

ORIGIN/ACTION

ARA-8

35

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

1

REP

AF

1

EUR

FE

NEA

CU

INR

E

P

IO

L

FBO

AID

NO.

A-292

CONFIDENTIAL

1965 APR 26

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

BUREAU OF

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

APR 26 1965

APR 24 1965

DATE: April 22, 1965

TO

:

Department of State

INFO

:

RIO DE JANEIRO, BRASILIA, RECIFE, BELO HORIZONTE, BELEM, CURITIBA, PORTO ALEGRE, SALVADOR

FROM

:

Amcongen SAO PAULO

SUBJECT

:

Weekly Summary No. 16

REF

:

ARMY

CIA

NAVY

3

10

3

OSD

USIA

NSA

21

3

150

6

TABLE OF CONTENTS

POLITICAL

1. Electoral Reform Generates Activity and Comment

2. UDN City Councilmen Form Revolutionary Bloc

3. Several Key Unions Emerge from Intervention

4. Students Support "Intellectuals Manifesto" and Consider Anti-government Action

5. Judge Condemns High Judiciary

6. Kennedy Monument Commission of Sao Paulo Plans to Present Replica to Boston

PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. Press Reaction

POLITICAL

1. Electoral Reform Generates Activity and Comment

As politics in Sao Paulo ground to a standstill for the Easter break and Tiradentes Day, the attention and concern of

FORM 4-62 DS-323

CONFIDENTIAL

FOR DEPT. USE ONLY

☒ In ☐ Out

Drafted by:

See last page

Contents and Classification Approved by:

William L. Wight, Jr.

Clearances:

1965 APR 26 AM 10 23

File 4-28-65

NAL

Action: AR43R

COPYFLO-PBR

the local press and politicians focused on the proposed Federal electoral reform and political parties law, to be considered by Congress after the holidays. Small parties which may be threatened with extinction by provisions of the law convoked meetings to formulate their positions as well as to explore their chances of survival. The PL (Partido Libertador) Sao Paulo State Directorate reportedly agreed to embark on an intensive state-wide offensive to increase party membership. Both the MTR (Movimento Trabalhista Renovador) and the PTN (Partido Trabalhista Nacional) met to map general overhauls of their local units in efforts to solidify support. According to several press reports, the PTB (Partido Trabalhista Brasileiro) and the PTN, which cooperated closely during the recent Sao Paulo municipal election, have been examining the possibility of merger. Even the PDC (Partido Democrata Cristão) has been considering measures to strengthen party organization. As soon as the details of the Government's draft law are released, it is anticipated that threatened parties will conduct vociferous campaigns to modify the law. Forty-three members of the Sao Paulo State Legislative Assembly, mostly members of the minor parties, have already telegraphed President CASTELLO BRANCO to express opposition to election by district.

Press commentary on electoral reform by Gazeta, Folha and O Estado has urged the extinction of small parties which are as a rule amorphous agglomerations without programs or principles, only serving the personal interests of party leaders. The papers also agreed that provisions on ineligibilities and incompatibilities of candidacies, which would inhibit political careerism and opportunism, would be beneficial. In this regard, however, Folha sternly warned against innovations contrary to democratic practice. Editorially the paper opposed blanket proscription of individuals implicated in Revolutionary military inquiries (IPMs) and the granting of authority to the National Security Council to veto candidacies inconvenient to the Federal Government. (UNCL)

Comment: As the recent Sao Paulo mayoralty election amply demonstrated, the political party system in Sao Paulo is virtually meaningless. Political interest and allegiance center around prominent political personalities, rather than organizations. Most of the thirteen parties currently in existence here serve only to confuse, fragment and bore the electorate, which increasingly holds them in contempt. Should some of them be extinguished by the new law, the general public will hardly lament or protest their passing. (LOU)

2. UDN City Councilmen Form Revolutionary Bloc

The UDN members of the Sao Paulo City Council are still unreconciled to active UDN participation in the administration of Mayor FARIA LIMA and still do not consider him a Revolutionary (WS 15). They have, therefore, announced formation of a Revolutionary Bloc within the Council to support and defend the policies and operations

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NNO 959000

of the Federal Government. Thus far, only the three UDN Councilmen belong to the new grouping, though the PL has declared its total support of the Revolution and its suspicion of the Mayor and his Janismo. (UNCL)

Comment: The initiative of the UDN city fathers has not aroused much sympathetic comment. Since the election of Faria Lima the City Council has done little except wrangle about national political issues remote from the immediate and pressing problems of administering the city. Most debates have revolved about the ties between the new Mayor and ex-President Janio QUADROS and whether or not Faria Lima actually favors or opposes the Revolution and its aims. Local newspapers are becoming increasingly acid in their coverage of Council proceedings. Folha recently wondered when Councilmen might begin to consider matters actually within their competence. (LOU)

3. Several Key Unions Emerge From Intervention

Recent decrees issued by the Labor Minister lifted the intervention in some twenty local unions and three labor federations in Sao Paulo State, including several in the vital transportation sector: Sao Paulo City bus and truck drivers, Sao Paulo City street-car workers, the Santos-Jundiai Railroad workers, the two largest port worker unions in Santos, and the Santos coffee baggers and loaders. The state federations involved are the hotel and restaurant workers, cultural and artistic workers, and autonomous rural workers (mostly share-croppers). Still under intervention in this State are one labor federation (tourism and hospitality workers) and an estimated 80 local unions, including most of the largest Sao Paulo City locals such as those in the metalworking, textile, chemical and pharmaceutical, construction, shoe and printing industries. In accordance with Labor Ministry instructions the recently liberated unions must convoke elections within 45 days. (UNCL)

Comment: The transportation unions mentioned above were dominated by Communists or opportunistic Communist sympathizers prior to the 1964 Revolution. While the top Communist former officers of these unions were removed by the Revolution, lesser-known Communist agents have been actively agitating behind the scenes among the workers. In most of these transportation unions the interventors intend to run for election. However, their chances of winning a free election against an opposition slate would seem at best doubtful, especially among the Santos port workers who are very bitter over Revolutionary Government rulings which have significantly reduced their pay. In some cases potential splits among the democratic elements, some supporting the interventors and some preferring to put up their own slate of candidates, would appear to further enhance their opposition's chances. Well-known Communists will probably not be permitted to run for office in the coming union elections; the danger lies in the possible infiltration of second echelon Communists, their sympathizers, and dupes, into opposition slates. Some observers believe that the Regional Labor Delegate of the Labor Ministry will

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 959000

try to pressure the leaders of slates in those unions with solid opposition strength into forming single slates acceptable to the Delegate. To this end the Government possesses a powerful weapon: much-criticized Labor Ministry Decree No. 40 which requires the winning slate to obtain a majority of those union members eligible to vote, an unlikely occurrence in elections with more than one slate. (LOU)

4. Students Support "Intellectuals Manifesto" and Consider Anti-government Action

On April 10 and 11 the Council of Presidents of the Sao Paulo State Student Union (UEE) met in Campinas to formulate a policy for the UEE in view of the student plebiscite held on the "Suplicy Law" in late March and early April. (WS 14.) Upon adjournment the Council issued a manifesto in the name of the UEE, expressing UEE support for the "Intellectuals Manifesto" and criticizing the Government for:

"police and military investigations of a political nature;
holding of political prisoners without formal charges;
intervention in school associations;
cancellations of political rights;
cultural terrorism;
extension of mandates;
alienation of national mineral resources;
retreat in foreign policy; and
the "Suplicy law." (UNCL)

Comment: Except for support for the "Intellectuals Manifesto" the manifesto issued by the Council of Presidents does not significantly differ from the UEE position since the XVII Congress in January 1965. The UEE does not appear to have any fresh initiatives available to it. According to a reliable CAS source (HBP 3793 dated April 22, 1965) this is because Acao Popular (AP), which controls the UEE, is out of ideas. CAS reported that AP expected to build its UEE policy on the Federal Government's reaction to the student plebiscite. Unfortunately for AP's plans there was no discernible Government reaction. Having met with no success in its attempt to influence the Government by strictly peaceful means, AP is now considering employing student strikes and demonstrations. (CONF)

5. Judge Condemns Higher Judiciary

In an article written for O Estado outspoken, "hard-line" military court judge Jose Tinoco BARRETO lashed out against the Federal Supreme Tribunal and the Superior Military Tribunal, accusing them of nullifying the Revolution. He charged that recent decisions in effect have denied the existence of a communist conspiracy to bolshevize the country and in so doing negated the basis for the Ato Institucional and for the Revolution itself. He bitterly challenged recent court decisions that military tribunals are not competent to consider cases of communist party leaders (WS 13) as a result of IPM investigations, because violations of the National Security law were

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED

Authority WNO 959000

not involved. According to Judge Barreto civil courts, guided by Brazilian common law alone, now that the Ato Institucional has lapsed, will not be able to condemn subversives. Only military courts have authority to do so. Judge Barreto warned that the courts have transformed themselves into the coffin of the Revolution and he predicted that "the most guilty...such as the Jangos, the Brizolas, the Juscelinos, will return triumphantly through judicial decisions." (UNCL)

Comment: Judge Barreto has been especially smarting ever since the Superior Military Tribunal granted habeas corpus to Professor Mario SCHEMBERG and other Communists indicted on the basis of information contained in the Prestes notebooks. At the same time the court declared itself incompetent to consider the cases. His prosecuting attorney privately told a Consulate General officer that as a result of the decision, the Judge was coming to consider his task as hopeless. (LOU)

6. Kennedy Monument Commission of Sao Paulo Plans to Present Replica to Boston

The group of prominent Sao Paulo citizens who successfully arranged the campaign to raise funds to build a Kennedy monument in Sao Paulo has become active again. Their new project is to present an exact replica of the attractive Kennedy bust at the Largo de Arouche square to the city of Boston. At USIS's suggestion, they are now in touch with the First National Bank of Boston in Sao Paulo towards arranging appropriate placement of their gift from the Brazilian people to the citizens of Boston. Plans envisage sending a Brazilian marble pedestal and a bronze bust of President Kennedy, by Claudie Dunin, sometime this year. The group hopes to obtain the assistance of the Boston Bank and the Pan American Society in working out the arrangements with Boston municipal officials. Although this is still in the planning stages, prospects look particularly good as the Boston Bank has taken a keen interest.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Claudie Dunin, the sculptress, and her husband are in the United States on vacation. Mrs. Dunin made a miniature of the original bust, and has carried two examples with her. According to press reports, the Dunins plan to present these very attractive models to President Johnson and Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy. (UNCL)

PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. Press Reaction

News on Vietnam continued to be front-page material this week but no editorial reaction of significance appeared. The mass media

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 959000

CONFIDENTIAL

Page 6 of A-292
from Sao Paulo

has more or less taken it for granted and routine that the U.S. and South Vietnam will continue daily air strikes. No other particular international themes received regular press attention. Front-page headlines greeted the freeing of ex-Governor Arraes, with Ultima Hora making a big human interest splash of Arraes with family. (UNCL)

Niles W. Bond
Niles W. Bond

Minister Consul General

Contributors:

FJHaendler

JLiebof

DKanes

FWDickens

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 959000