

A-172

CONFIDENTIAL

PRIORITY

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

FROM: Amembassy RIO DE JANEIRO
BRAZILIAN HIGHLIGHTS - August 4-10

August 10, 1962

The showdown in Brasilia between the executive and the legislature over the former's demand for an early plebiscite on the question of presidentialism vs parliamentarianism and for special powers for the Brochado da Rocha Cabinet has again pinned down the majority of congressional incumbents in Brasilia far from their home election grounds. Upon the outcome may even hang the very question of whether or not elections will take place. Each side is trying to wrest from the other the initiative on the vital issue of basic reforms in Brazil, with the Labor Party and its supporters expecting to gain electoral strength from a presidential victory over Congress and the centrist-conservative parties staking their chances on holding firm against the executive onslaught and countering with urgent reform measures of their own.

Despite this, there appeared real evidence that the local politicians on the home front were getting down to basic electioneering business. The first real rash of political signs and banners has appeared; sound trucks have been contracted; and "giant mass rallies" are scheduled to introduce the candidates and the new alliances to the voters. While some important candidates and political coalitions have yet to be announced, most of the cast for the election drama has been chosen.

Pernambuco

According to late news reports, the PSD in Pernambuco will not officially support any of the three gubernatorial candidates in the forthcoming elections. In the tumultuous state convention just ended, an expected accord with the UDN to be engineered by

CONFIDENTIAL

R. Dean, R. Schnieder, N. Walters, L. Cooley

Robert W. Dean

former governor and political boss Etelvino Lins never materialized, despite Deputy Lins' much publicized break with Miguel Arraes. (Lins had stated that Arraes, "although not himself a communist" had refused to rid his campaign of its communist engineers and had faced the electorate with the "ideological option of to be or not to be communist.") The lack of a specific PSD endorsed candidate is viewed as a partial victory for Arraes who--via his vice gubernatorial candidate Paulo Guerra, President of the State Legislative Assembly and PSD workhorse--will control an important part of the PSD vote-getting machinery. The rest of the PSD votes will be divided among PSD-dissident Armando Monteiro and UDN candidate João Cleofas.

Bahia

The Lomanto Junior gubernatorial candidacy was enhanced by the final decisions of the PTB and PL state conventions to endorse him for the governorship rather than Waldir Pires, the ultra-nationalist PSD candidate. Considerable national pressure had been exerted upon the Bahia PTB organization to break its political covenant with the UDN in support of Lomanto Junior in order to back Pires.

Guanabara

The PTB officially settled several questions regarding alignments and campaigns for the October elections at its regional convention; and while many were the expected results, some of the answers apparently caught even the possible candidates themselves by surprise. The PTB and PSB have joined together and will run a slate under the Aliança Socialista-Trabalhista. That was expected; but when the convention decided the problem of the overloaded Senate slate by declaring it would run only one candidate--Aurélio Vianna--"in order to guarantee its strength", fireworks broke out. Oswaldo Aranha Filho accused the state PTB of "leftism", and Rêgo Monteiro announced that he was abandoning the PTB and bowing out of politics altogether. Max da Costa Santos, the PSB possible who had been offered to the PTB, was the only one appeased--he had previously bowed out in favor of Vianna, so he was awarded a candidacy for a Federal Chamber seat. Among others who were officially named for Chamber seats was Leonel Brizzola, and it is expected that whatever legal ammunition Brizzola's opponents have stored away to keep him from running on the grounds of his relationship to Goulart (brother-in-law) will ~~not~~^{now} be hauled out and fired.

The UDN had a problem settled for it also when the Supreme Court decided that Governor Carlos Lacerda's mandate, within the boundaries of the original San Tingo Dantas law establishing Guanabara, should and therefore would continue until 1965. The UDN announced that its new regional directorate would be headed by present carioca Federal Deputy, Euripedes Cardoso de Menezes, who is running for re-election.

Gilberto Marinho's candidacy (PSD) for re-election to the Senate is gathering support as the conventions of the smaller parties endorse him in an effort to get behind a winning name. The PTN and the PR have recently given him their support.

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED
Authority 53155

Rio de Janeiro

The Rio de Janeiro State Directorate of the PSD decided to register ex-Governor Celso Peçanha as a senatorial candidate despite the objection of local party leaders who criticized Peçanha's "mistakes" in office and accused him of splintering the party by his maneuverings in the contest between Carvalho Janotti and José Kezem for leadership of the State Assembly and succession to the governorship. (See Election Highlights of July 20-27) As its second senatorial candidate, the PSD Directorate named Federal Deputy Saturnino Braga.

Carvalho Janotti's tenure as interim governor is once again in doubt. It is now reported that the Supreme Federal Tribunal's decision--announced July 20 but still not published--annulled not only the constitutional amendment under which José Kezem was elected vice governor, but also an earlier amendment which provided for the succession to the governorship of the State Legislative Assembly President (Janotti's position). The decision is being interpreted as reviving the original constitutional requirement that an interim governor be elected by the Legislative Assembly within thirty days after the governorship is vacated. The PSD has already named Dante Laginestra, former mayor of Novo Friburgo, as its candidate for the post in the event that a new election must be held.

São Paulo

With the rumored "leftist" candidacy of San Tiago Dantas for the São Paulo governorship lasting less than 48 hours, the PTB was still without a gubernatorial candidate and conversations were reportedly renewed with the "Frente Popular" of José Bonifacio Nogueira. The PSB, now having lost hope of backing the possible PTB candidacy of either San Tiago Dantas or Almino Afonso, has returned to support "definitely" Cid Franco's candidacy. While José Bonifacio's adherents were encouraged by the possible incorporation of the PTB into the "Frente Popular," they were disappointed by the PSD State Convention's decision to work for Adhemar de Barros' election in return for PSP support for the senatorial campaign of Senator Moura Andrade. The Janio Quadros campaign reflected new and/or increased sources of revenue as more journalistic coverage and propaganda became apparent in certain São Paulo news media.

Rio Grande do Sul

State Legislative Assembly President Gustavo Langach (PSD) was unwilling to comply with recommendations that he give up his campaign for re-election so that he might continue to serve as acting governor during the increasingly frequent absences of Governor Brizzola, campaigning for federal deputy in Guanabara. The opposition thus lost its opportunity to exercise at least intermittent control over the state government, as the acting governorship now falls to Brizzola's hand-picked Secretary of Interior and Justice.

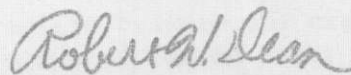
CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED
Authority 53155

Espirito Santo

With State Legislative Assembly President Hésio Cordeiro scheduled to resign his 30-day tenure as governor on August 7 (see Election Highlights of 20 July), the Espirito Santo Legislative Assembly elected an interim governor and vice governor on August 5. The new governor, expected to remain in office until January 31, 1963, is Asdrubal Soares (PSP), Secretary of Transportation and Public Works in the Lindenberg government. The vice governor is Arquimedes Vivacqua (PR), brother of former Senator Atílio Vivacqua (deceased) and himself a candidate for the Senate in the coming elections. Vivacqua's selection as vice governor will not disqualify him as a senatorial candidate unless he is called upon to assume the governorship.

For the Ambassador:



Robert W. Dean
First Secretary of Embassy

APPROVED BY:

Robert Bakens
Acting Deputy Chief of Mission

DISTRIBUTION: AMB; DCM: All Consulates in Brazil; Service Attaches; USIS; Econ; Labor; Legal; Pol. Brasilia (5); Pol. Rio (5); Pol. II; CG Henderson; CF

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED
Authority 53155