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MEMORANDUM

June 12, 1969

TO : ~~ARA/LA - Mr. Crimmins~~
FROM : ARA - George Lister
SUBJECT: Rockefeller Visit to Brazil

I am sure you have been viewing with growing concern, as have I, the developments and repercussions in Brazil connected with the Rockefeller visit. Among other things: 1) the Brazilian Government is not popular to start with; 2) the Government has ordered editors to curtail unfavorable reports on the visit; 3) the Government is cracking down on students and leftist elements in preparation for the visit; and 4) if the visit to Uruguay is postponed, Rockefeller will end up going to just two countries during this trip: Brazil and Paraguay - both military regimes. All of this will combine to put Rockefeller, the Department and the Administration in a bad light in Brazil, the rest of Latin America and elsewhere, including not least of all the United States. And of course our enemies will not be slow or unimaginative in worldwide political and propaganda exploitation of our vulnerabilities. However, this memo casts a vote on only two specific details of the trip:

1. The attached June 6 cable from Rio suggests that in his arrival statement Rockefeller should refer to "Brazil's loyalty toward the United States" and should mention that Costa e Silva "instantly agreed to come to our assistance" during the Dominican crisis. I believe it would be very undesirable to refer to the Dominican episode and to Brazil's role in it. Nor do I think the word "loyalty" is well chosen. Can't these words be deleted?

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E.O. 13292, Sec. 3.5

NLJ/LIS 06-87

By cbm, NARA, Date 12-19-06

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2. I think the plan to decorate General Porter during the visit is also most unfortunate, to say nothing of the Brazilian request to have Rockefeller attend the ceremony. The Brazilian proposal will seem to put the U.S.-Rockefeller stamp of approval on the present regime. The Brazilian people will have their own private reactions, whether there is censorship or not. And the public reaction in this country and elsewhere in Latin America will certainly be critical. Is it not possible for General Porter to develop diplomatic illness? He could go down to Brazil and get his decoration a month from now. I realize the Embassy would find it awkward to disappoint the Brazilian military, but would that not be preferable to going along with the suggested script?

I have discussed both of these matters with the Brazilian Desk. I believe Mr. Levitsky is in agreement.

Enclosure:

Copy of Rio's 4364.

Copies to:

ARA/BR - Mr. Levitsky

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