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			1. Castelo Branco Pays Politico-Educational Visit					
			President Castelo Branco visited Rio Grande do Sul for the fifth time since taking office, on this occasion for the purpose of delivering the <u>aula inaugural</u> of the opening of the Academic Year at the Federal University of Santa Maria on March 12, and of receiving in return an honorary degree from the hands of that institution's dynamic Rector, Prof. Mariano da Rocha.					
			While the President's lecture at Santa Maria dealt appropriately with the importance of education and the responsibility of the educated Brazilian toward his country, the Marshal had previously taken advantage of his stop-over in Porto Alegre to touch base with other important elements, including local labor leaders and, more significantly, State Deputy Paulo Brossard de					
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Souza Pinto (ex-PL), one of the leading troublemakers in RGS' uneasy ARENA (see following item), with whom he was closeted for 50 minutes. As the President was at that time the house guest of Governor Ildo Meneghetti at the Palácio Piratini, the situation had its piquant aspect, a fact not unnoticed by the ferocious cartoonists of the Porto Alegre press. In the light of subsequent developments, it would be interesting to know what was said during the interview.

Among other leading figures, the President brought with him the Kruel generals, Amaury (next Governor of São Paulo?) and Riograndino, present head of the Federal Security Police. Amaury politely declined to discuss politics with the press, stating that he had just come to breathe some Gaúcho air. (He is a native son of RGS.) Riograndino, when queried about the recent "plot" in this state - see Summary Nº 20, A-30, March 8, 1966 - said that the whole matter had been grossly exaggerated, and quickly turned the conversation toward a discussion of the Mineral Smuggling activities - see same Summary. He promised the full rigor of the courts for all involved. As he put it, "the law is the same, for Americans as well as Brazilians."

2. ARENA the Winnah! But Who Was Trying to Do What to Whom, How and Why?

After 72 hours of suspense, fraught with discussions in "smoke-filled rooms", the log-jam which had been building up for some time with regard to the election of a new presiding board for the state Legislative Assembly finally broke, and a last-minute compromise slate, hand-picked by Labor Minister Peracchi Barcelos, won the day for ARENA (28 votes to 27). The new presiding officer of the Assembly is state Deputy Alfredo Hoffmeister (ex-PSD), a former deputy mayor of Porto Alegre, and by coincidence, a brother-in-law to the present mayor, Célio Marques Fernandes. Under the RGS constitution, Hoffmeister is at present acting Governor, during the temporary absence of Meneghetti, who is attending a convention of Southern governors in Florianópolis.

What had happened in the meantime is far from clear. As was well known, deputies Honório Severo and Paulo Brossard of the ex-PL, have been trying for some time, often with a fair degree of success, to make things rough for Governor Meneghetti and to endanger the passing of legislation sponsored by him, without, however, playing completely in the hands of the (now-MDB) opposition. On this occasion, however, claim some of their former allies, Severo had made a bid to secure the presidency of the Assembly for himself, with the support of the MDB, in return for services not publicly specified. Only when the MDB - for reasons not made public - finally balked at such an arrangement, did Brossard and Severo throw in the towel and agree to accept whatever list Minister Peracchi Barcelos might draw up. This is the theory stated in a declaration made by 9 prominent members of ARENA, and which has received wide circulation. But there are others:

a. The trouble actually came from "Juscelinista" members of ARENA, led by Deputy Ariosto Jaeger, who were actually anxious to have ARENA lose this particular

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battle, in the hope that the federal government, in order to reestablish a favorable balance, would deprive of their civic rights and legislative mandates Deputies Henrique Henkin and Helio da Fontoura (ex-PTB) and Darcy von Hoonholtz (ex-ARS). It is not clear just how this would help Juscelino's cause.

b. PSD elements in the "bowels" of the Palácio Piratini were trying to bring about a situation which would result in the "cassation" of the mandates of Deputies Paulo Brossard, Honório Severo and Alexandre Machado - but on what grounds? This is the theory of Captain-Alderman Rui Sommer de Azambuja, a man who is against everybody on general principles, but who particularly dislikes the PSD in almost any form. Sommer apparently considered Federal Deputy Tarso Dutra and former Legislative Assembly majority leader Ari Delgado, both onetime members of this party, as the leading culprits in this move.

c. Dissatisfied members of both ARENA and MDB were attempting to secure the election of a mesa composed of representatives of both blocs - an interesting theory, but one which not thus far been given a logical explanation - unless it is assumed that this is what Severo and Brossard had in mind - hardly likely, unless the two had carried their hatred of Meneghetti to the point of "breaking" with Castelo.

Queried regarding his reaction to the statement of the 9 deputies, mentioned above, Paulo Brossard stated that he had not read it, but didn't like what he heard about it. He added that he was at present reading Shakespeare. Commentators were quick to speculate that he was probably studying "Julius Caesar", in an attempt to learn more about the ways and means of doing away with tyrants.

3. God Speed Ye Back to Madison, Wisc., Prof. Bird!... And Let's Have Some Sociological Improvement In The United States!

After two well-spent years of activity at the Faculty of Agronomy and Veterinary Medicine of the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, as the chief of the University of Wisconsin Project, which has been working hard to develop the agricultural productivity of the state, Prof. Herbert R. Bird was given a rousing sendoff in the form of a churrasco (barbecue) on the Faculty's rural campus.

Among other things, the chief speaker, Faculty Director (Dean) Prof. Mozart Pereira Soares had the following to say (loosely paraphrased):

"We have welcomed you here, not because of what you gave us, but because you allowed us the possibility of interchange... As a convinced Nationalist, I will never admit that the United States gives us anything... Rather, it is a matter of give and take... Your country is technically developed to the Nth. degree, but Brazil is sociologically more developed than you are... It has solved long since a problem which you are still wrestling with, and of which, be it said to their credit, your leaders are well aware. That is why I say, we can learn from you, but you can also learn from

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us..."

The American Consul, who was also present on the occasion, was reminded of nothing so much as his experience a few weeks before, when, as a guest at a luncheon given in honor of visiting American officers from JBUSMC, he was regaled during the whole luncheon by the remarks of his table neighbor, a Brazilian colonel veteran of the Expeditionary Force to Italy during World War II, who played all the themes and variations on the topic "You Americans are responsible for the rise of World Communism by knocking out the two countries most able to contain it, Germany and Japan" - to the dismay of most of his nearby colleagues, be it said, who tried their best to get him on to some other topic, but without success.

As the Embassy recently informed the Department, it is now again becoming "In" - in certain circles here - to be anti-American.

PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. The Students And The Nation

State political affairs have largely pre-empted the local press from any commentary of consequence on international affairs.

In state university student circles, a demonstration slated for Friday evening last, March 18, was planned as a left-leaning protest of the Ministry and the University's sterner control of student affairs. Apprized of this development, the head of the DCE of URGS cut short his U.S. visit under the Student Travel Program five days and was able to avert any serious disturbance.

The BPAO is now supplying the Mission, on a periodic basis, with a nation-wide appraisal of the political climate in university student circles. This has become possible due to his close personal relationship with the recently elected head of the National Students' Directorate. These reports will normally be classified. The first batch covered the states of Bahia northward. The student affairs officer should be made aware of the availability of this data.

For Thomas J. Duffield
Thomas J. Duffield
American Consul

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