

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

*Cuba*

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FROM: RIO DE JANEIRO

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 2306, MARCH 30, 8 PM

PRIORITY

EMBASSY TELEGRAM 2289, DEPARTMENT TELEGRAM 2756, DEPCIRTEL 1630

FOLLOWING INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM AUTHORITATIVE FOREIGN OFFICE SOURCES SUBSEQUENT DESPATCH EMBASSY TELEGRAM 2289:

ON INSTRUCTIONS PRESIDENT GOULART, BRAZILIAN EMBASSY HABANA RECENTLY CONVEYED TO CUBAN GOVERNMENT GOB REQUEST THAT TRIALS BE POSTPONED ONE MONTH TO ALLOW TIME FOR CERTAIN MOVES TO BE MADE ON BEHALF PRISONER (E.G. RECONSIDERATION PRISONER-TRACTOR EXCHANGE, ARRANGEMENTS FOR DEFENSE ATTORNEYS). CUBAN REPLY WAS THAT WHILE BRAZILIAN INITIATIVE VIEWED SYMPATHETICALLY, GOVERNMENT UNABLE FOR PRESTIGE REASONS TO POSTPONE TRIALS. CUBAN GOVERNMENT WOULD HOWEVER CONSIDER REQUEST FOR CLEMENCY PROVIDING GOB WOULD AGREE MEET CERTAIN CONDITIONS. THESE CONDITIONS, WHILE NOT SPECIFIED BY FOREIGN OFFICE INFORMANTS, APPARENTLY CONSIDERED BY GOB TO BE SHEER BLACKMAIL. CUBAN REPLY, WHICH APPARENTLY RECEIVED BY GOB EARLIER THIS WEEK, REPORTEDLY HIGHLY IRRITATING TO GOB INCLUDING PRESIDENT HIMSELF. GOB CONSEQUENTLY PLANS NO FURTHER APPEALS AT THIS TIME ALTHOUGH IT MAY DECIDE TO MAKE APPEAL FOR CLEMENCY AFTER TRIAL IN EVENT DEATH SENTENCES INVOLVED.

IN LIGHT FOREGOING DO NOT BELIEVE USEFUL PURPOSE WOULD BE SERVED BY APPROACH TO GOULART SUGGESTED DEPARTMENT TELEGRAM 2756.

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