He said he would do so as soon as he gets it.
 5. This interview should pretty well constitute the Department's present line vis-a-vis Brazilian civil liberties. Once we have the transcript, we can decide better what needs to be done.


Gordon Chase

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

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→ Mr. Bundy
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May 5, 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. GORDON CHASE
THE WHITE HOUSE

Gordon:

Attached are the general guidance papers which the Under Secretary used in talking about Brazil on Monday for the upcoming ABC program.

They are not verbatim texts, simply general talking papers. We will send you the actual text as soon as it is received from ABC.


James L. Greenfield
Acting Assistant Secretary
Bureau of Public Affairs

Attachment:

Guidance papers on Brazil.

Mr. Greenfield

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ABC-TV TAPING

Answer 1: Let me first say that there was no question of recognition. There was a Constitutional succession, and, if anything, the critics to whom you refer must have been thinking of suspending or disrupting relationships. After ex-President Goulart had abandoned his office, the Brazilian Congress met and reviewed the situation and, on the basis of the action of the Congress, the President of the Senate declared the office of the President vacant. Under the constitution the next in line was the President of the Chamber of Deputies, Ranieri Mazilli, who was sworn into office by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

It was at that time that the letter to successor-President Mazilli was sent as an expression of continuing friendship and cooperation toward Brazil. The absence thereof could have been taken amiss by Brazil and the Brazilian people and could have invited a good many unhappy and undesirable interpretations.

I might add that even those who are critical generally acknowledge, I believe, that the deposing of Goulart reflected the preponderant will of various sectors of Brazilian life.

Answer 2: I have already mentioned the immediate swearing in of an interim civilian president. Under the Constitution the Congress was required to elect a new President. The military acted to reenforce that Constitutional mandate. The Congress, by a vote of far in excess of two-thirds of its membership, chose former General Castello Branco as the new President. President Castello Branco thereafter announced his intention that the regularly scheduled Presidential elections will be held in 1965 and that he will turn the government over to his duly elected successor. The Government of Brazil is being directed by President Castello Branco and the Cabinet. The Cabinet consists of civilian ministers except for the military ministries which have always been occupied by the military in Brazil. After the inauguration of President Castello Branco, the Minister of War, General Costa Silva, announced that the army was returning to its barracks, which has generally been interpreted as acknowledging the full re-establishment of regular civilian authority under the President.

Answer 3: You put me in a difficult position in asking me to comment on an internal political development, especially one on which the facts are not yet fully in nor the story yet fully told. I believe that there is general agreement that the deposing of Goulart was born out of a widespread and deep concern in Brazil that orderly democratic processes were seriously threatened, that those who were a party to this subversion of democracy had to be checked. The arrests that have taken place are not the work of some central military command, but rather of state and local authorities, civil and military, mostly in the early days immediately after Goulart was deposed. I understand that most of the arrests came in the first few days, that a number of people have been released, that processes of review and hearing are being provided in various states.

Answer 4: We already have reports and indications of a resurgence of confidence in the economic future of Brazil. Able, technically competent, Cabinet officers have been selected. President Castello Branco has specifically committed himself to restore order out of economic chaos, to bring about needed reforms, to revive economic growth. It will not be an easy task. Inflation had spiralled above an annual rate of one hundred per cent. The annual rate of economic growth had dropped below three per cent, less than the annual rate of population growth. Brazil is now formulating its program for stabilization and development. We shall certainly welcome this and be ready to help.

Answer 5: I would be glad to comment on U. S. policy on Cuba, but you already know that. I do not think it would be proper for me to guess what Brazil's foreign policy will be. More generally, I can say that the strong general affirmation by the new Brazilian Government of its support for free democratic government is most welcome.

Answer 6: Brazil is a major power. It is larger than continental U. S. It has a population of around 80 million and this is expected to exceed 200 million by the turn of the century. It has suffered numerous crises, political and economic, in the last two years. A continuation of this trend could have brought even more serious, perhaps permanent, political and economic damage to Brazil. Other Latin American nations and the Western Hemisphere inevitably would have felt the effects of this. At the very least one can say that this adverse trend has been checked. This in itself is of tremendous importance. If Brazil can now reverse directions and move forward, it can not help but be a major force in assuring that the nations of this Hemisphere move forward in their joint effort to achieve a major advance in the economic and social well-being of their people.