

OPERATIONS MEMORANDUM

TO: Amembassy Rio de Janeiro

FROM: Amconsul Porto Alegre

SUBJECT: POLITICAL: RGS Reaction To Complementary Act No. 23

REF:

DATE: October 21, 1966

1. Although certain routine precautionary measures appear to have been taken by the Army and other forces responsible for the preservation of order, the announcement of the decision taken by President Castelo Branco to order the recess of Congress until November 22 did not cause any great alarm, nor did it interfere greatly with the travel and other routine activity of important figures in the state. President of the Legislative Assembly Alfredo Hoffmeister issued a statement to the effect that he found it deplorable that the President of the Republic had had to make use of the exceptional powers available to him, but not actually condemning him for using them. Governor Meneghetti, Governor-elect Peracchi Barcelos and the Regional Directorate of ARENA all sent congratulatory telegrams to the President. MDB senatorial candidate Siegfried Heuser and floor leader Pedro Simon issued statements condemning the action as yet another example of arbitrary rule. III Army commander Gen. Orlando Geisel left town as scheduled to attend an homenagem paid in the frontier city of Bagé to his Chief of Staff, Gen. Antônio Jorge Corrêa.

2. Before his departure, Gen. Geisel issued an order entrusting Secretary of Security, Army Lt. Col. Washington Bermudez, with the enforcement of certain censorship measures brought about by the closing of the Congress. Radio and TV stations were cautioned, during the 7 day period following issuance of the Complementary Act, to give only "general news" regarding the recess, abstaining from any comments with regard thereto. In addition, an appeal was made to the patriotism of the stations and of the press to avoid publishing or broadcasting any material which might be prejudicial to public order and tranquility. It was added that disobedience of the order restricting information concerning the recess to "general news" would be punishable under Article 53 of Law No. 4117 of 1962.

cc Embassy Brasilia
ARA-LA/BR, Washington

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