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TO: RIO 85

1. For what it is worth following are personal thoughts and analysis of current Goias crisis. We appear to have irresistible force (the Federal Government) on a collision course with immovable object (Governor Borges) and his avid followers). Both sides in this contest appear honestly convinced of the righteousness of their respective causes, making compromise solutions all but impossible. Federal Government obviously has military force capable of getting its way, however, at a much higher cost than it appears to realize in distortion of democratic tradition, and of its image at home and abroad. President Castello Branco himself may be big loser this regard. Respected and admired for his civilist, democratic formation and independence of thought and action, President's image stands to suffer greatly from arbitrary Federal action in Goias case which would appear dictated by military hard line. President stands to lose basis for what popular and political party support he enjoys and thus forced into further dependence on military.

2. The case against Mauro Borges appears woefully inadequate on basis evidence available or bantied about until this time. Unless new, conclusive evidence appears, any action against Borges must by definition be arbitrary. Not only is 80% of Goias populace behind Mauro Borges, but PSD sees in his elimination major blow their party structure and position. More important

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thinking Brazilians view treatment Goias crisis as test case democratic content Castello Branco government. Majority rooting for Borges against federal government at this time. Needless to say, all elements of left strongly support Borges and perceive in his case rallying point for opposition and even counter-revolutionary activity. They would gladly give medal to whoever drafted president's anti-Borges manifesto of November 23. In addition, this contest has given Governor Borges, not a communist but also not without ambition, a tremendous banner to carry into political future. Instead of "getting Borges", Federal Government in its prosecution or persecution has given him greatest boost of his career into national political ~~arena~~ arena.

3. Government missed its opportunity oust Borges under Article 10 of Institutional Act. Now it too late to "get him" without irreparable damage democratic process and image Castello Branco Government. Best course for Government would be to accept defeat their ill-advised efforts oust Borges and let case rest and pieces settle back into proper places. This course, viewed as probable at time of Supreme Court decision in favor of Borges, has become extremely difficult as result President's manifesto. GP-3

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