



W
Br. A. [unclear]

Department of State

TELEGRAM

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ 5434

PAGE 01 BRASIL 07596 041617Z

42 40

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-03 PRS-01 SS-20 NSC-2/

DRC-01 ARAE-00 SY-04 USIE-00 /073 W

..... 000441

O 041550Z OCT 74
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5877

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BRASILIA 7596

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION BRASILIA FROM RECIFE 04 OCT 74
REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO.

QTF
RECIFE 0182

F.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS BR
SUBJECT: VISIT WITH DETAINED AMCIT MORRIS

REF: RECIFE 8178

1. AT 1610 HOURS LOCAL TIME OCT 3 I WAS NOTIFIED BY FOURTH ARMY G-2 THAT I COULD HAVE ACCESS TO FRED MORRIS, AMCIT HELD INCOMUNICADO SINCE MONDAY, SEPT 30. AFTER DRIVE TO OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY TO HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY'S FOURTH COMMUNICATION BATTALION, I WAS ESCORTED BY BATTALION COMMANDER, COL, CORREA, TO SEE MORRIS. MEETING BEGAN AT 1730 HOURS AND ENDED, AT COL. CORREA'S REQUEST, AT 1900 HOURS.

2. MORRIS, AFTER SOME INITIAL HESITANCY DUE TO PRESENCE OF COL. CORREA, GAVE ME FOLLOWING ACCOUNT.

A. HE HAD BEEN TAKEN INTO CUSTODY ON MONDAY, SEPT 30. AT ABOUT 1000 HOURS AT HIS APARTMENT IN DOWNTOWN RECIFE.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

20



Department of State

TELEGRAM

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE 02 BRASIL 07596 041617Z

B. HIS MAID AND A BRAZILIAN FRIEND WERE DETAINED AT THE SAME TIME. (NOTE: MILITARY AUTHORITIES IDENTIFY HIS FRIEND AS ALMIR FRAGOSO WHOM THEY BELIEVE TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BRAZILIAN COMMUNIST PARTY, CHINESE WING.)

C. HIS HEAD WAS COVERED BY A HOOD AFTER HE WAS PLACED IN THE UNMARKED POLICE VEHICLE. HE ESTIMATED FROM DISTANCE AND DRIVING TIME (AND LATER TRAFFIC NOISES FROM PRISON CELL) THAT HE WAS TAKEN TO THE FOURTH ARMY HEADQUARTERS, DOWNTOWN RECIFE.

D. DURING COURSE OF NEXT THIRTY-SIX HOURS HE WAS GIVEN NO FOOD NOR LIQUIDS. FOLLOWING THAT HE RECEIVED STANDARD FARE BEANS AND RICE FOR MIDDAY AND EVENING MEALS, AND COFFEE AND BREAD FOR BREAKFAST.

E. FOR INITIAL TWENTY-FOUR HOURS HE SAID HE WAS NOT PERMITTED TO REST OR SLEEP, WAS STRIPPED TO HIS SHORTS IN SMALL, BARE CELL, HANDCUFFED IN STANDING POSITION TO CELL DOOR, AND SUBJECTED TO INTENSIVE INTERROGATION BY TEAMS OF AGENTS. THEREAFTER HE WAS PERMITTED TO LIE ON FLOOR OF CELL DURING PART OF EACH NIGHT, BUT RESUMED STANDING, HANDCUFFED POSITION FOR MAJORITY OF DAYLIGHT HOURS.

F. HE SAID HE WAS ASSAULTED PERIODICALLY BY AGENTS WHO HIT HIM IN STOMACH, GROIN AND LOWER BACK. OCCASIONALLY HE SAID HE WAS SLAPPED ABOUT THE FACE.

G. ELECTRODES, HE SAID, WERE ATTACHED AT VARIOUS TIMES TO HIS FEET, HIS GENITAL ORGANS, HIS RIGHT BREAST, AND RIGHT EAR. ELECTRIC SHOCKS VARIED IN INTENSITY FROM LIGHT ANNOYING PULSATION TO SUDDEN JOLTS OF HIGH INTENSITY. HE RECALLED LOSING CONSCIOUSNESS FOR AN INDETERMINATE PERIOD OF TIME AFTER ONE PARTICULARLY SHARP SHOCK. SHOCK TREATMENT WAS ENDED AFTERNOON OF OCT 1.

H. SOMETIME DURING THE EVENING OF TUESDAY, OCT. 1, HE WAS EXAMINED BY A PHYSICIAN WHO ORDERED THAT HE BE TAKEN DOWN FROM HIS STANDING HANDCUFFED POSITION, AND BE PERMITTED TO LIE ON THE FLOOR. THESE ORDERS WERE OBEYED.

I. AT VARIOUS TIMES HE WAS CONFRONTED WITH HIS BRAZILIAN

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



Department of State **TELEGRAM**

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE 03 BRASIL 07596 041617Z

FRIEND WHO WOULD BE BEATEN OR GIVEN SHOCK TREATMENT IN HIS PRESENCE, TO ENCOURAGE MORRIS TO QUOTE CONFESS UNQUOTE TO SPARE HIS FRIEND FROM SUFFERING. AT OTHER TIMES HE SAID HE HARD SCREAMS FROM A NEARBY CELL WHICH HE BELIEVED TO BE HIS FRIEND'S.

J. INTERROGATION FOLLOWED CONSISTENT THEMES, HE STATED, REVEALING ACCUSATIONS THAT MORRIS IS LIAISON AGENT BETWEEN DOM HELDER CAMARA (ARCHBISHOP OF OLINDA/RECIFE); AND THE COMMUNIST PARTY, THAT MORRIS AIDED AND ABETTED COMMUNIST SUBVERSION IN RECIFE AREA BY PERMITTING HIS APARTMENT AND BEACH HOUSE TO BE USED AS MEETING PLACES FOR THE PARTY AND THAT HE WROTE TWO ARTICLES (IN PORTUGUESE) THAT GAVE THEOLOGICAL JUSTIFICATION FOR POLITICAL REVOLUTION. ONLY ONCE DID INTERROGATORS REFER TO HIS CONNECTION WITH TIME MAGAZINE AND ITS UNFAVORABLE COVERAGE OF THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT. THEY SINGLED OUT THE ARTICLE IN JUNE 24 (?), 1974 ISSUE WHICH FEATURED DOM HELDER.

K. MORRIS SAID HE CONFESSED TO THE VALIDITY OF NONE OF THE ACCUSATIONS BECAUSE, HE SAID, HE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE NOR HAD PERFORMED ANY OF THE ACTIVITIES THE INTERROGATORS ALLEGED. HE DOES REMEMBER SIGNING TWO PAPERS WHICH HE WAS TOLD WERE IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENTS. ONE WAS FOLDED OVER TO PREVENT HIS SEEING THE UPPER HALF.

L. APPROXIMATELY TWO HOURS BEFORE OUR MEETING HE WAS TOLD THAT I WOULD BE SEEING HIM. HE WAS PERMITTED TO TAKE A SHOWER, SHAVE, PUT ON HIS CLOTHES, AND WAS TRANSPORTED BLINDFOLDED TO THE COMMUNICATIONS BATTALION HEADQUARTERS WHERE I SAW HIM. HE WAS TOLD NOT TO TELL ME ABOUT THE TREATMENT HE HAD RECEIVED, BUT INSTEAD TO SAY EVERYTHING WAS GOING WELL.

3. ON MY REQUEST, HE SHOWED ME HIS WRISTS WHICH WERE SWOLLEN WITH THE SKIN BROKEN RUNNING PART WAY AROUND EACH. HE HAD DIFFICULTY MOVING HIS RIGHT WRIST AND HAND, AND EXPRESSED THE BELIEF THAT IT MAY BE BROKEN OR BADLY SPRAINED. HE HAS LOST, AT LEAST PARTIALLY, THE FEELING IN HIS RIGHT HAND. HE ALSO SHOWED ME TWO LARGE REDDISH PURPLE CONTUSIONS OF ABOUT SIX INCHES IN DIAMETER; ONE ON HIS LEFT BUTTOCK AND THE OTHER ON HIS RIGHT HIP JUST BELOW THE BELT LINE. A THIRD, BUT SMALLER CONTUSION WAS LOCATED IN HIS MIDDLE BACK, RIGHT OF THE SPINE.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



Department of State **TELEGRAM**

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE 04 BRASIL 07596 041617Z

4. IN THE INITIAL PART OF THE CONVERSATION HE HAD SOME DIFFICULTY CONTROLLING HIS EMOTIONS, BUT AS TIME PROGRESSED HIS SPIRITS IMPROVED VISIBLY. I ASSURED HIM OF OUR CONCERN FOR HIS WELFARE AND OF THE WELL WISHES OF HIS FRIENDS AND FIANCE. I INFORMED HIM THAT HIS LAWYER WAS MAKING THE INITIAL STEPS IN BRINGING HIS CASE BEFORE THE COURTS.

5. FOLLOWING THE MEETING AND BEFORE MY DEPARTURE, COL. CORREA REITERATED HIS STRONG BELIEF THAT MORRIS IS A SUBVERSIVE AND THAT MORRIS HAD LIED TO ME ABOUT HOW HE HAD BEEN TREATED. (NOTE: IN MY ESTIMATION COL CORREA'S ENGLISH IS VERY BASIC AND HIS UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONVERSATION WAS LIMITED.) I SAID THAT THE PHYSICAL EVIDENCE SEEMED TO LEND SOME CREDIBILITY TO MORRIS' ACCOUNT AND I HOPED THAT PROPER MEDICAL AND OTHER CARE BE ACCORDED HIM PRIMPTLY. BROWN UNQTE.
CRIMMINS.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~