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TO : DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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FROM : Amconsul PORTO ALEGRE

SUBJECT : PORTO ALEGRE WEEKLY SUMMARY No 59  
SAO PAULO-1

REF :

HANDLING INDICATOR

1963 JUN 10 AM 10 16

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
BUREAU OF AFRICAN AFFAIRS  
ANALYSIS & DISTRIBUTION BRANCH  
JUN 10 1963  
DATE: JUN - 4 1963

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1. Internal Dispute in PTB
2. RGS Students Elect Leftist Officers
3. Brizola Misses Rally Here
4. East-West Trade
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FILE  
No Action  
ARA:LA/BR  
R. Burton  
JUN 12 1963

1. Internal Dispute in PTB

Partido Trabalhista Brasileiro (PTB) party discipline faltered badly here last week as several PTB state deputies aired their grievances over the autocratic control of the party (and its funds) being exercised by Federal Deputy Leonel Brizola and his chosen few. The immediate occasion for complaint was a recent weekly series of full page paid announcements (sponsored by the state PTB) which are harshly critical of the Meneghetti administration and devote maximum space to unqualified support of all of Brizola's utterances and acts. Although the deputies condemn the announcements for their "personal attacks" and "untruths", their principal concern is that they are not being consulted on the content of the apudicos before publication. More significant than the complaints of the anonymous deputies was the silent and

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Contents and Classification Approved by: D

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implicit approval of the entire PTB representation in the Legislative Assembly given to the remarks of a UDN deputy who deplored a PTB apedido that represented Governor Meneghetti as a rat. PTB Deputy Wilson Vargas was more explicit--speaking from the floor, he agreed with the UDN deputy. The following day Vargas, a front-runner for the PTB candidacy for mayor of Pôrto Alegre, said he might refuse to run for mayor on the PTB ticket because of the content of the apedidos which ~~are~~ controlled by "Brizola and his pantry and kitchen group".

Comment: As a result of these mutterings, Brizola and Company will probably make a gesture toward more consultation with the rank and file. However, with Vargas talking himself into serious trouble with his party's leadership, the PTB's chances in the Pôrto Alegre mayoralty campaign ~~wikk~~ have suffered.

## 2. RGS Students Elect Leftist Officers

A minority of the members of the Rio Grande do Sul State Union of Students (U.E.E.) managed to elect a slate of communist sympathizing officers without opposition after a ticket of moderates abandoned their campaign for lack of support. The uncontested election aroused little enthusiasm among the students and the abstention rate was abnormally high. Almost 7,000 of the estimated 15,000 university students in the state didn't bother to vote and, of the 8,256 who did, 1,666 cast blank ballots. A total of 774 ballots were declared null.

In spite of some protests and suggestions that the newly elected officers resign because of the small vote, leftists Roberto Brinco and Paulo Crochemore, were installed in office as U.E.E. president and vice president, respectively.

## 3. Brizola Misses Rally Here

Some 3,000 enthusiastic followers of Federal Deputy Leonel Brizola were disappointed last Friday when their leader failed to show up for a carefully organized rally in support of basic reforms. Brizola's wife, Dona Neuza, read a message from the PTB Deputy which attributed his absence to the civil aviation strike (see 7 a. below), reaffirmed his support of basic reforms, and specifically denied current rumours that he intended to break with President Goulart.

## 4. East-West Trade

One thousand metric tons of local leaf tobacco purchased by the Soviet Union was loaded by the Russian merchant ship "Kasinov" which departed from Pôrto Alegre last week. The leftist Última Hora reported that the Russian ship captain was charmed by the "gentility" displayed by the RGS Secretary of Security General Joaquim Luiz Amaro da Silveira, who visited the freighter during its stay.

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5. Israeli Ambassador to Visit Rio Grande do Sul

The Ambassador of Israel Arieh Eshel, accompanied by his wife, was scheduled to arrive in Pôrto Alegre today for an official visit to the state of Rio Grande do Sul. Due to official mourning for the death of Pope John, the more festive events on the Ambassador's schedule have been canceled.

6. Political Notes

a. Following the recent visit of Adhemar de Barros, Governor of São Paulo to Pôrto Alegre, local political circles are discussing reports that Governor Meneghetti will be a 1965 candidate for vice president on a ticket headed by Adhemar.

b. The latest rumours on this year's Pôrto Alegre mayoralty race have the combined Ação Democrática Popular (ADP)--including the Partido Libertador (PL)--trading their support for Legislative Assembly President Cândido Norberto (Movimento Trabalhista Renovador-MTR) as mayor in return for MTR backing for Partido Social Democrático (PSD) Federal Deputy Tarseo Dutra to succeed Governor Meneghetti in 1967.

c. RGS Secretary of Economy Daniel Faraco said last week he is considering resuming his seat in the Federal Legislature to defend his and his party's (Partido Social Democrático-PSD), views on agrarian reform.

d. If and when President Goulart decides to re-shuffle his cabinet, the local press reports that he will consider PTB State Deputy Justino Quintana (a former RGS Secretary of Education) for the Ministry of Education, and Gay da Fonseca (Partido Democrata Cristão-PDC) Governor Meneghetti's Secretary of Interior and Justice, for the federal Justice Ministry.

7. Labor

a. The short-lived civil aviation strike last week was largely ineffective here as regularly scheduled service was maintained by most airlines. VARIG canceled two flights and VASP suspended operations for a short time.

b. Caxias do Sul metal workers were awarded wage increases of about 80 percent last week after a strike that lasted less than one day.

cc.: Amembassy Rio  
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For the Consul

*W. Douglas McLain, Jr.*  
W. Douglas McLain, Jr.  
American Vice Consul

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