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FROM : Amcongen SAO PAULO

DATE: December 24, 1964

SUBJECT: Comments of Deputy Franco Montoro on the Partido Democrata Cristão (PDC)

REF : CA-5056 of November 10, 1964

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Attached is a memorandum of conversation prepared by Consul Robert Reynolds reporting Deputy Franco MONTORO's comments on the growth of the Partido Democrata Cristão in Brazil. Montoro predicts important future gains in the strength of the PDC.

Niles W. Bond
Minister Consul General

Attachment:

As stated.

Action Assigned to RAR
Action Taken PDC
Date of Action 1/6/65
Office Symbol RAR
Name of Officer S. K. Brown
Direction J. L.

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WLWight:ll 12/23/64

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William L. Wight, Jr.

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

DATE: December 11, 1964

PLACE: Montoro's Home

SUBJECT: Growth of the Partido Democrata Cristão (PDC)

PARTICIPANTS: Andre Franco Montoro, Federal Deputy, PDC
Robert Reynolds, American Consul, São Paulo

According to Andre Franco Montoro, Federal Deputy from São Paulo and candidate for mayor in the election scheduled for March 1965, the Partido Democrata Cristão (PDC) to which he belongs has been in existence for about fifteen years. The PDC first put up candidates for the national congress in 1950 but failed to win a single seat. The following elections--in 1954, 1958, and 1962--saw the PDC gain steadily each time, achieving a high-water mark of twenty federal deputies and two senators in the 1962 election. Montoro predicts that the PDC will elect about seventy federal deputies in the next congressional elections. He notes that the party has also done well in São Paulo State. Paulistas elected four federal and nine State deputies from the PDC ranks in 1958, then boosted these figures in 1962 to nine and twelve, Montoro recalls.

The most resounding successes enjoyed to date by the PDC have been in the municipal elections recently held in the State of Parana. As of December 11, according to Montoro, eighteen of the mayors whose electoral victories had been confirmed were from the PDC, while the second place União Democrática Nacional (UDN) trailed far behind with only four.

The PDC is the only Brazilian party that is built on an ideological base rather than on a complex of private political machines, says Montoro. There are several leaders of national stature. Montoro would rank himself as number three, after Minister of Transportation and Public Works Juarez TAVORA and Governor Ney BRAGA of Parana. There is one other PDC Governor, Pedro GONDIM of Paraíba, but Montoro discounts him as lacking strong party loyalty.

Up until shortly before the revolution in April there was a tendency among some PDC members to condone or actually to seek alliances with the Communists under the euphemism of the "frente unica". The best known of these was Paulo de Tarso (SANTOS), the last in a succession of Education Ministers under President João GOULART. Montoro explains that de Tarso was obliged to leave the party through a series of PDC maneuvers during the period January to mid-March 1964. De Tarso was not exactly thrown out of the PDC, but by failing to comply with a party directive he implicitly resigned from the organization. There is today no longer a frente unica wing within the PDC, according to Montoro.

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Now that the PTB has likewise been purged of its less responsible elements, there is a distinct possibility that the PDC may merge with the PTB to form a new party bearing the name "Partido Trabalhista Cristão" or something similar. Montoro believes that the two groups are sufficiently compatible to permit this.

Montoro served as Labor Minister during the period of parliamentary government that followed the resignation of President Janio QUADROS in August 1961. Although under the parliamentary system Montoro was responsible to Prime Minister Tancredo Neves, he was on occasion subjected to pressure by Goulart in relation to certain appointments. On at least one such occasion that Montoro recalls, he refused to submit to this pressure. This was when Goulart strongly urged him to appoint as regional labor delegate in one of the Northeastern states a man whom Montoro knew to be a Communist.

Montoro's proudest achievement during his service as Minister of Labor was the introduction of the family salary law (lei do salario familiar). By coincidence he left the Ministry and returned to Congress just when the bill was about to be reconsidered; he was thus able to steer it toward its eventual passage by the Congress.

The PDC has a youth wing known as the Juventude Democrata Cristão (JDC). It is still small in number, but PDC leaders are satisfied that it is developing well as a preparatory organism for the PDC itself. There is no connection between the JDC and the Juventude Universitaria Catolica (JUC), whose membership is limited to university students, although some students are members of both groups. Montoro has personally been critical of the JUC because of its frequent willingness to ally itself with Communists under the frente unica banner.

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