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JOINT EMBASSY - USIS MESSAGE

RSR

1. THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT HAS IMPOSED A DEGREE OF RESTRAINT ON THE HANDLING OF POLITICAL AND MILITARY NEWS BY RADIO AND

TELEVISION STATIONS BY QUIETLY SENDING OUT A CIRCULAR INSTRUCTION TO ALL STATION MANAGERS. THE MOVE WAS REPORTED IN ONE OF YESTERDAY'S PAPERS, THEN DENIED BY A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN (AS REPORTED IN A MORNING PAPER TODAY), AND THEN ADMITTED (AS REPORTED IN THIS AFTERNOON'S O GLOBO).

2. YESTERDAY'S CORREIO DA MANHA BROKE THE STORY AND PUBLISHED THE TEXT OF THE ALLEGED CIRCULAR INSTRUCTION, BUT THERE WAS NO OTHER CONFIRMING EVIDENCE. THIS MORNING DIARIO DE NOTICIAS PUBLISHED A ONE-SENTENCE DENIAL ATTRIBUTED TO A DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS (CONTEL). THE STORY SAID THAT THE REPORTER, SEEKING TO FIND OUT AT THE OFFICE OF CONTEL IF THE REPORT WAS ACCURATE, WAS NOT PERMITTED AN INTERVIEW BUT WAS ULTIMATELY HANDED THIS WRITTEN STATEMENT: "THE RADIO AND TELEVISION STATIONS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY ARE TRANSMITTING THEIR NEWS PROGRAMS NORMALLY WITHOUT ANY CENSORSHIP."

3. THIS AFTERNOON'S O GLOBO SAYS THE PRESIDENT OF CONTEL, CAPTAIN EUCLIDES DE OLIVEIRA, HAS ACKNOWLEDGED THE CIRCULAR ALTHOUGH HE DESCRIBES IT AS ONLY PROMULGATING "RECOMMENDATIONS" NOT OF "A RESTRICTIVE CHARACTER." HIS DESCRIPTION OF THE CIRCULAR TALLIES EXACTLY HOWEVER, WITH THE TEXT PUBLISHED YESTERDAY BY CORREIO DA MANHA, THE PROVISIONS OF WHICH ARE FOLLOWS:

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-2-1101, November 10, from: Rio de Janeiro

- A. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT STATION OBEY THE FOLLOWING GENERAL RULES.
- B. EACH RADIO AND TELEVISION STATION WILL DESIGNATE A PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR SCREENING THE NEWS TO BE BROADCAST.
- C. INTERVIEWS OF A POLITICAL CHARACTER SHOULD BE CLEARED IN ADVANCE WITH CONTEL.
- D. NEWS ABOUT THE ARMED FORCES, PARTICULARLY ABOUT ANY TROOP MOVEMENTS, WILL ONLY BE BROADCAST IF IT IS NEWS FURNISHED BY THE RESPECTIVE MINISTRIES.
- E. NEWS REPORTS CAPABLE OF ALARMING, INCITING, OR PROVOKING AN EMOTIONAL IMPACT ON THE POPULATION SHOULD NOT BE BROADCAST.
- F. FAITHFUL OBSERVATION IS RECOMMENDED OF THE RULES RELATIVE TO PROGRAMMING AND SCHEDULES SET FORTH IN DECREE NO 312 OF 16 AUGUST 1965, OF THE PRESIDENT OF CONTEL, AND OF THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLES 12 AND 16 OF INSTITUTIONAL ACT NO 2, AND OF PARAGRAPH 2 OF ARTICLE 1 OF COMPLEMENTARY ACT NO 1.
- G. DIRECTORS OF RADIO AND TELEVISION STATIONS SHOULD SUPPLY, IN REPLY TO THE CIRCULAR, THE NAMES OF THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR ASSURING COMPLIANCE WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED HEREIN.

(DATED 27 OCTOBER AND SIGNED BY THE PRESIDENT OF CONTEL.)

4. APART FROM PRESS REPORTS CITED, EMBASSY HAS INDEPENDENT CONFIRMATION FROM PRESIDENT OF RADIO EMPLOYEES UNION THAT CIRCULAR INSTRUCTION WAS SENT OUT AS STATED. BT

GORDON

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