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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
 LABOR AND PUBLIC WELFARE
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

March 25, 1971

ACTION
 is assigned to

ARA

Honorable William P. Rogers
 Secretary of State
 Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am concerned that the U.S. through its assistance programs may become indirectly involved, at least in the public view in Latin America, with the repressive actions of the Brazilian government in the political sphere.

The reports of torture and arbitrary arrest procedures by the Brazilian police have rightfully outraged most observers.

In that context, it would appear to be essential to evaluate the impact of our assistance programs, particularly those that might be construed as assisting the internal security activities of the Brazilian government.

I would appreciate knowing the amount and extent of assistance and training given to the Brazilian police and military forces over the past two years from any U.S. government source. I also would appreciate knowing whether any of the funds assigned to Food for Peace were used for the provision of any assistance to the police or military forces in Brazil during the past two years.

I also would appreciate learning the number of U.S. military officers now in Brazil as well as their assigned role. In addition, I would appreciate knowing the names, titles and numbers of any Brazilian police officers who have trained at any U.S. institution or had their training at other than U.S. institutions subsidized by U.S. funds.

Lastly, I would appreciate learning whether any cables have been received concerning the torture of political prisoners by the Brazilian government. If there are cables relative to this issue, I would appreciate your permitting a member of my staff to examine them.

Your assistance in this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Edward M. Kennedy
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