

# AIRGRAM

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FROM : Amembassy RIO DE JANEIRO

DATE: January 15, 1969

SUBJECT : Brazilian Political Panorama

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 ANALYSIS BRANCH

SUGGESTED DISTRIBUTION

O Estado de São Paulo of January 11, 1969 carries an article prepared by its office in Rio de Janeiro which seems to give a good picture of the present state of perplexity of the political classes here concerning the Brazilian political panorama and its perspectives. The following is a free translation of the article:

"Few Congressmen are still in Rio and visit the old Senate to obtain information which may enable them to make plans for their near future. There is no anxiety or panic in the group which insists in remaining but only the desire to obtain objective data which may orient the reformulation of their individual lives.

These are data which are impossible to obtain. There is no civilian or military voice, inside or outside the Government, capable of providing clear and correct information. This information cannot be given because it simply does not exist. There is no one who can answer this apparently easy question: when is Congress going to be reopened and for what?

The parliamentary sources which used to obtain their information from the Government are beginning to dry out. They have drawn in because they feel that they are being treated with distance, distrust, suspicion and placed in quarantine. This is not prejudice. There is a natural scruple in admitting and participating in a conversation for which no one finds himself prepared. Any phrase may be misinterpreted and any promise which may hint any hope is denied by facts and leaves behind a track of embarrassment.

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President Costa e Silve gave an example of prudence and objectivity in stating that the political horizon is cloudy and that no opening could be tried with realism before certain preliminaries had been concluded.

The revolutionary process is in a phase in which political reformulation is still far away. At the moment to skip stages in order to precipitate the return to normality would certainly lead to an opposite result, with the irritation of the military and the consequent exacerbation of the punitive cycle.

There are clear examples of the caution and insecurity with which the Government is taking furtive steps in the path of politics. A source in the Ministry of Justice, a member of the Minister's Office, leaked the information that a Complementary Edict establishing indirect elections for State Governors in 1970 was being elaborated. This is a measure which is obvious and inevitable as a statement of facts. Well, this brought about an official denial by the Minister.

From the moment in which the President of the Republic refused to receive a Committee of Senators, it became evident that it was not time to re-start the conversation. The interruption will have to be longer and marked by reciprocal misunderstanding. There is speculation, and always will be. No such thing as a political vacuum exists.

The concerns of the political classes which have reached the Government are the same, although the solutions are not. However, they must be considered as speculations without a foreseeable duration.

The every-day politics is filled with rumors of decisions which are being prepared within the Government and in an area which cannot be seen through by the curiosity of a class which has been put aside. There have been rumors that lists of cassations are being prepared: an initial list of 47 deputies which has been reduced to less than half for prudence purposes, and between 4 and 7 senators.

One cannot speak of reconstruction when the old and condemned building is still being torn down and no one knows what will be left amongst the ruins.

The denial of Minister Jarbas Passarinho that he has been selected to be the President of ARENA and the leader of the Government in the Senate is a typical sign of the time. The information has come from a so-called official source. The denial only shows the lack of opportunity. Colonel Jarbas Passarinho is still the Minister of Labor of the Government which is preparing a list of cassations. He has not assumed his chair in the Senate yet as the herald of the Government for the task of reconstruction."

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