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Message Text

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10
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 /071 W
---------- 010285
P 051104Z MAR 76
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6227

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, PO
SUBJ: MANAGEMENT LOCK-IN AT FIRESTONE PORTUGUESA SARL

REF: LISBON 1366

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. FIRESTONE MANAGERS LEFT FACTORY EARLY MORNING MARCH 5 UNDER ESCORT OF TWO POLICE OFFICIALS. WORKERS MADE NO ATTEMPT TO BLOCK THEIR DEPARTURE. UNION DELEGATES, MANAGEMENT AND MINISTRY OF LABOR REPRESENTATIVES SCHEDULED TO MEET 10:00 A.M. MARCH 5 TO DISCUSS RESOLUTION OF CONFLICT. END UNCLASSIFIED.

2. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. AMBASSADOR TWICE RAISED FIRESTONE PROBLEM WITH ACTING FONMIN MEDEIROS FERREIRA. FIRST APPROACH WAS ON AN INFORMAL BASIS MARCH 3. ON MARCH 4 LOCAL FIRESTONE MANAGEMENT REQUESTED EMBASSY MAKE FORMAL REQUEST FOR GOP ACTION TO GUARANTEE DEPARTURE OF EMPLOYEES. WHEN AMBASSADOR CALLED ON MEDEIROS FERREIRA EVENING OF MARCH 4 HE WAS INFORMED FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD ALREADY MADE FORMAL REQUEST TO INTERIOR MINISTRY TO TAKE NECESSARY STEPS. THIS REQUEST WAS MADE PURSUANT TO MARCH 3 DISCUSSION AND IN ANTICIPATION OF FORMAL CALL BY AMBASSADOR. IN RESPONDING TO PRESS INQUIRIES WE ARE INDICATING THAT OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH GOP HAVE BEEN IN-
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FORMAL AND CONTINUOUS AND THAT GOP MADE ITS OWN DECISION

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TO INTERVENE.

3. MINISTRY OF LABOR, ANGERED BY UNREASONABLENESS AND UNCOOPERATIVENESS OF UNION DELEGATES, ISSUED SEVERAL COMMUNIQUES WHICH POINTEDLY CRITICIZED UNION LEADERSHIP. ONE MINISTRY OFFICIAL HAS THREATENED TO PROSECUTE UNION DELEGATES FOR ILLEGAL ACTION DURING THIS MOST RECENT CONFLICT. GOP OFFICIALS PRIVATELY AVER THAT DISPUTE IS POLITICALLY INSPIRED. THERE IS SOME SPECULATION THAT IT IS PART OF AN OVERALL CAMPAIGN DESIGNED TO EMBARRASS SIXTH PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT DURING ELECTION PERIOD.
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