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POLITICAL

1. Waiting For The Complementary Act

"General Costa e Silva's statements were very reassuring," said newly-installed Justice Minister Mem de Sá. "They helped to reestablish serenity in the atmosphere of the presidential succession."

It was reassuring for both Ministers' admirers to hear that there seems to be no quarrel between the two, as evil tongues were spreading the rumor that the main reason for the appointment of Mem de Sá to his new post was a desire on the part of President Castelo Branco to nip Costa e Silva's presidential aspirations. As a man steeped in the maragato traditions of the dead but not forgotten Partido Libertador, the ex-Senator is identified with the cause of parliamentary government, and it

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was held that his secret mission was to restore this type of government to Brazil before a new chief executive takes over. While the allegation has not been entirely disproved, it has certainly receded to the background.

Some days before the Minister of War made his tranquilizing statement in London, his subordinate Gen. Justino Alves Bastos had said much the same thing in Porto Alegre, referring to his own chances of becoming governor of Rio Grande do Sul. "I am always ready to serve my country", said the III Army commander - who is nearing retirement age - "but it seems very premature to start talking about succession matters."

It looks as if nothing useful can be accomplished until the Seventh Complementary Act has rolled off the official presses, and ARENA has become a national and regional reality. To bring this about in RGS, a big meeting is being held on January 27, under the chairmanship of Senator Daniel Krieger, and will be attended by representatives of most of the parties composing the government "majority" in the Legislative Assembly. Several deputies are already showing signs of anxiety concerning their future as legislators, while some have even decided, although still young and vigorous, to retire from public life.

MODEBRAS is still in the doldrums on the matter of the composition of the regional directorate, and there is also a growing degree of hopelessness about the part which any opposition party might be able to play under national and state governments headed by military figures like Generals Costa e Silva and Alves Bastos. This could result in a paradox such as the selection by MODEBRAS as its gubernatorial candidate of the conservative Dr. Ruy Cirne Lima, a man whose name is in honor in ex-PDC, UDN and PL circles, in the cause of good government rather than that of achieving MDB objectives. Dr. Ruy is emerging rapidly as the "thinking man's candidate", just as the "producing man's candidate" is unquestionably Gen. Justino. Time and the Act will show whether it is worth the while of either to run.

2. German Development Corps Starts Activities in RGS

The Deutscher Entwicklungsdienst (DED), which is understood to be the German counterpart of the Peace Corps, has sent a team of five young people to RGS to serve for two years at the Rural Technical School of Linha Brasil in the municipality of Nova Petrópolis, an area largely of German settlement. The team consists of an agronomist, a nurse, two teaching assistants (kindergarten and pediatrics) and a teacher of domestic science. Other German aid taking shape in RGS includes an "agro-meteorological station" in Passo Fundo, the equipment for which was provided by the Federal Republic, and the inauguration of which drew a large audience from official, business and farming circles.

3. What To Do With The "Extra" Bailey Bridge?

To the Consulate's surprise, it is announced that American-provided materials

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for the construction of a 200-meter Bailey bridge will be arriving in RGS (presumably Porto Alegre) within a few days. It had been the Consulate's impression that the offer of this bridge had been politely declined by the Brazilian federal authorities when the decision was reached that the Army would set up a Bailey bridge of its own at the Passo do Socorro over the Rio Pelotas to replace the structure washed away by last year's floods. The impression appears to have been an erroneous one, however, and the Control Commission For Transportation In The South (see item 4 below) finds itself - or will find itself soon - with an extra bridge on its hands, now that other means have been found to assure travel across the Rio Pelotas. Fortunately, need for a bridge exists elsewhere in the state, in particular over the Taquari river between Estrêla and Lajeado, where the existing bridge has been closed to traffic for more than a year.

4. Appointment and Transfer

Recent and announced moves of important personnel in and out of the state include the following: Air Force Brigadeiro (Brigadier General) Doorgal Borges to be replaced as Commander, 5th Air Zone, by Brigadeiro Nei Gomes da Silva; Army Brigadeiro General Antônio Jorge Corrêa to Chief of Staff of III Army, replacing the recently-promoted Major General Isaac Nahon; Retired General João José Baptista Tubino as interventor (presidentially-appointed governor) in the state of Alagoas. Gen. Tubino has been serving here since 1964 as Superintendent of the South-west Frontier, president of the Joint Brazilian-Uruguayan Commission for the Development of the Lagoa Mirim, and chairman of the Control Commission For Transportation In The South. A native gaúcho from Livramento, he has impressed the Consulate as an intelligent, far-seeing, dynamic, and in every way competent man.

PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. State Of The Union Message

After reviewing the President's remarks relative to technical assistance to developing nations, Correio do Povo, in its lead editorial January 18, has this to say:

"The North American government will aid ... principally those peoples who know how to help themselves. That really is the question. Little or nothing will external aid be worth, if the nation is sunk in a sea of demagoguery and corruption, arm in arm with accelerated inflation, or, subject to the suspect game of ambition of caudilhos or groups anxious to exploit their power oligarchically. One only travels toward true development in a regime of decency, austerity, and work. Much work."

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2. RGS Student Travel Program Participant Attains National Prominence

January 14's Correio do Povo reports the election of FY 65 Student Travel Program participant Paulo Gouvêa da COSTA to the post of president of the National Directorate of Students in Brasília. He is already the elected president of the State Student's Directorate of Rio Grande do Sul. In that post he succeeded Victor Della Mea, also a former Program participant.

In a January 13 press interview in Brasília, the former replied to a question regarding the seriousness of student politics as follows:

"It has been said, and there are still those who say that the Brazilians students are a bunch of rowdies. This is not true. We are a [social] class which today is asserting itself because of its [sense of] responsibility and authenticity. We distinguish between good judgement and bad judgement.

"...the majority of young men and young women in the schools [of the universities] possess the qualities to assert themselves through comprehension, equilibrium, and intelligence. And we, who have been elected to the National Directorate of Students will never, ever bow to disequilibrium nor irresponsibility."

Curiously enough, Gouvêa is a quiet, modest, almost retiring type -- in contrast to his rough and tough, and highly articulate predecessor Della Mea, who groomed him for his elective posts -- but that impression is deceptive. He has proven ability to assert himself and secure a following. His State 'constituency' is large, over 10,000 university students.

The Post is distinctly proud that "its" man won. He, as did his predecessor, maintain very close working relationships with the BPAO.


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