

DIAS LEITE: ITAIPU AGREEMENT CANNOT BE PREVENTED

Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 18 Apr 73 p 7 X

[Text] "Nothing can delay or prevent the forthcoming signing of the agreement which will permit the creation of a mixed Brazilian-Paraguayan company for the construction of the Itaipu powerplant," declared Minister of Mines and Energy Dias Leite yesterday.

Arriving in Brasilia to participate in the ministerial meeting called by President Medici, Dias Leite emphasized that the negotiations on Itaipu are continuing at a normal rate and all problems are being resolved satisfactorily. Because of this he gave assurance that the document will be signed next week during the visit by President Stroessner. President Medici meets today with the minister of mines and energy to discuss the final details for the signing of the agreement with the Government of Paraguay next week.

Yesterday the President talked on the subject with Foreign Minister Gibson Barboza at an audience at Planalto Palace. The foreign minister made a report on the participation of the Brazilian delegation to the OAS General Assembly in Washington.

"I can assure you that the agreement on Itaipu will be signed during the visit by President Stroessner to Brazil," declared Paraguayan Ambassador to Brazil Rear Adm J. Wenceslau Benites. He added: "There is no power that can alter the willingness of the two countries to build the largest hydroelectric plant in the world. I do not attribute the slightest importance to sensationalist speculations and commentaries now circulating. I can say in advance that the agreement is ready. At this time there is only work on the final adjustments of the text in the Spanish version and other minor objections to words.

"This is work which is generally time consuming and requires studies and meetings. I can say that everything is going normally with the greatest understanding. Everything is calm on Itaipu." The ambassador explained that he did not know the technical details of the project but he was sure that no misunderstanding existed between the two governments as of this moment. "Itaipu is a good thing for Brazil and Paraguay. There is no reason for misunderstanding," he concluded.

BRIEFS

FLEET COMMANDER--Admiral Fernando Ernesto Carneiro Ribeiro yesterday assumed interim overall command of the fleet, replacing Admiral Jose Uzeda de Oliveira who was put on the reserve rolls last month. The ceremony was held aboard the aircraft carrier Minas Gerais and was attended by the commanders of the 1st Army, the 1st Naval District, and the 3d Air Zone. [Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 5 Apr 73 p 22 X]

MISSION TO PRC--Rio de Janeiro, 21 Apr--The chairman of the Brazilian Association of Exporters, Fiulite Coutinho, has announced that a second Brazilian trade mission will visit the PRC this year. The first mission visited the PRC in October 1972. [Havana PRELA in Spanish 1545 GMT 21 Apr 73 C--FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY]

FOREIGN MINISTER'S TRIP--Brasilia, Brazil, 23 Apr--Brazilian Foreign Minister Mario Gibson Barboza announced today upcoming visits to five Andean countries--Venezuela, Colombia, Peru, Ecuador and Bolivia. After stressing Brazil's solidarity with the Latin American continent, Gibson Barboza stated that the visits, for which no dates have been announced, will be part of an "intensive, coherent, and constant" Brazilian policy of rapprochement with its Latin American neighbors. It was unofficially learned that Gibson Barboza will begin his trip in late May or early June. [Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish 1916 GMT 23 Apr 73 P--FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY]

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