

RELEASED IN FULL

PAGE 01 BRASIL 09235 01 OF 03 032159Z
ACTION SS-00

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 SSO-00 /000 W
-----246470 032210Z /66

O 032149Z AUG 89
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6117

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 BRASILIA 09235

EXDIS DECAPTIONED

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

FROM CHARGE

E.O.12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, OVIP, BR
SUBJECT: COLLOR VISIT TO U.S.

REF(S): A) BRASILIA 8726 B) BRASILIA 6532

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. SUMMARY. POST RECOMMENDS THAT LEADING
PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE FERNANDO COLLOR DE MELLO,
WHO WILL BE TRAVELING TO THE U.S. SEPTEMBER 5-12,
BE RECEIVED BY THE VICE PRESIDENT AND AT THE
CABINET SECRETARY LEVEL. IF COLLOR'S STANDING IN
THE POLLS (NOW AT 3 TIMES HIS CLOSEST RIVAL) HOLDS
OR ADVANCES, I WOULD RECOMMEND A PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

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PAGE 02 BRASIL 09235 01 OF 03 032159Z

WITH THE PRESIDENT. END SUMMARY.
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: NORMAN M BOUTON
CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED
DATE/CASE ID: 23 DEC 2008 200503114

3. FERNANDO COLLOR DE MELLO, BY FAR THE CURRENT FRONTRUNNER IN THE BRAZILIAN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN, PLANS TO TRAVEL TO THE US SEPTEMBER 5-12, HE TOLD CHARGE ON AUGUST 3. HE IS VERY INTERESTED IN HIGH LEVEL MEETINGS, INCLUDING WITH THE PRESIDENT. CHARGE EXPLAINED THAT THE PRESIDENT VIRTUALLY NEVER MEETS WITH CANDIDATES, BUT THAT HE WOULD RECOMMEND VERY HIGH LEVEL MEETINGS, INCLUDING THE VICE PRESIDENT AND A CABINET SECRETARY. COLLOR WAS PLEASED AND SAID HE COULD ARRANGE HIS SCHEDULE IN THE U.S. AROUND THESE MEETINGS, THAT IS, ANY TIME DURING THAT SEVEN DAY PERIOD.

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PAGE 03 BRASIL 09235 01 OF 03 032159Z

BACKGROUND

4. COLLOR, THE FORMER GOVERNOR OF ALAGOAS STATE, HAS BEEN ATOP THE PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE POLLS SINCE APRIL 26. ON THAT DATE HIS 20 PERCENT

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RATING PLACED HIM ONE POINT AHEAD OF LEONEL BRIZOLA; SINCE THEN HE HAS LENGTHENED HIS LEAD CONSIDERABLY. THREE POLLS PUBLISHED THIS WEEK HAVE COLLOR HOLDING RELATIVELY STEADY AT 40 PERCENT (WHERE HE HAS BEEN FOR ROUGHLY TWO MONTHS) , VERSUS BRIZOLA IN THE 9-13 PERCENT RANGE , AND THE NEXT FOUR CONTENDERS IN THE MID SINGLE DIGITS .

5. WHILE HIS OPPONENTS HAVE CHALLENGED HIS

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PAGE 04 BRASIL 09235 01 OF 03 032159Z

BONA-FIDES AS A REFORMIST CANDIDATE AND THE

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PAGE 01 BRASIL 09235 02 OF 03 032200Z
ACTION SS-00

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 SSO-00 /000 W
-----246515 032215Z /60 38

O 032149Z AUG 89
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6118

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 03 BRASILIA 09235

EXDIS

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

FROM CHARGE

E.O.12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, OVIP, BR
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DUBIOUSNESS OF HIS "HOLIER THAN THOU" IMAGE,

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COLLOR HAS CLEARLY TOUCHED A NERVE IN BRAZILIAN
VOTERS--CONSISTENT PLURALITIES OF WHOM CONTINUE TO
SEE IN HIM WHAT THEY WISH TO SEE. WHAT THEY WISH
TO SEE IS THE MAN WHO TOOK ON THE "MARAJAS"
(HIGHLY-PAID UNPRODUCTIVE CIVIL SERVANTS) IN
ALAGOAS READY TO DO THE SAME THING ON A NATIONAL
SCALE. HE REPRESENTS THE ANTI-POLITICIAN TO THE

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PAGE 02 BRASIL 09235 02 OF 03 032200Z

LARGE MASS OF BRAZILIANS WHO DISTRUST POLITICIANS
AND WANT THE 1989 ELECTION TO MARK THE END OF
POLITICS-AS-USUAL. MISSION CONTACTS IN THE MAJOR
CITIES AND IN THE INTERIOR GENERALLY CONFIRM WHAT
THE PUBLISHED POLLS ARE SAYING: COLLOR'S
POPULARITY IS REAL.

6. COLLOR'S CAMPAIGN PLATFORM BY AND LARGE IS
APPEALING TO US AUDIENCES. HE ADVOCATES A FREE
MARKET ECONOMY WITH MINIMAL GOVERNMENT
INTERFERENCE. HE WOULD DO AWAY GRADUALLY WITH
MARKET RESERVES, AND OPEN UP THE BRAZILIAN ECONOMY
TO GREATER OPPORTUNITIES FOR FOREIGN INVESTORS.
COLLOR HAS PROMISED TO RENEGOTIATE BRAZIL'S
FOREIGN DEBT (I.E. NOT RENEGE ON IT).

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7. TRAVELING THROUGH EUROPE A MONTH AGO, COLLOR
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PAGE 03 BRASIL 09235 02 OF 03 032200Z

WAS FIRST BESTED BY RIVAL BRIZOLA WHO WON
LONGER/HIGHER-LEVEL MEETINGS IN FRANCE AND
PORTUGAL. HE THEN SCORED BY MEETING PRIVATELY
WITH THE POPE, HELMUT KOHL AND MARGARET THATCHER.
THERE IS NOTHING HE WOULD LIKE MORE THAN TO CROWN
HIS FOREIGN TRAVELS WITH A SUCCESSFUL VISIT TO THE
US.

RECOMMENDATIONS

8. GIVEN COLLOR'S STANDING AS A FIRM FRONTRUNNER
(HIS LEAD HAVING SURVIVED HIS FAILURE TO APPEAR IN
DEBATES AND FIERCE CRITICISM FROM HIS RIVALS), WE
THINK HIS ELECTABILITY ODDS MAKE IT APPROPRIATE
FOR HIM TO BE RECEIVED AT A VERY HIGH LEVEL.

BRAZIL'S IMPORTANCE IN THE AREAS OF INVESTMENT,
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PAGE 04 BRASIL 09235 02 OF 03 032200Z

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TRADE, DEBT, NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION, NARCOTICS

AND THE ENVIRONMENT, AMONG OTHERS, AND COLLOR'S

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PAGE 01 BRASIL 09235 03 OF 03 032200Z
ACTION SS-00

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 SSO-00 /000 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6119

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 03 BRASILIA 09235

EXDIS

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FROM CHARGE

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TAGS: PGOV, PREL, OVIP, BR
SUBJECT: COLLOR VISIT TO U.S.

REF(S): A) BRASILIA 8726 B) BRASILIA 6532
EXPRESSED INTENTIONS TO WORK WITH US ON NARROWING

OUR DIFFERENCES, WARRANT AN EFFORT TO ENGAGE HIM
AT A LEVEL THAT WILL INFLUENCE HIM. AT PRESENT IT
APPEARS THAT COLLOR COULD BE ELECTED WITH THE KIND
OF OVERWHELMING MANDATE THAT WOULD GIVE HIM THE
LEVERAGE TO CHANGE BRAZIL'S DIRECTION FOR THE
BETTER, WHICH HE SAYS HE INTENDS TO DO.. BASED ON
THE ISSUES CURRENTLY ON OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP

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PAGE 02 BRASIL 09235 03 OF 03 032200Z

THE MOST SUITABLE APPOINTMENTS WOULD BE WITH THE
SECRETARY OR DEPUTY SECRETARY EAGLEBURGER,
TREASURY SECRETARY BRADY, USTR CARLA HILLS, NSC

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ADVISED SCOWCROFT (OR DEPUTY GATES), COMMERCE

SECRETARY MOSBACHER, AND MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WHO
DEAL WITH TRADE, DEBT, AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES.

9. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS ALSO THAT COLLOR BE GIVEN
AN AUDIENCE WITH VICE PRESIDENT QUAYLE. SUCH A
MEETING WOULD GET ACROSS THE MESSAGE THAT WE TAKE
HIM SERIOUSLY. INDEED, IF HE INCREASES HIS LEAD
IN THE POLLS THROUGH EARLY SEPTEMBER, WE WOULD
RECOMMEND A PHOTO OPPORTUNITY WITH THE PRESIDENT.

10. COLLOR'S REPRESENTATIVE IN WASHINGTON IS LUIS
CARLOS CHAVES. WE HAVE RECOMMENDED TO COLLOR THAT
ALL ARRANGEMENTS BE FINALIZED INFORMALLY FIRST,
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PAGE 03 BRASIL 09235 03 OF 03 032200Z

RATHER THAN HAVING ITAMARATY (MRE) AND THE
BRAZILIAN EMBASSY PRESENT A FORMAL REQUEST AT THIS
TIME. THIS IS TO AVOID POTENTIAL EMBARRASSING
LEAKS. SINCE COLLOR ON HIS OWN HAS ALREADY BEEN
IN TOUCH WITH ITAMARATY, WE AGREED WITH HIM THAT
IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO ASK MRE SECRETARY GENERAL
PAULO TARSO TO HAVE THE BRAZILIAN EMBASSY IN
WASHINGTON AND CHAVES REQUEST APPOINTMENTS IN

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CONGRESS WHILE THIS CHANNEL IS USED TO MAKE

APPOINTMENTS WITH EXECUTIVE OFFICIALS.

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