

TELEGRAM

Foreign Service of the
SUBJECT United States of America

INCOMING

APR 3 4 36 PM '67 DE JANEIRO

LAB 6-1 CHILE

ACTION: POL-2

AMERICAN EMBASSY
BRASILIA, BRAZIL

Classification

Control: 1231

Recd: MARCH 28
2050

EMBOFFICE	Brasilia
P.O.	
Adm.	
Perk	
Cons	
Tele	
P.S.O.	
MAIL	
RECEIVED	
ACTION TAKEN	

INFO
AMB
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POL/8
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BRAS-2
RDG
FILE

P 282200Z MAR 67
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2340 PRIORITY
INFO RUESUA/AMEMBASSY RIO DE JANEIRO 158
RUESBA/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
RUESDO/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO 111
RUESLM/AMEMBASSY LIMA 233
STATE GRNC
BT
CONFIDENTIAL SANTIAGO 3344

1. ABOUT ONE WEEK AGO COMMUNIST CONTROLLED LABOR CENTRAL (CUTCH) CALLED FOR 24 HOUR STOPPAGE ON MARCH 28 OF PRIVATE INDUSTRY EMPLOYEES CONTENDING THIS WAS ONLY WAY TO FORCE GOVERNMENT CONCILIATION BOARDS TO ACT QUICKLY ON THEIR PETITIONS.

2. YESTERDAY CUTCH REVISED DOWNWARD ESTIMATE OF 45,000 WORKERS WHO WERE TO STRIKE (TEXTILES, BEER, BAKERIES, SMALL MINES, CONSTRUCTION, LEATHER, ELECTRICAL AND FLOUR MILLING INDUSTRIES). CONTENDED ONLY THAT 20,000 ELECTRICAL, LEATHER AND SMALL MINES WORKERS WOULD GO OUT SINCE OTHERS HAVE RESOLVED PROBLEMS DUE TO CUTCH THREAT. POLICE REPORTS FROM ALL OVER REVEAL THAT ONLY 900 WORKERS IN MINES AND 2,400 WORKERS IN LEATHER FOLLOWED CUTCH CALL FOR STOPPAGE TODAY.

3. CHECK WITH MINISTRY OF LABOR SHOWS NO RPT NO EFFORT TO SPEED-UP USUAL PROCESS OF CONCILIATION. CHECK WITH INDUSTRY REVEALS LARGEST ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY (CHILECTRA) NOT OUT, LARGEST LEATHER PLANT (BATA) NOT OUT (THIS NOT CUTCH AFFILIATE).

4. EMBASSY COMMENT: CUTCH APPARENTLY DECIDED TO PUT PRESSURE ON GOVERNMENT AS PLOY IN APRIL 2 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS, PROBABLY HOPED THAT GOVERNMENT WOULD CRACK DOWN HARD IF 45,000 WORKERS WENT OUT AND MARXIST PARTIES COULD EXPLOIT THIS ON EVE OF ELECTIONS. RESULT OF THEIR EFFORTS CAN BEST BE DESCRIBED AS DEFEAT FOR CUTCH AND MARXIST PARTIES. WORKERS APPARENTLY NOT FOLLOWING THEIR DIRECTIONS AND SOURCES ADVISE THAT THEY COULD NOT FILL THEATRE WHERE MEETING WAS CALLED THIS A.M. GOVERNMENT SOURCES SAY ADVISES THAT UNIONS ARE FOLLOWING NORMAL PROCEDURES THROUGH CONCILIATION BOARDS. DESPITE ALL CAMPAIGN TALK IT NOW SEEMS OBVIOUS THAT THERE IS NO UNDER-CURRENT OF DEEP UNREST IN WORKING CLASS AND MAJORITY ARE READY TO ABIDE BY LAW EVEN THOUGH TIME-CONSUMING. WHILE PLOY WAS BITTER FAILURE FOR MARXISTS, WE DO NOT EXPECT IT TO INFLUENCE VOTING PATTERNS IN MUNICIPAL ELECTION.

DUNGAN

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