November 19, 1976
US Embassy Cable, Brazilian Public Reaction to US Nuclear Policies

Citation:

Summary:
The US Embassy in Brazil quotes a Brazilian ministry official who declares Brazil will continue its nuclear program “despite all the threats and reprisals” from the US. The unnamed official goes on to say, “The Americans, our allies, are behaving in a way worse than that of our common enemies, the Russians.”

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ON NOV. 11, ACCORDING TO THE PRESTIGIOUS "O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO", AN UNIDENTIFIED HIGH SOURCE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND ENERGY MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

"WE KNOW HOW TO RESIST ANY AND ALL US PRESSURES BECAUSE BRAZIL ALSO TRIED, IN A FRIENDLY WAY, TO REACH AN AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES. AT THE START OF 1974, BETWEEN UNCLASSIFIED

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JANUARY AND MARCH, WE TRIED TO EXPLAIN THAT THE US COULD
DO GOOD BUSINESS IF IT HELPED US IN OUR PROGRAM. IN OUR MINISTRY THE SUBJECT WAS TABOO FOR A PERIOD OF EIGHT MONTHS; IT REPRESENTED A FOCAL POINT OF TENSIONS, WITH THE GOVERNMENT FEARFUL THAT THE SUBJECT WOULD BE MADE PUBLIC. BUT THE AMERICANS WERE VERY TOUGH WITH US AND WE HAD TO LEAVE THEM ASIDE, DESPITE ALL THE THREATS AND REPRISALS WHICH UNHAPPILY RESULTED AND WILL RESULT UNTIL NO ONE KNOWS WHEN.

"OUR NUCLEAR PROGRAM WILL CONTINUE, AT LEAST TO THE EXTENT IT DEPENDS ON US, AGAINST ALL INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL Pressures. The Germans know that we acted with seriousness INSIGNING THE AGREEMENT. WE DO NOT WANT THE ATOMIC BOMB. WE WANT TO BE INDEPENDENT, TO CONSTRUCT OUR FUTURE, AND TO PREVENT (THE EFFECTS OF) ANY FUTURE WORLD PETROLEUM AND ENERGY CRISIS. BRAZIL WILL NOT GIVE WAY.

"WE UNDERTOOK A REVOLUTION (I.E., THE 1964 CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT) WITH GREAT REPERCUSSIONS AND WITH AMERICAN SYMPATHY IN ORDER TO DEFEAT IN LATIN AMERICA COMMUNISM AND OPPRESSIVE LEFTISM, WHICH HAD TAKEN HOLD ON THE CONTINENT. BUT THE REVOLUTION WAS MADE ALSO BECAUSE WE WANTED TO BE A RESPECTED COUNTRY; WE WANTED AND WE WANT TO MAKE OUR OWN REACTORS. AND WHAT DO WE SEE WITH DISTRESS? THE AMERICANS, OUR ALLIES, ARE BEHAVING IN A WAY WORSE THAN THAT OF OUR COMMON ENEMIES, THE RUSSIANS."

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