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POLITICAL

1. ARENA Opens For Business In Rio Grande do Sul
2. Justino's Campaign May Run Aground
3. Senator-Designate Deplores Cordial Welcome To East German Trade Mission

1. ARENA Opens For Business In Rio Grande do Sul

Under the chairmanship of Senator Daniel Krieger (ex-UDN), and with the presence of Labor Minister Walter Peracchi Barcelos (ex-PSD), the founders in RGS of the pro-Revolution political body Aliança Renovadora Nacional - ARENA came to order in the Legislative Assembly building on January 27 and elected as the first president of the state Directing Committee (state) Deputy Francisco Solano Borges (ex-PL). Opposition to his election, which had been led by his former colleagues Paulo Brossard and Honório Severo, was dropped shortly before the meeting, presumably at the advice of some of the senior members of the former party, including its state president, Orlando da Cunha Carlos. Presumably Brossard and Severo were the ones who cast a ballot for Orlando himself and a blank ballot, against 77 in favor of Solano.

The Directing Committee stands organized as follows:

President:	Francisco Solano Borges	ex-PL
Vice Presidents:	Ari Delgado	PSD
	José Alexandre Zachia	PDC
	Júlio Brunelli	UDN

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2
AIRGRAM A-25
PORTO ALEGRE

Secretary General:	Oscar Machado	ex-PRP
Treasurer:	Derly Monteiro	PSB
Members:	Adolpho Puggina Alberto Hoffmann José Augusto Amaral de Souza	PDC PRP PSD
Control Council:	Artur Bacchini Fernando Chagas Romeu de Almeida Ramos	UDN unidentified PL
Delegates to the Electoral Tribunal:	Henrique Fonseca de Araújo Rubem Sant'Ana Sérgio de Almeida Figueiredo	PL PSD PDC
Members of National Directorate:	Senator Daniel Krieger Deputy Euclides Triches Deputy Tarso de Moraes Dutra	UDN PDC PSD

To the amusement of all, Senator Krieger introduced the new president to his fellow-members as Solano López (the ferocious Paraguayan dictator of the 19th century), and Solano himself in his acceptance speech managed to speak of the Ação Renovadora Nacional instead of the Aliança. As a former president of the Legislative Assembly, the tactful Solano should do well as master of the ARENA, but it will not be all smooth sailing. Immediately after the meeting, Brossard and a group of other ex-Libertadores drew up a manifesto announcing that their entrance into the new group did not mean either that they planned to give their support to Governor Meneghetti, or that they would betray their consciences by voting in favor of measures of which their ex-party would have disapproved, either in ARENA itself or in the Assembly. In the latter body, ARENA may well find itself in the minority, and a permanent one at that (until new elections are held.)

The fault lies with Deputy Nelson Marchezan (ex-PDC), who, alone of the many members of the old ADP coalition who were called upon to join forces under the new banner, decided that a little soul-searching was in order before taking any precipitous action which he might later regret. The brilliant young legislator, who has made a name for himself through his vigorous activity in favor of the economic development of the state, may well wind up in MODEBRÁS instead, giving that agglomeration a controlling one vote majority. Curiously enough, both Solano Borges and Marchezan had received travel grants to the United States under the leader program, and had planned to travel together. It looks very doubtful now that either will be able to go.

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3
AIRGRAM A-25
PORTO ALEGRE

2. Justino's Campaign May Run Aground

Although III Army commander General Justino Alves Bastos has been touring the state and receiving everywhere the homage due an important military figure who could well be the next Governor, there are indications that his candidacy, even if possible under Institutional Act N° 3, may run into trouble. A somewhat mysterious development was the proposal of a resolution in the Porto Alegre City Council to the effect that the title of "Citizen of Porto Alegre" be conferred upon the distinguished leader. What was mysterious about the resolution was not the idea itself, which had occurred to several revolution-supporters within City Hall, but the fact that they were beaten to the draw by an alderman from the ranks of the ex-PTB, who paid high tribute to the general's record during his period of service at III Army HQ. Odder yet was the report that the vereador who introduced the resolution was acting in obedience to the orders of ex-President João Goulart, recently and personally issued by him in his Montevideo exile.

Whatever the truth, it would seem that although there are those in the new 73-man ARENA Directorate to whom Justino Looks good as a gubernatorial candidate, there are also those who are against a military man in principle and Justino in person. Minister Peracchi Barcelos would seem to be the candidate - at least for the present - of the "stop Justino" faction, with Dr. Ruy Cirne Lima still the "thinking man's" theoretical candidate. One such man is new Senator Fernando Gay da Fonseca (ex-PDC), who has just proceeded to Brasília to assume his legislative seat.

3. Senator-Designate Deplores Cordial Welcome To East German Trade Mission

An East German trade mission, headed by Herr Günter Malz, head of the commercial office of the DDR in Brazil, visited RGS last week and explored the possibilities for the barter or sale in this state of East German items such as equipment for the boring of artesian wells, fishing boats, hospital and laboratory equipment, and printing presses, the latter intended particularly for the state's official printing service. Although details regarding the success or lack thereof of the visit are lacking, it was noted that considerable material appeared in the papers during following days regarding the Leipzig Fair and the desirability of Brazilian participation therein. The official purpose of the mission's visit was to extend an invitation to the state's business and industry to be represented at the Fair.

The only person who seemed to find anything strange about the visit to this state, with its high percentage of population of German origin, on the part of representatives of the East German Communist regime, was Senator Gay da Fonseca (See item 2 above). In a ringing statement to the press, the Senator deplored the fact the mission had received here precisely the type of treatment which is extended to representatives of countries with which Brazil enjoys both diplomatic and friendly relations. (Most papers had referred inaccurately to Malz as the commercial attaché of a DDR Embassy in Rio.) To Gay's thinking, the only Germany with whom such relations could exist was the Federal Republic, the legitimate symbol of the German people as a whole (and which,

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4

AIRGRAM A-25
PORTO ALEGRE

incidentally, is beginning to extend some visible assistance to Rio Grande do Sul.) The Senator wound up his statement with a reference to the abomination of the Berlin Wall, and to the continuing rejection on the part of the Brazilian federal government of all for which the Wall stands.

Senator Gay, no admirer of Governor Meneghetti, was presumably aware of the fact that his outburst represented a slap on the knuckles of the Governor and of those members of the state government who had put business before international considerations in welcoming the East German traders. It is also true that, as a onetime member of the Brazilian delegation to the UN General Assembly, he was likely to be more aware than most of the significance of any act implying recognition or acceptance of the Pankow regime. It is finally true that as the recipient of a travel grant from the Federal Republic, he had had an opportunity to observe at first hand the situation created by the continuing existence of the Soviet-dominated area.



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