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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 CIAE-00 DOD-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /057 W

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P 191310Z NOV 74
FM AMEBASS 4Y BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6480

CONFIDENTIAL BRASILIA 8692

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PFO, BR
SUBJECT: POLITICAL PRISONERS IN BRAZIL- STATEMENTS OF FREDERICK MRRIS

REF: (A) STATE 251676; (B) BRASILIA 2689

1. AS NOTED REFTEL (B), WE HAVE NO RELIABLE ESTIMATE
ON THE NUMBER OF PERSONS CURRENTLY HELD AS POLITICAL
PRISONERS IN BRAZIL OR ON THE NUMBER OF PERSONS WHO
HAVE BEEN ARRESTED FOR POLITICAL OFFENSES. PARA
ONE REFTEL (B) STILL REPRESENTS OUR BEST INFORMATION.

2. WITH REGARD TO MORRIS' SPECIFIC ALLEGATIONS, THE
FIGURE OF 12,000 POLITICAL PRISONERS APPEARS
GREATLY EXAGGERATED AND IS PROBABLY A MULTIPLE OF
THE TRUE FIGURE, WHILE HIS CLAIM THAT 80 TO 100
THOUSAND PEOPLE HAVE SUFFERED TORTURE APPEARS TO BE
BASELESS. IF THE LATTER FIGURE WERE ACCEPTED, IT
WOULD MEAN THAT ONE OUT OF EVERY ONE HUNDRED BRAZILIANS
HAD BEEN TORTURED: IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO HIDE
ACTIONS OF THAT, OR EVEN A GREATLY REDUCED, SCALE
IN THIS RELATIVELY OPEN SOCIETY. AS A GENERAL RULE,
WHEN CASES OF ALLEGED TORTURE COME TO THE ATTENTION
OF EMBASSY, THEY INVOLVE ONE OR TWO
VICTIMS RATHER THAN A CLASS OR GROUP.
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CRIMMINS
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NNN
Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL PRISONERS, ALLEGATIONS, ARRESTS, CRIME DATA, PRISONERS WELFARE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date: 
Disposition Authority: CollinPo
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 26 MAY 2004
Disposition Event: 
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason: 
Disposition Remarks: 
Document Number: 1974BRASIL08692
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drayer: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740334-0240
From: BRASILIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path: 
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741132/aaaabayy.tel
Line Count: 61
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) STATE 251676; (B) BRASILIA 2689
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinPo
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: 
Review Date: 10 SEP 2002
Review Event: 
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 SEP 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <12 MAR 2003 by CollinPo>
Review Markings: 

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier: 
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date: 
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POLITICAL PRISONERS IN BRAZIL- STATEMENTS OF FREDERICK MORRIS
TAGS: PINS, PFOR, BR, (MORRIS, FREDERICK)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005