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# AIRGRAM

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1. Magalhães Pinto Calls for Abolishing Political Parties

Returning with fervor to a theme that he has espoused intermittently since the anti-GOULART revolt, Governor MAGALHÃES PINTO highlighted the week by launching what he hopes will be a nationwide campaign in favor of the abolition of all political parties and the creation of new parties (several, not just one) to take their place. (Consulate's A-28, September 23, 1964). Speaking on television and in press conferences to which he had invited correspondents from Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo, the Minas Gerais Governor declared on September 19 that the Institutional Act should have extinguished the parties, but that the omission could be repaired. He called for a presidential message to Congress advocating the abolition of all parties.

Magalhães Pinto defended his position claiming that the country needed new parties, with new doctrines and new leaders. He warned

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that otherwise the nation would run the danger of seeing its political life polarized into pro-Revolutionary and anti-Revolutionary camps. Regarding his own future political plans, Magalhães Pinto again disavowed his presidential candidacy within the UDN.

On other topical problems, Magalhães Pinto restated his disagreement with some of the CASTELO BRANCO administration's economic measures, and he mildly criticized the AMFORP purchase. Speaking with his state's financial problems in mind, the Governor condemned what he called the "financial dictatorship" of the Federal Government.

Comment. Magalhães Pinto's unavowed presidential candidacy and the state's perennial financial difficulties lie at the root of his current campaign, which has thus far met with little support in state political circles. This probably does not bother the Governor, since it is the President and his advisors whom he hopes to convince of the efficacy of his scheme. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

## 2. Ill-Treatment of Political Prisoners Denied

The President's decision to investigate charges that political prisoners had been tortured drew comment from civilian and military authorities in Minas, all of whom denied any tortures in the state. During his September 19 interviews, Governor Magalhães Pinto declared that political prisoners had not been tortured. Colonel Dióscoro VALLE, Commander of the Belo Horizonte Army garrison, and State Secretary of Public Safety José MONTEIRO DE CASTRO also denied any ill-treatment of prisoners, and pointed out that no allegations had ever been made of torture in Minas.

Comment. To the best of the Consulate's knowledge, these denials by the Minas authorities are accurate. (UNCLASSIFIED)

## 3. General Malan Assumes Command of 4th Military Region

Major General Alfredo Souto MALAN assumed command of the First Army's 4th Military Region on September 15, in a ceremony realized at Regional Headquarters in Juiz de Fora (For background, see Consulate's A-27, September 18, Item No. 3). In his farewell speech, departing Regional Commander, Major General Carlos Luiz GUEDES, again affirmed his desire to have remained in Minas Gerais where he noted he had spent 21 years of his military career.

Comment. General Guedes will not remain away from Minas very long. He plans to take a month's leave in Minas during October, during which time he hopes to complete a book he has been writing about the March 31 revolt. The tentative title of his book is It Had To Be Minas. (UNCLASSIFIED)

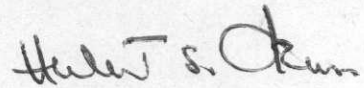
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4. Bank Office for Co-operative Housing Opens

The State Savings Bank on September 18 opened its first branch -- and the first in Brazil -- designed to provide low-income wage earners with a mechanism for investing in co-operative housing within the framework of the new GOB housing law. The Minas Gerais housing plan was drafted with the collaboration of USAID advisors, and the President of the State Savings Bank paid generous tribute to the Alliance For Progress in his inaugural speech. (UNCLASSIFIED)



Herbert S. Okun  
American Consul

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