

TELEGRAM

Foreign Service of the
United States of America

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PRIORITY

Date: March 19, 1963
12:00 Noon

TO: SECSTATE 1767

TO: RIO 180

RPTD INFO: SAN JOSE 8 PRIORITY
RPTD INFO: POLAD CINCARIB DEPT PASS PRIORITY
POUCH: AMCONGEN SAO PAULO

AMCONGEN RECIFE :

Following from Brasilia.

Embassy officers talked to substantial number parliamentarians
afternoon and evening March 18 including President of both Chambers
(Moura Andrade and Mazzilli) furnishing whatever facts then
available ^{re} publication Departmental statements on Brazilian
Communism as well as re status Dantas mission. Even staunchest
friends of US were highly critical of timing of release during
visit GOB Minister of State Dantas and negotiations, most contacts
appearing at least initially to believe form of pressure on GOB
and/or attempt disrupt negotiations had been intended. Friends
of US, moreover, were apprehensive that US had unnecessarily given
useful issue to Brizola, communists and other extreme "nationalists."
Osvaldo Lima Filho (PTB-Pernambuco) told us he considered success
of Dantas mission and GOB anti-inflationary program "last chance
for democracy in Brazil." All expressed appreciation for
information we were able to furnish them and most, including
Presidents both chambers, said they would use information ~~it~~ to
keep colleagues calm. All expressed earnest hope Ambassador's posi-

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tion would not be damaged, Moura Andrade stating this would not happen in governmental circles where Ambassador well known but that//unless incident disposed of quickly "nationalist" propaganda might damage his standing with "the people."

Fortunately, situation did not get out of hand March 18, largely due efforts democratic congressional leaders and apparently self-controlled behavior on part Goulart. Moura Andrade, Mazzilli, PSD Chamber leader Martins Rodrigues and PTB Chamber leader Bocayuva Cunha lunched with President. Both Chamber Presidents told us they urged calm and careful handling of situation and reported President was not overly excited and had stuck to conservative decision to seek explanation of Washington events before deciding on any other form of action. Similarly, situation on Congress floor, despite excited offstage remarks by Brizola carried on radio calling Ambassador "a spy", remained surprisingly calm. In Senate Moura Andrade intentionally did not permit debate on subject. In Chamber there was some discussion, with freshman deputy Ortiz Borges (PTB-Rio Grande do Sul) calling for Ambassador to be declared Personna Non Grata, but PTB leader Bocayuva Cunha merely calling for appearance Hermes Lima for questioning. Latter proposition accepted by Chamber.

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We hope receipt of US note together with press releases yesterday will prevent situation from boiling up again although probable we have not heard last of subject.

During night March 18 Brizola made highly inflammatory speech (anti-capitalist, anti-American, anti-Congress and even anti-Brasilia) in Taguatinga, one of Brasilia "satellite cities", and, although containing some shacks, far from worst town in Brazil. Main refrain of Brizola speech was "I will tolerate no longer... or we will tolerate no longer..." etc. Although most of themes used were stock items of Brizola's inventory, pitch had been substantially raised. Brizola called for Congress to pass "revolutionary" basic reforms almost immediately, or else, but disparaged likelihood of "political club" (Congress) taking necessary action. Brizola promised to speak in "Free City" March 19, and subsequently in all other Brasilia satellite cities. Evidently hopes rabble rousing in favela districts of satellite cities will help intimidate Congress. Brizola speech, like recent series, was boycotted by most of press including Goulart-mouthpiece Ultima Hora, but was carried on radio widely through hook-up "Mayrink Vega" and affiliated stations (and will presumably be reported in Commie press).

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JKeppel/jhm

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