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1965 JAN 3 AM 11 24

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JAN 4 - 1965
DATE: DEC 29 1964

FROM : Amconsul Porto Alegre

SUBJECT : WEEKLY SUMMARY No. 26

REF :

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POLITICAL

1. State Politics In RGS Still Confused As Year Draws To Close
2. Sereno Still In Durance Vile
3. Carrier Pigeons Consigned to Spit?

1. State Politics In RGS Still Confused As Year Draws To Close

The Partido Libertador (PL) which played a major part in bringing about the resignations of key members of the Meneghetti government, has been unable to secure the return to the Treasury post of Dr. Ruy Cirne Lima, who stated somewhat cryptically that he was unwilling "to succeed himself" in the job. This is interpreted to mean that he might have come back, but only if the status quo ante had been restored to the extent of including the return of Paulo Brossard to Interior and Justice, and of the former incumbents to the positions of Chief and Sub-Chief of the Civil Household. As two of these positions had already been filled, such a restoration was impossible. It also appeared that Dr. Cirne Lima was displeased with other recent changes in the government, which include the upgrading of the Gabinete de Assessoria e Planejamento (Advising and Planning Staff), and the appointment of Dr. Othelo Sanches Laurent (UDN) as its permanent head. Dr. Cirne Lima viewed the GAP as "unnecessary" and "expensive", and had recommended that it be abolished.

Unless the PL changes its collective mind, it is committed to withdraw from Meneghetti's ADP coalition, leaving the Governor to search in such unlikely areas as the MTR for a new partner, with the Interior and Treasury

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FORM 4-62 DS-323

Drafted by: TJDuffield:gb

Contents and Classification Approved by:

Clearances:

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1965 JAN 3 PM 12 46

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Action Assigned To: Mr. Quinn - ARA/BIC

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PORTO ALEGRE

posts still to be filled. Although he presumably has some misgivings, the face Meneghetti presents to the world is one of tranquility and even of jocularity.

2. Sereno Still in Durance Vile

Although practically all of his cassado PTB comrades who had been arrested for questioning in connection with "Operation Goldfinch" were released in time to spend Christmas with their families, former Mayor of Porto Alegre Sereno Chaise remains in confinement. For days, the papers have predicted that he would be let out any minute now, but their prediction has so far failed to materialize.

Many times arrested Wilson Vargas, Brizola's Secretary of Power and Communications, is understood to have stated in no uncertain terms that he has finally broken for good with the Valente dos Pampas, and that he wants no more of him or of his plotting. Unfortunately, poor Wilson has made such statements many times before, but Brizola somehow always managed to lure or to whip him back into line. There seems to be good reason, however, to believe that a growing number of LB's former supporters are finding his antics increasingly tiresome.

3. Carrier Pigeons Consigned to Spit?

III Army's Chief of Communications suddenly realized with a start that carrier pigeons of the feathered variety were quite as capable of carrying subversive messages between Rio Grande do Sul and points south as their two-legged counterparts. A casual inspection revealed that the birds could actually be purchased in the public market, although presumably as yet untested in actual flight to Uruguay. A "census" of pigeon lofts was ordered, and it looked as if things would go hard with any pigeon fanciers who failed to turn in accurate tallies to the Columbophile Society. As for the innocent but potentially dangerous market pigeons, one suggestion was that they should be "sacrificed" and form the basis of a tasty meal for the inmates of the Santa Casa da Misericórdia (semi-municipal, semi-religious charitable hospital).


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