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MAR 21 1964

FROM : AmConGen Recife

DATE: March 10, 1964

SUBJECT: "Operation Caruaru"

REF :

(2)

Joint: Congen, USIS/RPAO, CAS REP MESSAGE

The enclosure to this airgram gives the background to a request for assistance to the city of Caruaru, Pernambuco; outlines the problem involved; suggests a solution; urges special attention be given to this request by United States Government agencies. The office of USAID/Brazil/NE is fully informed as to this proposal and has reviewed the enclosure in its final form without objection. Since the recommendation is outside their immediate terms of reference, they have not been included as co-authors.

Enclosure: *[Signature]*
Operation Caruaru
Edward J. Rowell
Minister Consul General

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FORM 4-62 DS-323

Drafted by: EJRowell:jrw

Contents and Classification Approved by:

Clearances: USIS/RPAO; Mr. McGillivray

CAS Representative, Mr. Creane

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Page 1
Encl. 1
A-102, RECIFE

OPERATION CARUARU

I. BACKGROUND

In July 1963 Drayton NEJAIM was elected Mayor of Caruaru. This represented the tenth consecutive election in which the people of Caruaru had returned to office a non-extremist government. This was particularly surprising in view of recent political developments throughout the state and the nation.

In September following his election, Mayor Nejaim, who was also a state deputy running on the UDN ticket, showed up at the Embassy in Rio and made an ardent plea that consideration be given to a program for the city of Caruaru under the "Alliance for Progress", since normal municipal revenues were inadequate for the tasks confronting the new administration, and the absence of political alliance with either the national or state governments was expected to close channels of assistance from those entities. The Mayor stressed that his campaign platform was one of overt rejection of communist and extreme leftist solutions to the problems of the city (and Brazil), and an insistence that the best possibilities for solution and economic advancement lay in the concept of an open society.

He appealed to the Embassy for assistance in securing tractors, bulldozers, ambulances, and supplies for public medical and dental clinics. This assistance, he pointed out, would accomplish two purposes:

1. It would provide material assistance toward solving some of the more urgent problems of Caruaru.
2. It would demonstrate clearly that those who defended democracy had responsible allies who would help them in time of need--specifically, the United States.

On February 22, 1964, in accordance with a long-standing commitment, a group representing the American Government community in Northeast Brazil visited the Mayor. The group consisted of the Minister Consul General, the Deputy Director of USAID/NE, the Director of Regional Public Affairs for Northeast Brazil, and the CAS representative.

A. The Caruaru Problem

The municipality of Caruaru is located approximately 120 kilometers due west of Recife, to which it is linked by a paved highway. It is in the heart of the Agreste and the surrounding

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