

TELEGRAM

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EMBASSY

Date: 16 Nov 64
1505

TO: SECSTATE 75 PRIORITY

INFO: RIO 77 PRIORITY

SAO PAULO 9 PRIORITY

The crisis involving Goias Governor Mauro Borges under military-police investigation for "subversion" is rapidly coming to head with following events in past 48 hours:

1. Theft of some 64 rifles, 1200 rounds of ammunition and other equipment from reserve officer training unit in Anapolis located 50 kilometers from Goiania.

2. Movement of some 250 troops overland from Brasilia Presidential Guard Battalion to Anapolis to support investigation arms theft under jurisdiction 10th Light Infantry Battalion stationed in Goiania.

3. Movement of three troop transport planes to Anapolis and possibly to Goiania where some tension reported between State Militia under orders Governor Borges and federal garrison. Latter ultimately responsible to 11th Military Region Commander General Nogueira Paes who has also proceeded to Goiania from Brasilia.

4. At request Governor Borges lawyers, Supreme Court Justice Gonçalves de Oliveira has granted "preventative" habeas ^c corpus to avoid at least temporarily possible arrest of Governor Borges by military tribunal. Temporary habeas corpus or restraint order by one justice will be submitted to full

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POL-13111111 (Goias)

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Supreme Court review Wednesday, November 18, this week.

5. Following meeting on November 14 of President Castello Branco with key cabinet members, Justice Minister issued official note referring to theft of arms in Anapolis, appearances "provocative" (anti-federal government) wall signs in that city, and steps allegedly taken by Governor Borges to concentrate state police and armed civilians in Goiania. As result these events, note continued, 11th Military Region Commander had sent troops to Anapolis, opened military-police investigation, gone to Goiania himself, placed federal troops in Brasilia and Ipameri in readiness to move anywhere in Goiás territory^r, and the 6th Air Zone Commander had placed air force equipmentⁱ in readiness to support 11th Military Region movements. Note stated that these measures, approved by War and Navy Ministers and President, designed maintain law and order.

6. Late evening of November 14 Governor Borges issued note stating that in view of habeas corpus issued by Supreme Court Justice preventing^f action by military courts against him he called on people of Goiás to maintain "peaceful civil vigil" with confidence in "God and Justice". He pledged the maintenance of law and order and denied "planted rumors" that he was arming guerrillas in his defense. He stated his confidence that "Legalistic spirit" of President Castello Branco would assure executive compliances^f/with decisions of judiciary and pledged his support for federal government's objective to maintain law and order and Brazilian democratic institutions.

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7. COMMENT: Charges against Governor Borges are based largely on extent of extreme leftist and Communist infiltration permitted at various levels his government. List of some 70 names alleged Communists and pro-Communists formerly or now serving his government released to press in support federal government's case. Borges also charged with close association iron curtain embassies and involvement Polish-run espionage activities. Also with support for ex-Goiás peasant leader José Porfirio and latter's efforts form and train guerrilla groups in Goiás. Military particularly disgruntled over evidence that several hundred military and civilians who were dismissed or had political rights cancelled by revolution have gravitated to Goiás.

8. Brasilia office knows Mauro Borges fairly well. Without benefit evidence gathered against him we doubt he either Communist or involved espionage. However, in his zeal to develop Goiás /resources he has been willing accept aid and ideas from all sources. His experimental agricultural colony in Arraias is patterned after Israeli Kibbutz. In his development program he has formed number of state enterprises in electric power, minerals, and even pharmaceutical fields. In his government he has included conservative land holding elements as well as leftist and known Communists. This has been partly due to opportunism and climate of "ideological tolerance" which reigned in Brazil under Quadros and Goulart government, but also the leftists have worked hard for Governor Borges, furthering his development program while attempting influence^E them along socialistic lines.

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12. President Castello Branco, aware of bearing Borges case will have an image his government at home and abroad, has promised through statement by Civil Household Chief Luiz Viana that case will be handled by due process of law. If Supreme Court agrees to jurisdiction military tribunal, we believe Borges ouster imminent. If Supreme Court rules that Borges may only be tried by or with consent of Goiás ~~state~~ state legislative assembly, he may ride out ~~the~~ storm. At moment Borges has 23 of 39 members on his side, more than enough to ~~prevent~~ ^{prevent} required absolute majority vote against him. However, some PSD assemblymen in Borges group ~~said to~~ ^{who} harbor gripes against him and others ~~under threat of~~ ^{threatened with} indictment for corruption may change ~~of~~ ^{their} vote under pressure.

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9. Even many Goiás conservative businessmen and landowning opponents of Governor Borges, although critical his leftist associates and statist approach, admire his drive and accomplishments, and doubt charges of corruption or that he personally Communist or even pro-Communist in outlook. Main opponent of Borges has been ultra conservative Caiado de Castro family of Goiás latifundiarios who bidding for return to power lost since 1930 when Borges' father Senator Pedro Ludovico appointed state interventor by Getulio Vargas. Castro family has managed to whip up hard line military support for their effort oust government^{CV} Borges.

10. Borges support for March revolution saved him from loss of political rights under Article 10 institutional act and it has been our guess that lack thus far of real case against Borges plus his firm stand and support by national leadership of PSD party would continue to save him. However, Anapolis arms theft and intemperate statements by Borges (in response to equally intemperate statements ~~at~~ against him) have heated up situation and widened military opposition to him and determination "to get him".

11. Legal issue involved is whether military forum has right try ~~of~~ Governor Borges on basis national security nature charges against him without prior permission state legislative assembly. Borges insists on basis Goiás state constitution and federal law that he can be tried only with permission legislative assembly (where he commands majority support) and then only in civil not military court.

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