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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

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TO : DEPARTMENT OF STATE

1965 JAN 17

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
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POLITICAL

1. Meneghetti and the Maragatos
2. Adhemar Among The Hydrangeas: "I'm Not Campaigning (Just Yet)"
3. "We were Deceived Once Again By Leonel Brizola."
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PSYCHOLOGICAL

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POLITICAL

1. Meneghetti And The Maragatos

After weeks of soul-searching, the Partido Libertador remains uncertain regarding its continuation in the alliance (ADP) supporting Governor Ildo Meneghetti. The Governor has offered the Maragatos (nickname acquired by the predecessor party of the PL during the revolution of 1893) the secretariat of Interior and Justice and the right to propose a candidate for the still-unfilled Treasury seat, it being understood that one, but not both of the secretariats may be filled by a party man. The solution presently seen as most likely to prevail is the appointment of outgoing Legislative Assembly president Francisco Solano Borges (PL) to the Interior post, and that of a non-partisan banker or economic wizard to the Treasury. The difficulty is first of all to find such a banker or wizard, a) who will take the job;

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Drafted by: TJDuffield/DHBarnhart:gb

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b) who is acceptable to Meneghetti, the latter secure in the realization - according to a somewhat indiscreet statement made in Rio by General Justino Alves Bastos - that President Castelo Branco prevented him from being overthrown when the original crisis broke, and still intends to keep him in power.

2. Adhemar Among The Hydrangeas: "I'm Not Campaigning (Just Yet)"

Joining RGS Governor Ildo Meneghetti and the cream of gaúcho society at the pleasant hill resort of Gramado, northeast of Porto Alegre, which is currently holding its IVth Hortensia (hydrangea) festival, São Paulo Governor Adhemar de Barros was not too busy to accede to the many requests of the press and other information media for his views on the present national scene and his plans for the future. He denied that his trip had any other purpose than to admire the lovely flowers and in doing so, to keep a long-standing pledge to the municipal government of Gramado, which he had been unable to redeem during the last two years, in 1963 because he was preparing to take office, in 1964 because he was preparing the revolution. He confirmed that he would be a candidate for the presidency in '66, but added that he did not intend to start his campaign until 6 months before election day, in order not to "agitate" the country.

The genial paulista Chief Executive touched on a number of other topics, including President Castelo Branco, "that most civilian of soldiers", the choice of a new presiding officer for the Chamber of Deputies (the PSP will back the PSD choice), why Meneghetti did not sign Adhemar's "Governors' Manifesto" (he was on vacation at the time and couldn't be reached), whether there should be a "military candidate" in the presidential elections (Yes), Hanna, the iron ore and the port of Sepetiba (on the whole a good thing) and the prospects for financial-economic cooperation between São Paulo and Rio Grande do Sul (excellent). For a non-candidate, Adhemar seemed pretty well prepared to tell his listeners what they most wanted to hear. The only really harsh words he spoke, in fact, were with respect to the possibility of restoring the civic rights of the hapless Jânio Quadros. This measure he strongly opposed, as he holds Jânio directly responsible for all of Brazil's troubles which followed the resignation of the "man with the broom", and to amnesty him would be to "betray the very objectives of the Revolution".

3. "We Were Deceived Once Again By Leonel Brizola."

One of the most effective blows struck in recent times against the "Brizola - Legend" was that dealt by ex-marine sergeant Lair Cornélio Rumão, as he was interviewed by Porto Alegre papers at the local airport during a brief halt of his Rio-bound plane. Rumão was one of the Brizola-lining sergeants who had taken part in the Brasília mutiny and subsequently in several of the demonstrations which preceded the March-April Revolution. When the latter took place, he was granted asylum by the Mexican Embassy, and was allowed to proceed to Mexico City, from whence he eventually found his way to Uruguay. Embittered by his experiences there, he turned himself in to the Brazilian Embassy in Montevideo on January 8 and requested repatriation. Passing through Salgado Filho airport on his way to Rio and presumably a military trial (he was escorted by Air Force Major Aloísio Nóbrega of the Embassy),

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Rumão had the following to say:

"The asylees in Uruguay have been abandoned. They have been left to their own devices; at least those of them who have no means. There exists a discrimination there which few will believe. Once again, we were deceived by ex-deputy Leonel Brizola.... I am disillusioned with Brizola's leadership. As I did, several of my colleagues considered him a leader, a champion of the underprivileged, but as time went by, particularly in Montevideo at present, we saw that the whole thing was a farce..."

Rumão confirmed that Brizola had been engaged in constant planning to invade Rio Grande do Sul and set up a "popular government" here. The only trouble was that the plans never were put into effect. Brizola apparently felt that on Invasion Day, he could count on the support of "80%" of the sergeants in RGS, and on that of a large number of "nationalist" officers. Just how patriotic Brizola himself was, however, is something that his fellow-asylees began to wonder about.

"One thing I finally realized (concluded Rumão): We were involved in a communist plot. Sr. Leonel Brizola, I am now certain, is nothing but an adventurer. He wanted to turn Brazil - and still does - into a second Cuba. Although a bit late, the Brazilian sergeants, including me and several others still in exile, realized that the gaúcho ex-deputy and several of his companions are not working for the national interest. We were deceived for a long time by those people.

4. What Action Will Be Taken On The IPM Conclusions?

IPMs (investigating committees) have concluded their examination of documents, witnesses, and other types of evidence collected regarding a) Operação Pintassilgos ("Operation Goldfinch"); b) the activities of the student group Ação Popular (also known as the "Grupão"), and c) Leonel Brizola's "land reform" operations in the Sarandi, Bacopari and Banhado do Colégio estates. The first set of conclusions is supposed to be turned over to military justice for further action, although the question of competence has not been completely resolved. The other two will go to the civil courts.

With respect to Operation Goldfinch, the committees determined that there had in fact been plotting, under the leadership of Brizola, with the object of creating a climate of violence in Rio Grande do Sul, and of launching an attack which was expected to turn into an uprising, in turn leading to the conversion of RGS into a base for the reconquest of Brazil by "nationalist" elements. A sizable number of Brizola's former associates here, including such well-known figures as Sereno Chaise, Wilson Vargas, João Caruso, José Lamaison Pôrto, and even persons less obviously sympathetic toward Brizola were described as constituting a sort of "general staff" which was prepared to spring into action on or shortly after the time the "goldfinches" made their passes. With the exception of Sereno, who has remained in captivity for some time, in spite of the heartbreaking appeals of his

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attractive wife Terezinha, most of the above-named persons are walking about in uneasy, but nevertheless genuine freedom. One wonders what conditions must be met before they can be rearrested. In the meantime, Captain Alfredo Ribeiro Daudt, the man in whose possession the actual O.G. plans were found, is reported to have checked in safely in Montevideo and to have requested political asylum there.

With regard to the Grupão, the IPM came to the conclusion that it had been infiltrated by extreme leftists to the point that its cultural program differed in no respect from the straight communist line, while its plans for action were in complete harmony with those of Brizola et al. To wit:

"Their objectives could be divided into two tendencies, as follows:

- 1) By means of class warfare, to bring about the violent, radical and revolutionary overthrow of the whole social, political and economic structure of Brazil, in order to replace it by a socialist dictatorship;
- 2) A clandestine struggle designed to bring back the former Goulart regime, by means of agitation among the more restless elements of the population, the freeing of political prisoners and liaison with pro-Brizola elements.

While this division into "tendencies" seems somewhat arbitrary, the IPM found impressive numbers of young intellectuals in the ranks of both, possibly the better sort, including several priests, on the "counter-revolutionary" side (tendency 2 above).

Archbishop Dom Vicente Scherer of Porto Alegre had the following to say regarding the list of names made public by the IPM:

"..... I must add that the young people in question are, if my information is correct, students dedicated to their work, who, as Catholics, can only reject and drive out communist doctrine and methods. My opinion is the same regarding the professors and graduates who are mentioned in the report. The members of the secular clergy who are named therein may count upon my paternal affection and feel certain that I consider them as free from guilt."

As there seems to be no doubt concerning Dom Vicente's devotion to democratic ideals, either he or the IPM must be in error.

No one has thus far come forth to claim that Brizola's motives in promoting his "land reform" operations were either a) altruistic, or b) apolitical, but someone probably will.

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PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. Domestic: More than the ups and downs of city and state politics the man on the street is concerned with the continued price rises. Associados' Diário de Notícias, last week commented editorially also on the increasing cost of automobiles of national manufacture and expressed "apprehension that our absorption of the vehicles will be saturated" not by lack of demand but on account of price.

The following day the same paper banner headlined Castelo Branco's statement: "The Federal Government Fears a Perturbed '65 if Prices Do Not Fall". The porto-alegrenses appear to agree.

2. International: Associados' lead editorial Sunday, January 10, was a highly approving analysis of President Johnson's State of the Union Message. It 1) approved his concern with U.S. pockets of poverty, 2) found, on the international scene, his comments very intelligent and appropriate to reduce tensions and lessen resentments, and, finally 3) "What he says regarding Latin America, which touches us most closely, merits general attention... Continental solidarity, based on the preservation of democratic principles, in the underdeveloped areas martyred by misery... will find in the Johnson government the support which Kennedy dispensed [with the added advantage] of the past three years of experience. These are the bases for our best hopes in the international year begun auspiciously with President Johnson's address at the Capitol." The editorial had originally appeared in O Jornal, Rio de Janeiro, on January 7.

3. Educational Affairs

Secondary Education: State Secretary of Education Ariosto Jaeger announced a project to make "Secondary education free only for those unable to pay". In draft bill form, the matter is expected to come up for consideration in the special session of the State Legislature due to convene January 11. In the course of his presentation to the press he cited impressive statistics on the rise in secondary school population from 1950 to date:

	(1955	-	1964)
Enrollment	13,384		57,391
Teachers	913		5,081
	(1962	-	1964)
Costs	Cr\$2.9 billion		Cr\$15 billion

Passage of the Secretary's proposal would require amendment of the State Constitution, but it is a sound, realistic one.

Higher Education: The State Students' Union has not gone into recess during the

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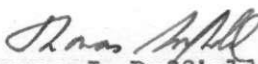
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summer vacation months. Two projects, one slightly frivolous, one practical, are uppermost in the minds of its directors: the price of theater tickets and the spiralling maintainance costs of the state's numerous university student restaurants. In consultation with the BPAO, Victor Della M  a, president of the Union has been in contact with Food For Peace representatives in Rio de Janeiro and locally. He presents a well documented case for inclusion of these restaurants in the School Lunch Program. If he succeeds, it will be a victory for the democratic student element of great psychological as well as practical value. Over 19,000 students are involved.


Thomas J. Duffield
American Consul

cc: Embassy, Rio
Pol. Section, Brasilia
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