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ACTION ARA 16

INFO USIA 12, CIAE 00, DODE 00, INR 07, P 04, RSC 01, AID 28, PC 04, RSR 01
USIE 00, NSA 02, CU 04, /079 W

R 170115Z AUG 68
FM AMEMBASSY RIO DE JANEIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3663
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y

JOINT EMBASSY-USIS MESSAGE

1. BRASILIA'S DAILY NEWSPAPER CORREIO BRAZILIENSE
IN FRONT PAGE DOUBLE HEADLINE ANNOUNCED TODAY
THAT RECTOR OF UNIVERSITY OF BRASILIA FIRED
SIXTY-SEVEN PROFESSORS.

2. STORY SAYS THAT ACCORDING TO RECTORS CHIEF
OF CABINET 67 PROFESSORS MOSTLY FROM FACULTY OF
ARCHITECTURE AND URBAN PLANNING, ART INSTITUTE AND
MUSIC DEPARTMENT WERE NOTIFIED ONE MONTH AGO THAT
STARTING AUGUST 19, THE REOPENING OF UNIVERSITY
CLASSES, THEIR SERVICES WERE NO LONGER REQUIRED.
CHIEF OF CABINET, AS QUOTED IN ARTICLE, SAID THAT THE
RECTOR HAD BEEN IN RIO FOR SOME TIME AND HE WAS
MAKING THE MEASURE PUBLIC BECAUSE SOME OF THE
PROFESSORS PLANNED TO TAKE A PUBLIC STAND ON
THE ISSUE. HE SAID FURTHER THAT THIS MEASURE WAS
TAKEN WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF GENERAL RESTRUCTURING
OF THE UNIVERSITY WHICH IS DESIGNED TO IMPROVE BOTH
THE PHYSICAL AND TEACHING FACILITIES. HE DENIED
RUMORS THAT THE UNIVERSITY WOULD BE CLOSED FOR
A WHILE LONGER AS A RESULT OF THESE MEASURES.

3. TWO OF THE FIRED PROFESSORS INTERVIEWED BY

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THE CORREIO SAID THAT THEY OBJECTED MORE AGAINST THE WAY FIRING WAS DONE THAN AGAINST THE MEASURE ITSELF. ACCORDING TO THEM NO REASONS WERE GIVEN TO THEM, NOR WERE THEY EVER CONSULTED ON THE ALLEGED NEW PLANS FOR CHANGES AND IMPROVEMENTS.

4. COMMENTS: THE UNIVERSITY WHICH HAD MANY PROBLEMS IN PAST SEVERAL MONTHS IS IN A MESSY AND CHAOTIC SITUATION. THE RECTOR IS NEVER AVAILABLE WHEN DECISIONS NEED TO BE TAKEN. THE STUDENTS SEEM TO HAVE FREE REIGN OF THE CAMPUS, THE VICE-RECTOR AND SEVERAL OTHER RESPONSIBLE PROFESSORS RESIGNED RECENTLY. IT WILL BE MOST DIFFICULT TO FIND REPLACEMENTS FOR ALL THESE PEOPLE. IT IS HARD TO SEE HOW CLASSES CAN START ON AUGUST 19 UNDER THESE CONDITIONS. THE PREFEITURA PEOPLE WHO HAVE STRONG INFLUENCE AT UNIVERSITY ARE PLEASED WITH RECTOR'S ACTION. THEY ARE NOTHING BUT A "BANDA COMMUNISTA" SAID MAYOR'S CHIEF OF CABINET. THE MILITARY HERE EXPECT STUDENT TROUBLE NEXT WEEK AS A RESULT OF THESE HAPPENINGS. WILL REPORT MORE ON THIS TO YOU AS WE GET FURTHER REACTIONS. TUTHILL

2. STORY SAYS THAT ACCORDING TO RECTOR'S CHIEF OF CABINET AT PROFESSORS MOSTLY FROM FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE AND URBAN PLANNING, ART INSTITUTE AND MUSIC DEPARTMENT WERE NOTIFIED ONE MONTH AGO THAT STARTING AUGUST 19, THE REOPENING OF UNIVERSITY CLASSES, THEIR SERVICES WERE NO LONGER REQUIRED. CHIEF OF CABINET, AS QUOTED IN ARTICLE, SAID THAT THE RECTOR HAD BEEN IN RIO FOR SOME TIME AND HE WAS MAKING THE MEASURE PUBLIC BECAUSE SOME OF THE PROFESSORS PLANNED TO TAKE A PUBLIC STAND ON THE ISSUE. HE SAID FURTHER THAT THIS MEASURE WAS TAKEN WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF GENERAL RESTRUCTURING OF THE UNIVERSITY WHICH IS DESIGNED TO IMPROVE BOTH THE PHYSICAL AND TEACHING FACILITIES. DENIED RUMORS THAT THE UNIVERSITY WOULD BE CLOSED FOR A WHILE LONGER AS A RESULT OF THESE MEASURES.

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