

BRASILIA
RD
WB
LE
TD
ADM
CON
USE
AID
AIR
CF
ACTION TAKEN

A-341

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INFO : RIO DE JANEIRO, BRASILIA

Amconsul SAO PAULO

June 3, 1965

A New and Different Carvalho Pinto Rumor

Political rumors of late have whirled about ex-Governor and ex-Goulart Minister Professor Carlos Alberto Alves de CARVALHO PINTO, his political ambitions and intentions, and his possibilities. As the Consulate General has reported in various weekas (A-340, A-33, A-322, A-307) Carvalho Pinto has been mentioned with increasing frequency as a prospective candidate for the Presidency in 1966, as well as for the Governorship of São Paulo in the same year. Though he recently telegraphed ex-President Marshall Eurico DUERA that he was not really a presidential aspirant, and though he committed himself this week to accept the PDC state gubernatorial nomination, whisperings and speculations about his presidential chances have not been short-circuited. Though he is personally conservative by inclination, most observers have been projecting him as the candidate of the democratic Left, arguing that he is acceptable to the present "outs" and unobjectionable to the Revolution. Leaders of the PSD and the PDC have publicly called him a candidate of broad appeal who could unify Left of center forces, and they also evidently believe that he could draw enough center and rightist votes to win the election. In addition, a few conservative voices including that of Juracy MAGALHAES, Brazilian Ambassador to the U.S., have also praised Carvalho Pinto and singled him out as good Presidential timber.

Decontrolled following June 3, 1965

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

POL:FJH:andler:11 6/3/65

William L. Wight, Jr.

from SAO PAULO 1

The following report of conversation raises a new and interesting possibility. Though what it suggests may be considered far-fetched or too Machiavellian to be possible, it is offered as a subject of possible interest. That responsible persons here are musing about it is a rough indication of what sort of wide attraction and acceptance Carvalho Pinto commands in São Paulo, where he is considered an honest, efficient administrator and a political innocent, if not a political bungler. The Consulate General cannot check as to whether the information is true. Our source, a young university lecturer who until recently was also a member of O Estado de S. Paulo's staff covering internal Brazilian politics, has been found to be extremely well-informed and reliable in the past, particularly concerning plans and activities of the democratic left. His wife was once Carvalho Pinto's private secretary in the São Paulo office he maintained while he was Federal Minister of Finance under Goulart.

Our source said that he had been informed that the Government was expected to do this by the Minister of War, General Carlos de Almeida, either directly or through a trusted official in the National Intelligence Service, because he had been selected as the Government's presidential candidate. Fernando Ferreire, while not discounting the possibility, pointed out that he could not vouch for the Minister Consul General, received from his friends in Rio.

Enclosure:

Source later looked up and questioned an old friend who is now **Memorandum of Conversation.** Source confirmed that the information was true, stating that he had received specific orders on May 25 to begin building up Carvalho Pinto.

Source went on to speculate that the Government would well present Carvalho Pinto as a "candidate of national reconciliation", as he would enjoy wide support from both Government factions as well as from the non-Government left. Source thought that Carvalho Pinto would possibly accept support from Communist groups, if he decided it would help his election chances. Since so many left-of-center spokesmen have already expressed interest in Carvalho Pinto, Source said that he might well serve as the catalyst for the emergence of an effective, united, democratic left.

Source also confirmed that Carvalho Pinto, as previous reports have indicated, had been planning to issue a substantial criticism of the Federal Government's economic and financial policies. However, Source claimed that the denunciation would not be released now, because Carvalho Pinto has been persuaded by his advisors to keep silent while Lacerda and Goulart trade punches and insults over the matter. Should Carvalho Pinto have a chance to get

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PLACE: Rodeio Restaurant
DATE: May 28, 1965
PARTICIPANTS: Fernando MOURAO, Journalist and Sociologist
Jack Liebof, Labor Officer
Frank Haendler, Political Officer

A few days ago Oliveiros S. FERREIRA, well-known and respected University of São Paulo political science professor, author and writer for O Estado, told Mourão that he had heard that O Jornal do Brasil would soon begin to back Carvalho Pinto for the Presidency. Ferreira said that he had been informed that the newspaper was requested to do this by the Minister of War, General COSTA E SILVA, either directly or through a unnamed Colonel in SNI (National Intelligence Service), because he had been selected as the Government's presidential candidate. Professor Ferreira, while not discounting the possibility, cautioned Mourão that he could not vouch for the accuracy of the information, received from his friends in Rio.

Mourão later looked up and questioned an old friend who is now chief of O Jornal's São Paulo bureau. His friend confirmed that the information was true, stating that he had received specific orders on May 25 to begin building up Carvalho Pinto.

Mourão went on to speculate that the Government could well present Carvalho Pinto as a "candidate of national conciliation", as he would enjoy wide support from both Government backers as well as from the non-Communist Left. Mourão thought that Carvalho Pinto would possibly accept covert Communist support, if he decided it would help his election chances. Since so many left-of-center spokesmen have already expressed interest in Carvalho Pinto, Mourão said that he might well serve as the catalyst for the emergence of an effective, united, democratic Left.

Mourão also confirmed that Carvalho Pinto, as press reports have indicated, had been planning to issue a statement critical of the Federal Government's economic and financial policies. However, Mourão claimed that the declaration would not be released now, because Carvalho Pinto has been persuaded by his advisors to keep silent while Lacerda and Campos trade punches and insults over the matter. Should Carvalho Pinto have a chance to get

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Government support, it would be less than sagacious to antagonize the Government needlessly.

COMMENT: It will be interesting to follow O Jornal's coverage to see whether Nourão's information may be correct. Whether true or not, it raises interesting likelihoods and points up that Carvalho Pinto may yet emerge as a contender. On the other hand, many São Paulo revolutionaries and Rightists, civil and military, object to Carvalho Pinto as a presidential nominee because of his association with Goulart, and because they feel that he would be too indecisive and vacillating to provide firm national leadership. However, in this regard an acute Paulista observer, José Nabantino RAMOS (former owner of Folha de S. Paulo), recently made a pertinent and suggestive observation. Ramos opined that Carvalho Pinto would be an excellent Governor for São Paulo, but that he was too weak to be a successful President for Brazil, unless the military would back him and provide him with firm direction. Some observers wonder whether the military may have concluded that Carvalho Pinto could win the presidency and that thereafter he would be docile enough to be controlled.

Various sources (A-340, A-341, A-342, A-343) have reported in the past mentioned with increasing frequency as a prospective candidate for the Presidency in 1964, as well as for the Governorship of São Paulo in the same year. Though he recently telegraphed ex-President Marshall Warren ELMER that he was not really a presidential aspirant, and though he committed himself this week to support the 1964 state gubernatorial election, widespread and persistent rumors about his presidential chances have not been wholly abated. Though he is personally conservative by inclination, most observers have been promoting him as the candidate of the conservative left, arguing that he is acceptable to the general "center" and even favorable to the Revolution. Leaders of the PSD and the UDR have publicly called him a candidate of broad appeal who could unite the vast center forces, and they also evidently believe that he could draw enough center and rightist votes to win the election. In addition, a few conservatives believe including that of January 1964, Brazilian Ambassador to the U.S., have also praised Carvalho Pinto and urged him out as good presidential pick.

Declassified following June 3, 1975

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE