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Brazil Grants Former Paraguayan Dictator Permanent Political Asylum

by John Neagle

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On May 31, a May 24 decision by the Justice Ministry granting former Paraguayan dictator Alfredo Stroessner permanent political asylum in Brazil was published in the government's official gazette. Stroessner, deposed Feb. 3 in a military coup, ruled Paraguay for 35 years. Immediately following his departure from Asuncion, the 76-year-old Stroessner was housed in Itumbiara, a small city in central Brazil. Later, he was installed in his own mansion located in Guaratuba, Parana state, 1,400 km. south of Brasilia. In early April, Stroessner applied for a temporary visa to the US to receive medical treatment. The visa request was denied. Shortly thereafter, he was hospitalized for three days at a cardiac center in Sao Paulo. The Ministry resolution included Stroessner's wife, Maria Eugenia Heikel, but did not mention his eldest son, Gustavo, who accompanied him into exile and is reportedly residing in Curitiba, capital of Parana state. (Basic data from AP, 05/31/89)

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