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AIR POUCH

Department of State

Ambassy BRASILIA Office

October 16, 1964

Bill to Reorganize Federal Police Goes to Congress

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The administration's long-awaited draft legislation "restructuring" the Federal Department of Public Security (DFSP), or Federal Police, was sent to Congress on October 12. It was formally introduced for congressional action on October 14 under the terms of Article 4 of the Ato Institucional, meaning that it must be acted upon within 30 days, that is by November 14, or it automatically becomes law. Ten copies of the draft bill are attached as an enclosure. A summary of the bill's more important provisions is given below.

Functions.

According to the terms of the bill, the most important functions of the DFSP would be the following: (1) supervise the Maritime, Air and Frontier Police, (2) censor various public attractions (diversões publicas), (3) coordinate the civil and criminal fingerprint identification services, (4) provide general and specialized training to personnel, (5) provide technical and scientific police assistance to the States, (6) supervise the policing of federal highways, (7) safeguard "treasury interests" (interesses fazendários), by which presumably is meant jurisdiction over counterfeiting cases, (8) repression of contraband and illegal diversions (descaminho), (9) exercise control over the movement of foreigners, (10) suppress clandestine traffic in drugs and narcotics, (11) suppress traffic in persons, (12) personal security of national and foreign dignitaries, and (13) investigating other unlawful acts which involve the interests of the Union.

Organization.

The DFSP will remain directly subordinated to the Minister of Justice, and is to be headed by a Director General, and will have

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the following major components: (1) Superior Police Council, (2) Operations Division, (3) Federal Investigations Police, (4) National Institute of Identification, (5) Federal Security Police, (6) National Institute of Criminalistics, (7) National Police Academy, (8) Division of Administration, and (9) Division of General Services. Provision is made for the DFSP to set up Regional Offices (delegacias regionais) in various parts of the national territory.

The draft statute provides as well that the police and security functions in the Federal District will be carried out by the Brasilia Police, which will be an integral part of the DFSP until January 31, 1966. At that time a Secretariat of Security will be formed and the Brasilia Police will be transferred to and subordinated administratively, to the Federal District Mayor's Office (Prefeitura).

Funds Requested.

In his message accompanying the draft law, the President asked the Congress for the opening of a special credit of three billion cruzeiros in order to put the law into effect.

Comment:

It seems relatively safe to hazard the prediction that the present bill will fare better in Congress than did a similar bill introduced in 1963 by the Goulart Administration.

For the Ambassador:

Robert W. Dean
Robert W. Dean per 113
Counselor of Embassy

Enclosure:

10 copies of Presidential
Message No. 17 of 1964.

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