

# TELEGRAM

INCOMING

Foreign Service of the  
United States of America

BRASILIA

**SUBJECT**  
DEF-19

ACTION  
POL-2  
INFO  
AST-10  
FILES  
RF

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Classification

Control: 0952

Recd:

18MAY67

(FOLLOWING WAS RELAYED TO  
1370TH PMW FORBES AFB KANSAS)

R 172345Z MAY 67  
FM AMEMBASSY RIO DE JANEIRO  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5941  
INFO RULPAL/USCINCSO UNN  
RUENAAA/CSAF WASHDC UNN  
RUCLEMPA/1370 PMW, TURNER AFB GA. UNN  
RUCIEUA/MAC SCOTT AFB, ILLINOIS UNN  
RUESUZ/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 594  
STATE GRNC

BT

C O N F I D E N T I A L

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BRASILIA PASS TO AST-10

STATE/DEFENSE MESSAGE

SUBJECT: AST-10 OPERATIONS

1. DURING MY LAST TRIP TO BRASILIA, I WAS STRUCK BY THE HIGH VISIBILITY OF OUR AST-10 SQUADRON. EVERY EFFORT HAS BEEN MADE TO LOCATE THE HANGAR AND AIRCRAFT AS FAR AWAY FROM THE CIVILIAN OPERATION AS POSSIBLE, BUT IT IS IMPSSSIBLE FOR PERSONS ARRIVING AND DEPARTING FROM THE BRASILIA AIRPORT NOT TO NOTICE THESE HUGE AMERICAN AIRCRAFT AND THEIR CREWS. MOREOVER THE MILITARY SIDE WHERE THE AIRCRAFT ARE LOCATED IS THE AREA USED FOR PRESIDENTIAL AIRCRAFT, WHICH FREQUENTLY CARRIES PROMINENT CONGRESSMEN AND OTHER DIGNITARIES.

2. BRASILIA IS THE POLITICAL NERVE CENTER OF THE COUNTRY, AND COSTA E SILVA'S DETERMINATION TO MOVE THE GOVERNMENT THERE MEANS THAT AN EVER INCREASING NUMBER OF POLITICIANS AND KEY GOVERNMENT FIGURES WILL BE MAKING BRASILIA THEIR HOME. AST-10 HAS FROM TIME TO TIME COME UNDER CONSIDERABLE ATTACK BY A NUMBER OF RADICAL DEPUTIES,

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FORM FS-412  
8-65

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PARTICULARLY FORMER JOURNALIST HERMANO ALVES, MDB-GUANABARA) AND ITS PPOMINENCE IN BRASILIA MAKES IT LIKELY THAT CHARGES WE CONDUCTING AERIEL ESPONAGE WILL CONTINUE.

3. IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT OPERATIONAL FACTORS PRECLUDE THE TRANSFER OF AST-10 OUT OF BRASILIA. CONSEQUENTLY THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE REMAINING IS FOR US TO TRY AND EXPLAIN TO THE BRAZILIANS THAT AST-10 IS A JOINT OPERATION, REQUESTED BY THE GOB, AND THAT NOTHING OF A CLANDESTINE NATURE IS INVOLVED. I HAVE SUGGESTED TO MAJOR GRIFFIN THAT HE WORK WITH HIS BRAZILIAN COLLEAGUES TO DEVELOP A SUITABLE JOINT EMBLEM THAT CAN BE PLACED ON THE AIRCRAFT AND TO SET UP AN APPROPRIATE DISPLAY AT THE BASE, SO THAT ANYONE NOTICING THE AIRCRAFT WILL HAVE AN EXPLANATION OF THEIR PURPOSE READILY AVAILABLE. I ALSO INTEND TO ENCOURAGE THE GOB TO MADE A GREATER EFFORT TO EXPLAIN THIS PROJECT TO ITS PEOPLE. PRESIDENT COSTA E SILVA HAS ALREADY INDICATED HE IS THINKING ALONG SIMILAR LINES.

4. MY STAFF AND I THINK IT WOULD ALSO BE VERY USEFUL FROM TIME TO TIME TO INVITE SELECTED PPOLICITCAL FIGURES AND JOURNALISTS TO GO ALONG ON AST-10 FLIGHTS. SINCE IN MOST CASES THE INDIVIDUAL INVITED WOULD EXPECT TO GO ON A TRIP SHORTLY AFTER THE INVITATION, I WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING AUTHORITY TO AUTHORIZE SUCH TRIPS LOCALLY THIS WOULD ALSO HAVE THE ADVANTAGE OF ENABLING US TO ISSUE AND INVITATION ON THE SPOT TO CRITICS OR MISGUIDED PERSONS AND TO FOLLOW THROUGH WHILE THEIR INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT IS STILL AT A HIGH POINT.

5. I WOULD APPRECIATE ANY SUGGESTIONS THE DEPARTMENT OR DOD MAY HAVE WITH REGARD TO WHAT COULD BECOME A PUBLIC RELATIONS PROBLEM. I GREATLY FRAR THT IF WE DO NOT GET THE PROPER STORY ACROSS TO THE BRAZILIANS, PARTICULARLY THE POLITICAL LEADERS IN BRASILIA, THAT AST-10 COULD BECOME ANOTHER WHIPPING BOY LIKE BIRTH CONTROL AND THE USAID-MEC AGREEMENT. IF THIS HAPPENS THE PROGRAM ITSELF COULD BE PLACED IN JEOPARDY.

TUTHILL  
BT

1245/RM

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