

November 19, 1976

US Embassy Cable, Brazilian Public Reaction to US Nuclear Policies

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Summary:

The US Embassy in Brazil quotes a Brazilian ministry official who declares Brazil will continue its nuclear program "despite all the threats and reprisals" from the US. The unnamed official goes on to say, "The Americans, our allies, are behaving in a way worse than that of our common enemies, the Russians."

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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 OES-06 ERDA-07

AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07

FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-15 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04

TRSE-00 ACDA-10 NRC-07 ARAE-00 /156 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8766

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

CINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

UNCLAS BRASILIA 9631

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH ENRG PARM BR GW

SUBJECT: BRAZILIAN PUBLIC REACTION S TO US NUCLEAR POLICIES

REF: BRASILIA 9622

ON NOV. 11, ACCORDING TO THE PRESTIGIOUS "O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO", AN UNIDENTIFIED HIGH SOURCE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND ENERGY MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

"WE KNOW HOW TO RESIST ANY AND ALL US PRESSURES BECAUSE BRAZIL ALSO TRIED, IN A FRIENDLY WAY, TO REACH AN AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES. AT THE START OF 1974, BETWEEN

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JANUARY AND MARCH, WE TRIED TO EXPLAIN THAT THE US COULD

DO GOOD BUSINESS IF IT HELPED US IN OUR PROGRAM. IN OUR
MINISTRY THE SUBJECT WAS TABOO FOR A PERIOD OF EIGHT MONTHS; IT
REPRESENTED A FOCAL POINT OF TENSIONS, WITH THE GOVERNMENT
FEARFUL THAT THE SUBJECT WOULD BE MADE PUBLIC. BUT THE
AMERICANS WERE VERY TOUGH WITH US AND WE HAD TO LEAVE THEM
ASIDE, DESPITE ALL THE THREATS AND REPRISALS WHICH UNHAPPILY
RESULTED AND WILL RESULT UNTIL NO ONE KNOWS WHEN.

"OUR NUCLEAR PROGRAM WILL CONTINUE, AT LEAST TO THE
EXTENT IT DEPENDS ON US, AGAINST ALL INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL
PRESSURES. THE GERMANS KNOW THAT WE ACTED WITH SERIOUSNESS
INSIGNING THE AGREEMENT. WE DO NOT WANT THE ATOMIC BOMB.
WE WANT TO BE INDEPENDENT, TO CONSTRUCT OUR FUTURE, AND TO
PREVENT (THE EFFECTS OF) ANY FUTURE WORLD PETROLEUM AND ENERGY
CRISIS. BRAZIL WILL NOT GIVE WAY.

"WE UNDERTOOK A REVOLUTION (I.E., THE 1964 CHANGE OF
GOVERNMENT) WITH GREAT REPERCUSSIONS AND WITH AMERICAN
SYMPATHY IN ORDER TO DEFEAT IN LATIN AMERICA COMMUNISM
AND OPPRESSIVE LEFTISM, WHICH HAD TAKEN HOLD ON THE
CONTINENT. BUT THE REVOLUTION WAS MADE ALSO BECAUSE WE
WANTED TO BE A RESPECTED COUNTRY; WE WANTED AND WE WANT
TO MAKE OUR OWN REACTORS. AND WHAT DO WE SEE WITH DISTRESS?
THE AMERICANS, OUR ALLIES, ARE BEHAVING IN A WAY WORSE
THAN THAT OF OUR COMMON ENEMIES, THE RUSSIANS."
CRIMMINS

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Message Attributes

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