

TELEGRAM

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Date: 4 Nov 64

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SAO PAULO THREE

1. Carlos Lacerda finished tour of state capitals November 3. According to Abreu Sodré, São Paulo UDN leader and Lacerda campaign manager, success of tour measured by fact that 17 UDN state directorates have now given official or extra-official guarantees of support for Lacerda candidacy at November 7 convention.

2. Castello Branco press interview of October 30 continues to have strong repercussion at top levels UDN. Statements causing most discussion are 1) that parties should resist nominating candidates until it is closer to election time and that parties and candidates will be held responsible for any ~~disturbances~~ disturbances of political scene; 2) that electoral reform will be under study during November, that it will be extensive, and that "the present parties will necessarily have to adjust to the new standards"; and 3) that revolution will have to stay in power at least for the next four years in order to carry out revolutionary programs now underway. Interview has aggravated already serious division within UDN over opportuneness Lacerda candidacy. Supporters of President Castello Branco, led by UDN President Bilac Pinto, reportedly will make last try to persuade Lacerda to give in on nomination at this time during Brasilia meeting evening November 3 between Lacerda and UDN National Directorate. Pinto told Emboff privately, however, that he has little hope Lacerda will relinquish opportunity for nomination and that anti-Lacerda group could not pull enough votes to prevent Lacerda from ~~winning~~ winning.

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Lacerda forces have viewed interview as blunt threat and are using Castello Branco statement that revolution must stay in ~~power during~~ power during next presidential term as further justification for their argument that Lacerda candidacy necessary to guarantee democratic regime and elections in 1966.

3. Weekend press carried reports that split in UDN would be manifested by boycott of convention by important sectors party. Some deputies, notably from Minas Gerais, have privately indicated they would find some excuse for not attending convention. Minas Gerais Governor Magalhães Pinto has already officially announced he will not attend. Hope among these sectors is that enough important UDN members will stay away so that convention will be less meaningful. Having convention in São Paulo where Lacerda has considerable popular following militates against success this tactic.

GP-3

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