

ESK



EMBASSY
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

C. Feb (3)
EXECUTIVE

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil,
April 13, 1964.

CO 37
FOY/CO37

Dear Ralph:

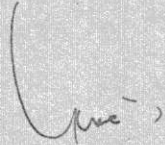
Your kind letter of April 6 arrived this morning, and I took the liberty of reading it to my top staff. They were naturally most pleased, as was I.

Let me repay the compliment by saying that from the moment of Dean Rusk's message of Monday night March 31, we here could not have asked for more ample, cordial, or timely backing. The best kind of contingency planning is always the kind that need not be put into practice, but it was very comforting for us to know that we would not have been helpless in the event of a less happy outcome. And I still regard it as a little short of a Brazilian miracle that so drastic a transformation could be achieved so quickly and virtually without bloodshed. I would certainly not argue that we have been right in every judgment over the past months and years, but our confidence in the influence and attitudes of the key State Governors and the bulk of the military officer corps certainly proved more than justified.

The new opportunities which this situation opens for us should be evident, and I gather from both correspondence and Hew Ryan's personal visit that this is well appreciated in Washington. I hope that it will continue to be so, because if there is a failure of policy now, the fault will rest with us and we shall have missed an opportunity which is most unlikely to repeat itself.

With warm personal regards and all good wishes,

Yours,


Lincoln Gordon
United States Ambassador

The Honorable
Ralph A. Dungan,
Special Assistant to the President,
The White House.

RECEIVED
MAY 7 1964
CENTRAL FILES

Nothing else sent to
Central Files as of 5/8/64