

TELEGRAM

OUTGOING

Foreign Service of the
United States of America

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Date: 30 Nov 64
1050

TO: SECSTATE 92 PRIORITY

INFO: RIO 96 ROUTINE

SAO PAULO 21 ROUTINE

1. GOIAS CRISIS. Chamber of Deputies night November 29 approved by vote 192 for, 140 against, 6 abstentions, decree of Federal intervention in Goias. Key to approval was favorable ballot of some 30 PSD members. Leading UDN deputy commented sarcastically that "one can always rely on patriotism of PSD". Scheduled vote in Senate today expected by all observers be highly favorable.

2. Government brought great pressure on Congress to assure favorable outcome this issue. Chief of Civil household Luis Viana has haunted halls of Congress for last two days rounding up votes and persuading doubters. Minister of Interior General Cordeira de Farias also was active in getting administration message over to legislators. Most important perhaps was series of personal interviews President ~~Castello~~ Castello Branco had individually with numerous congressmen, bring weight his personality, office and arguments to get support needed for approval Goias intervention.

3. Voting took place in long, tense, tumultuous session afternoon and evening November 29. Speeches both for and against intervention were in main passionate and vehement. Some of younger parliamentarians such as Roberto Saturnino (PSB-Guanabara) and Mario Covas (PTB-São Paulo) were

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- 2 -

ically calm in saying to hushed house they would vote against measure as vote of personal integrity and mark of confidence in future of country.

4. Several congressmen confided to Embassies that many their number would vote yes though personally convinced intervention either unfounded or illegal. Reasons given were of two kinds: first for alleged necessity protect institution of congress, which they feared would be closed if intervention rejected. Second and related reason was necessity avoid provoking Jacobin elements in country to further steps on Goias model at this time. Latter reasoning involved feeling that even if government wrong in intervention in Goias it was fait accompli which ought at this point be accepted so hard line would calm down and country could get on with main business of economic development.

5. Conversations with Congressmen upholding government point of view leave impression they convinced intervention in Goias was imperative to prevent things from returning status quo before revolution. These elements seem to have feeling that existence of situation in Goias threatened bring to naught their effort to cleanse and purify country politically, socially and economically. Jacobins argue that of two main thrusts of revolution, moralizing purge (saneamento) is more important at moment than economic resurrection (soerguemento). Argument runs that it serves little purpose make possible greater prosperity in country if degenerate elements are allowed to hold or return to power since they would rob coffers and point country once again

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- 3 -

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down primrose path of national suicide. It therefore follows that proper purging is prerequisite to economic development, and consequently that only right line of conduct at moment is one adopted by "hard line".

6. Jacobins are also infuriated that allegedly dubious types like Mauro Borges can escape true justice by hiding, as President himself said, "in folds of law". Being convinced of righteousness their mission "hard liners" are also wrathful over events such as manifesto issued in Montevideo by Leonel Brizola and return of ex-deputy Bocayuva Cunha from self-imposed exile. They are further convinced that left cannot but attempt to mount counter-revolution and that it therefore their duty to ferret out any and all actual and potential plotters. In brief, they are determined that Brazil will not return to its old immoral and politically self-destructive ways, and they will not allow their mission be frustrated through manipulation of legal system by reputedly anti-revolutionary forces. GP-3

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