

ORIGIN/ACTION

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

FOR RM USE ONLY

RM/R	REP	AF
1		
ARA	EUR	FE
NEA	CU	IND
E	P	IO
L	FBO	AID
5/5 10	5/P 1	5/C 1
AGR	COM	FRB
INT	LAB	TAR
TR	XMB	AIR
ARMY	CIA	NAVY
OSD	USIA	NSA

A-168

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Air Pouch

HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department of State

INFO : Porto Alegre, Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
FEB 13 8 31 AM 1968

FROM : AmEmbassy Office BRASILIA

DATE: February 9, 1968

SUBJECT: The "Politico Military Crisis" in Rio Grande do Sul

REF : Rio's 4984 and 5033

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

FEB 16 1968

1. Enclosed is a memorandum from the Consulate in Porto Alegre on the recent troop alert in Brazil.

2. Comment. While reported at the time in reftels and partially superseded by subsequent events, the report nonetheless provides an interesting and comprehensive account of behind-the-scenes maneuvering in Rio Grande do Sul military circles as Lacerda's January 27 Sao Paulo address was approaching. The statement in paragraph 5 concerning the adhesion to the Frente of Adhemar de BARROS and Janio QUADROS is inaccurate since neither has yet joined the movement.

3. Tremors on the national scene jiggle Rio Grande's political seismographs more than they do in most states, because Brazil's southernmost state claims VARGAS, GOULART and BRIZOLA as native sons and the old PTB still retains strength in the state.

TUTHILL

EO25X1 STATE

Downgraded at 12-year intervals.
Not automatically declassified.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FOR DEPT. USE ONLY

☒ In ☐ Out

Drafted by: Porto Alegre:ACHewitt:mjm:2/8/68

Contents and Classification Approved by: POL Herbert S. Okun

Clearances:

Declassified Authority:
23235 By: Dorothy Johnson
Date: 08-16-2012

NW#:23235 DocId:24101368

SANITIZED COPY
SENSITIVE
INFORMATION DELETED

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 969600

1968 FEB 13 PM 4 12

COPYFLO-PBR

Action: NRA/SR-VAN-File

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

12-168
Rumbar

TO : AmEmbassy Office, Brasilia
FROM : American Consul, Porto Alegre
INFO : Rio de Janeiro, ARA/BR, INR/CS/BR
SUBJECT: The "Politico-Military Crisis" in Rio Grande do Sul

1. What the press eventually came to call the politico-military crisis got under way in Rio Grande do Sul on January 20, 1968, with a meeting of the High Commands of the III Army and the V Air Zone under the direction of General Breno Borges Fortes, Acting Commander in Chief of the III Army in the absence of General Braga. An unusual feature of the meeting was the presence of General Iba, Secretary of Security of the State Government, and of the generals commanding units stationed in the interior of the state. The subject of the meeting has not been made public though its general direction became known subsequently. Immediately after the meeting General Carlos Alberto de Fontoura, Chief of Staff of the III Army, and General Iba traveled to Canela where Governor Walter Peracchi Barcellos was vacationing for discussions with him. Peracchi cut short his vacation and returned to Porto Alegre on January 22, as did Dr. Joao Dentice, his chief political advisor. A number of other leading political figures have trickled back into town in the course of the past week.

2. On January 22 General Fontoura traveled to Rio de Janeiro and reportedly met with President Costa e Silva. Fontoura was formerly Chief of Cabinet for the President when Costa e Silva was Minister of the Army, and is personally close to the President. He is also the most politically aware and active of the General Officers on duty in the South. In addition to seeing the President, Fontoura also reported briefly to General Braga, who is vacationing in Rio. Fontoura returned to Porto Alegre on January 23. In addition the results of the January 20 meeting were passed to Marshal Marcio de Souza e Mello, Minister of Air, who happened to be in Porto Alegre that afternoon to dedicate a housing project.

3. [REDACTED] the January 20 meeting was held in response to instructions received by telephone from Rio, allegedly originating in the Office of the President. The instructions, which were reportedly sent to all commands, called on the Armed Forces to take steps to counter "subversion of military and Revolutionary Institutions." In the reports received by the Consulate the subversives were identified rather vaguely as followers of Lacorda, leftists, the clergy, and even de Gaullists apparently meaning neutralists or third world advocates. What steps were suggested or decided upon at the meeting

E025X1 STATE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SANITIZED COPY
SENSITIVE
INFORMATION DELETED

NW#:23235 DocId:24101368

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 969000

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

A-168
Branford

is unknown, but the fact that the meeting took place coupled with the subsequent movements of important people has caused fluttering in the political dovecotes. Thus far the only concrete result of the flurry has been a telegram sent by Solano Borges, State President of ARENA, to Sen. Daniel Krieger, National President, promising the unqualified support of the Party to the Government and the Revolution in "any circumstances whatever."

4. In the course of the past week the Post has canvassed its contacts and come up with the following analysis for what it is worth: The military is apparently reacting to two stimuli. One is a general feeling of frustration and impotence in the face of mounting criticism from the press, politicians of all colorations, the clergy, and so on. In fact the statement made by ARENA Vice Leader Magalhaes on his recent resignation may have been the trigger beginning the chain reaction. According to the best information available the military has now resolved to defend itself and the Revolution with vigor whenever and however attacked.

5. A more immediate problem is that of Carlos Lacerda and the Frente Ampla. The military does not feel that there is any immediate danger that Lacerda might attempt to unseat the Government, but they are growing increasingly uneasy over his staying power and the possibility that some abrupt turn in the course of events might provide him with mass support and also, perhaps, with a vital element of support in the military itself. Lacerda is, in short, the perpetual alternative and the danger always exists that the apple might drop smack in his lap, especially if he shakes the tree enough. The anxiety of the military over Lacerda has been increased by the adhesion to the Frente of Ademar de Barros and Janio Quadros.

6. The immediate focus of military concern is the anniversary celebration to be held in Sao Paulo on January 27, which Lacerda was originally scheduled to attend. [REDACTED] the military plans an impressive show of force on this occasion. Jet aircraft and probably also troops from this region will participate. A source in the State Secretariat of Security reports that the SNI has been alerted on a national basis, and that Lacerda will not be allowed to make further attacks on the Government. The implication was that Lacerda is to be taken into custody if he tries it.

7. What might be called the "forward defense" of the Revolution is apparently to be concentrated in three states, Sao Paulo, Minas Gerais, and Rio Grande do Sul, which are regarded as most

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

E025X1 STATE

SANITIZED COPY
SENSITIVE
INFORMATION DELETED

NW#: 23235 DocId: 24101368

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 969600

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

A-168
Ex-168
3

susceptible to the blandishments of Lacerda and the Frente. This state was included in the list because of the hard core of PTB strength that still exists. Lacerda has been rather unsuccessful in winning over the PTB stalwarts, but the military seems to feel even such a potential following is dangerous.

8. Although the public is following events with interest there is little excitement and no apprehension on the future course of events. Politicians of both parties are re-insuring themselves by making statements in support of the Government and the Revolution, and the followers of the MDB and the Frente, fearing a possible crackdown, are keeping a wary eye on the future.

HEWITT

Drafted by: ACHewitt Jr, January 25, 1968

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NW#:23235 DocId:24101368

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 969000

BX 1901

DEPARTMENT OF STATE 67-69 Central Files POL

SYSTEMATIC REVIEW WITHDRAWAL CARD NO. 57-4

DATE: 2/9/68 MSG NO.: A-168 TYPE: A1

FROM: Brasilia TO: State

SUBJECT: crises in Rio Grande do Sul

DOCUMENT ORIGINATOR: DEPT. OF STATE: ☒ OTHER: ☐

BASIS FOR WITHDRAWAL:

☒ CONTAINS NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION

☐ OTHER LAW OR REGULATION

W
I
T
H
D
R
A
W
A
L

N
O
T
I
C
E

WITHDRAWAL NOTICE

RG: 59

Box: 01901 Folder: 0001 Document: 2

Series:

Copies: 1 Pages: 4

ACCESS RESTRICTED

The item identified below has been withdrawn from this file:

Folder Title: POL 57, 67-69 Central File

Document Date: 02-09-1968

Document Type: Airgram

From: AmEmbassy Office, Brasilia To: State

Subject: A-168

In the review of this file this item was removed because access to it is restricted. Restrictions on records in the National Archives are stated in general and specific record group restriction statements which are available for examination.

NND: 37817

Withdrawn: 01-28-2005 by: Michael Rhodes

FOIA RETRIEVAL #: 37817 01901 0001 2

*Sanitized Copy Attached
8/22/12*

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 969000