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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND CENTER
MESSAGE CENTER

BRAZIL
1 APR 65

IT WAS NOTED THAT CONDITIONS REMAIN ESSENTIALLY UNCHANGED FROM THOSE REPORTED IN MY IR 5809003265 (IN PREPARATION) WITH THE EXCEPTION OF CONSIDERABLE WORK IN PROGRESS (ABOUT 150-200 MEN) ON SEWERS AND DRAINS. USEABLE RUNWAY LENGTH REMAINS AT 3940 FEET. CAPT REZENDE ROCHA STATED THAT HE HAD A TOTAL OF ABOUT 700 PERSONNEL ABOARD COUNTING NAVY AND CIVILIAN WORKERS. T T-28 WERE SEEN, ALL APPARENTLY IN COMMISSION AS WELL AS ONE BAF C-47, 3 OR 4 PILOTAS AND 3 OF THE LIGHT HUGHES HELOS. DURING THE DAY 1 OR 2 T-28 WERE IN THE AIR CONTINUOUSLY. REZENDA ROCHA SAID THAT, ALTHOUGH NUMEROUS NEWSPAPER ARTICLES HAVE INDICATED THAT BAF WILL START FLITE OPS ABOARD IN APRIL, HIS ESTIMATE IS NO EARLIER THAN MAY.

- 4. ONE BRAZNAV SOURCE HAS STATED THAT THE NAVAL INSPECTION TEAM VISITED BAF BASE AT SANTA CRUZ ON 24 MARCH TO MAKE APPRAISAL OF CONDITION OF HSS HELICOPTERS TO BE TURNED OVER TO THE NAVY. RESULTS OF THE VISIT ARE NOT YET KNOWN TO ALUSNA.
- 5. TWO SOURCES HAVE INDICATED THAT 8 WESTLAND S-55 HELICOPTERS ORDERED FROM ENGLAND LAST OCTOBER BY BRAZNAV HAVE STARTED TO ARRIVE. ONE SOURCE STATES THAT THREE ARE NOW IN BRAZIL. THIS IS ALL NEWS TO ALUSNA ALTHOUGH IN RETROSPECT SOME HINTING TENDS TO CONFIRM.
- 6. NEW AIR OFFICER ABOARD MINAS GERAIS IS COMMANDER JOSE MARIA DO AMARAL OLIVEIRA, PREVIOUSLY C.O. OF BRAZNAV HELO SQUADRON AND THE PILOT WHO FLEW PRESIDENT ABOARD MINAS GERAIS ON 28 JAN. ALUSNA HAS FLOWN WITH AMARAL A COUPLE OF TIMES AND CONSIDERS HIM AN EXCELLENT PILOT, VERY KNOWLEDGEABLE IN AVIATION MATTERS, WHOSE JUDGMENT IS BASED ON U.S. NAVY TRAINING.
- 7. APPEARS PROBABLE THAT CAPT JOSE LEITE SOARES JUNIOR WILL BE NAMED CHIEF OF STAFF TO RADM MARIO CARNEIRO DE CAMPOS ESPOZEL IN THE NEW NAVAL AIR FORCE COMMAND. THERE IS NO DOUBT BUT WHAT CAPT LEITE IS THE BEST AVIATION PLANNER IN BRAZNAV TODAY.
- 8. DURING U.S. NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE VISIT TO BRAZIL'S ESCOLA SUPERIOR DE GUERRA (BRAZILIAN COUNTERPART TO NWC) ON 29 MARCH QUESTION WAS ASKED BY U.S. OFFICER AS TO ESG ATTITUDE ON EMBARKER AVIATION QUESTION. BRIGADEIRO FLEUISS OF BAF, COMMANDANT OF THE SHCOOL, TOOK TO PODIUM TO ANSWER PERSONNALLY STATING BAF WOULD PASS FIXED WING, CARRIER BASED AVIATION TO BRAZNAV IF PRESIDENT'S PROVISIONAL SOLUTION PROVES UNSATISFACTORY. HE FURTHER STATED THAT HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE BRAZNAV WOULD ACCEPT PRESIDENTIAL DECISION IN GOOD GRACE AND IN KEEPING WITH ITS HIGH TRADITIONS IF THE DECISION PROVES TO BE EFFECTIVE. REQUEST NOT THAT THE BRIGADEIRO REFERRED TO PRESIDENTIAL DECREE AS PROVISIONAL.
- 9. ABOVE FROM VARIOUS SOURCES MOSTLY BRAZNAV.

GP-3
BT

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