

TELEGRAM

Foreign Service of the
United States of America

OUTGOING Amcongen Recife

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Control:

Date: September 2, 1966

ACTION: Amembassy RIO 269
INFO : Secstate WASHDC 219
FROM : Amcongen RECIFE 301 September 2, 1966.

EMBASSY EYES ONLY AMBASSADOR OR DCM.

DEPT LIMDIS.

1. AIFLD representative Wasson reported to me this morning American member AIFLD staff being subjected extortion in connection potential accusation of crime equivalent statutory rape. Girl is seventeen and associated with AIFLD. Person involved admits limited association with girl but denies carnal knowledge. Wasson asserts same girl had approached other American members suggesting illicit relationship. Believes action is frame-up and both principal and Wasson strongly desire fight case.

2. Wasson came to me to request if there are any overriding objection on part USGOVT since if presumed bluff called, possibility exists extortioners could go to court with suborned evidence.

3. Since this case follows so closely Sa Barreto holdup it quite possible we are marked as patsies and I am strongly inclined on

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2

both moral and practical grounds to insist on no out of court settlement. If we cannot weather adverse publicity over something that involves nothing more than human frailty even in face of adverse court decision, our position in Northeast is very weak indeed and I do not believe it is. This judgment takes into consideration possible reaction on the AIFLD program, and the AID program as well as the general U.S. image.

4. I have advised Wasson of my views. However, first step is to secure competent local legal advice which Wasson now undertaking. Will proceed as above unless otherwise instructed.

ROWELL

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