

RECIFE

POL 13 LACERDA

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

POST ROUTING

March 6, 1968

Subject: Ambassador's Contacts with Carlos Lacerda

Place: Churrascaria Gaucho, Laranjeiras

Participants: Dr. Hugo de Faria, ex-PTB Leader
Frank C. Carlucci, Amembassy, Rio

Distribution: AMB AID-6
DCM DAO
MINECON AIA/BR - Mr. Kubisch
POL-2 ARA/INR
POL/R EXEC
ECON BRASÍLIA
USIS LABOR
All Consulates in Brazil
FILES-2

AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL

MAR 13 1968

RECIFE, BRAZIL

To:	Actn	Inf	Init
DPO		✓	
POL	✓		
POL/R			
ECON			
CONS			
ADMIN			
USAID			
USIS			
PC			
<i>KF</i>		✓	
FILE			

Action taken:

Initials:

The reporting officer lunched with Dr. Faria during the midst of a press flurry on the Ambassador's contacts with Carlos Lacerda. The subject naturally arose and Hugo's views are of interest because he reflects the thinking of Goulart and the ruling circles of the ex-PTB. He himself was Sub-Chief of Goulart's Civil Household and continues in regular contact with the exiled ex-President.

Hugo said that the ex-PTB "doesn't like Lacerda" and reiterated the position he previously expressed to us (memcon of January 30, 1968) that the ex-PTB is using Lacerda only as a vehicle of convenience. Hugo said Lacerda had the same "sense of destiny" Goulart had and the ex-PTB was afraid that, once in, he would become a dictator. "However," Hugo noted, "we must admit that Lacerda has the necessary leadership qualities and is gaining ground every day in ex-PTB circles." "We," he added, intend to return to power and although we would prefer other candidates, such as Inecredo Neves (ex-PSD), Lacerda could some day end up as President

GROUP 3

Downgraded at 12-year intervals;
not automatically declassified.

EXEC:FCCarlucci:gmh
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of Brazil. Contacts by the Embassy are given great political importance by Brazilians (something we didn't really need to be told after the experience of the past week), and the Embassy would be very foolish not to keep in touch with all opposition elements.

ex-

Hugo said the press reports that the PTB had criticized Lacerda for meeting with the U.S. Ambassador were false. In the first place, Lacerda had told Goulart he was going to establish contact with the Embassy and Goulart had agreed. In the second place, the ex-PTB opposition (and here Hugo can only speak for the Goulart wing) is "realistic" and wishes to establish a rapport with the Americans. The contact with Lacerda was interpreted as meaning that the Embassy was opening the door for such a rapport. Hugo also told the reporting officer, as have several other opposition political figures, that the contact with Lacerda would help to improve the U.S. image among the masses who have tended to identify the USG intimately with unpopular policies of the Castello Branco and Costa e Silva governments.

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