

INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

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LIMDIS

REF: STATE 86495, STATE 88080

LIMDIS

1. FONMIN JURACY MAGALHAES STATEMENT IN NOVEMBER 18 PRESS CONFERENCE OPPOSING LA ARMS RACE AND SPECIFICALLY DENYING GOB NEGOTIATING PURCHASE FOUGA-MAGISTER PLANES (REPORTED SEPARATE TELEGRAM) SHOULD BE OF SOME HELP IN DISPELLING NOTION THAT GOB INTEREST IN MORE MODERN EQUIPMENT FOR ARMED FORCES IS CONTRIBUTING TO OR ELEMENT OF SO-CALLED LA ARMS RACE. UNFORTUNATELY, EXCEPT FOR JORNAL DO BRASIL, ESTADO SAO PAULO AND O JORNAL STORY GOT SHORT SHRIFT LOCALLY, AND EVEN JORNAL DO BRASIL NOT FULLY CONVINCED AS WITNESS ITS NOV 19 EDITORIAL. HOPEFULLY STORY WILL GET BETTER COVERAGE IN US, INCLUDING WASHINGTON POST.
2. PRESIDENT CASTELLO BRANCO ALSO MADE HELPFUL STATEMENT IN NOV 19 SPEECH TO VETERANS CONVENTION BELO HORIZONTE, BUT LOCAL PRESS HAS LIKE OUR OWN STRAINED MIGHTILY AND PRODUCED STORIES WHICH EMPHASIZE PRIMARILY HIS IMPLIED SUPPORT FOR IAPF.
3. I WILL DISCUSS FURTHER WITH JURACY AND/OR PIO CORREA NEXT WEEK, SUGGESTING, IN ADDITION TO HELPFUL NOVEMBER 19 STATEMENTS A) LETTER FROM VASCO LEITAO DA CUNHA OR AIR ATTACHE TO WASHINGTON POST, B) HIGHLIGHTING IN PRESS BRIEFING DURING FORTHCOMING TRIP FONMIN'S DISCUSSION OF ARMS LIMITATION WITH COLOMBIANS, ECUADORIANS AND PERUVIANS, AND C) POSSIBLE BACK-GROUNDER ON BRAZILIAN ARMED FORCES EXPENDITURES AND PRESENT WEAPONS INVENTORY BY HIGH BRAZILIAN MILITARY FIGURE BEFORE LOCAL OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB.
4. SINCE ABOVE WAS WRITTEN, I HAVE SEEN PIO CORREA AGAIN. HE SEEMS WELL DISPOSED TO RE-EMPHASIZE GOB POSITION, ESPECIALLY IN TERMS OF SUMMIT. HE SAID, BY THE WAY, THAT CASTELLO BRANCO HAS NOT REPEAT NOT LOST HIS INTEREST IN SUMMIT BECAUSE HE WILL BE OUT OF OFFICE BY THAT TIME. PIO CORREA SAID THAT CASTELLO THINKS OF HIS RESPONSIBILITIES AS INCLUDING PREPARATION FOR SUCCESSFUL COSTA E SILVA PRESIDENCY. HE DID NOT KNOW OR SAY WHETHER COSTA E SILVA IS BEING ACTIVELY CONSULTED REGARDING SUMMITRY.

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