

FILE

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Department of State

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 Ancon BELEM, BELO HORIZONTE, CURITIBA,
 PORTO ALEGRE, RECIFE, SALVADOR, SAO PAULO

AmEmbassy RIO DE JANEIRO

August 29, 1966

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1966 Elections in Guanabara and the State of
 Rio de Janeiro

1. In the November, 1966 direct elections, the approximately 1.5 million voters of Guanabara will elect one senator, 21 deputies and 68 legislative assemblymen. The latter represents an increase of 13 over the present membership of the assembly, which is to be enlarged in accordance with the state constitution which ties the size of the body to the number of voters in the last previous election (in this case the gubernatorial election of October, 1965). In the State of Rio the approximately 1.3 million voters will elect one senator, 21 deputies and 62 assemblymen.
2. The two recognized political organizations, ARENA and the MDB, have until October 15 to register candidates for the November elections. Each party will be permitted to register a number of candidates for the Chamber and the assembly that equals 175 percent of the number of vacancies.
3. In Guanabara, the MDB will apparently take advantage of the opportunity to run three candidates for the Senate seat under "sublegendas", and if the three together poll more votes than the ARENA candidate or candidates, the MDB candidate winning the most votes will get the seat. ARENA's position on the senatorial race is not yet entirely clear. The incumbent, Afonso Arinos, has reportedly decided to run for the Federal Chamber from Minas Gerais rather than trying to hold his senate seat representing Guanabara. In the State of Rio senatorial race, former Governor Paulo Torres on the ARENA ticket will face MDB candidate Federal Deputy Augusto de Gregorio.

POL - Elections

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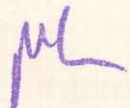
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4. On September 3, 1966, the Legislative Assembly of the State of Rio will elect a governor for a term ending in 1971. Federal Deputies Jeremais de Matos Fontes and Heli Ribeiro Gomes are the ARENA candidates for governor and vice governor respectively. As a result of the MDB decision to boycott the indirect elections, they are unopposed. There will be no indirect election of a governor in Guanabara, Francisco Negrão de Lima having been elected in the popular election of October, 1965 for a term ending in 1971.

5. Comment: The chances of ARENA candidates in the elections for the Chamber and the state assemblies in both states are thought to be poor. In Guanabara estimates of seats which will be taken by MDB candidates range up to 80%, and even ARENA officials have made gloomy forecasts in the State of Rio. The senatorial contests are sui generis and depend more on personalities. Paulo Torres' broad personal following may make it possible for him to buck the trend.

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