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Brazil - West Germany

Results of Geisel's Visit

Brazilian President Geisel's five-day trip to West Germany last week was a success to the extent that nuclear cooperation was reaffirmed and other commercial ties strengthened. Not all Brazilian expectations were met, however. West Germany saw the visit in strictly economic terms, while Brazil gave it an overriding political significance. [Redacted]

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The two governments, which already have a nuclear accord under which Brazil is to acquire nuclear technology and a full nuclear fuel cycle, signed a new nuclear agreement during the visit. It provides for cooperation in the field of high temperature reactors, gas-cooled fast-breeder reactors, and the thorium fuel cycle.

Geisel met with Chancellor Schmidt, Foreign Minister Genscher, and other top political leaders as well as the press. He also delivered an address to businessmen in Cologne. Geisel's hosts were impressed with his self-confidence and expertise on a (See Brazil. . . Page 2)

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Brazil. . .

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variety of matters.

It was apparent, however, that the Brazilians took the visit more seriously than did the West Germans, who played down the event, according to the US Embassy in Bonn. Press coverage, for example, was far less extensive in West Germany than in Brazil. The West German media, moreover, tended to see the visit in the context of US - West German relations, particularly in light of the US concern over nuclear proliferation.

The West German attitude must have disappointed the Brazilians, who had come to view the trip as the culmination of a longstanding effort to build a foreign policy conspicuously independent of the US. The Brazilians envisaged the trip as having a particularly strong impact on the US in view of President Carter's coming visit to Brazil. In recent years, West Germany has emerged as Brazil's second largest trading partner. (b)(3)

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- S—Secret
- C—Confidential
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