

AIRGRAM

FOR RM USE ONLY

RM/R	REP	AF
1		
ARA	EUR	FE
NEA	CU	INR
		5
E	P	IO
	1	2
L	FBO	AID
AGR	COM	FRB
INT	LAB	TAR
TR	XMB	AIR
		4
ARMY	CIA	NAVY
5	10	5
OSD	USIA	NSA
15	8	3
		NSC 3

A-31
NO.
TO : Department of State

CONFIDENTIAL

1963 OCT 14 AM 8 30

AIR POUCH

HANDLING INDICATOR
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
OCT 14 1963

RM/AN
ANALYSIS & DISTRIBUTION
BRANCH

OCT 12 1963

FROM : Amembassy, BRASILIA Office

DATE: October 9, 1963

SUBJECT: Friction in PTB over State of Siege Request:
"No-confidence" Vote against Bocaluva Cunha

REF :

SUMMARY

Reflecting their discontent with the handling of President Goulart's request for a state of siege, a PTB caucus on October 8 by 45-36 voted "no- confidence" in party Chamber Leader Bocaluva Cunha. His first reaction, however, was to refuse to resign. He said those who wished to oust him must get the signatures of a majority of the entire PTB bench, that is, 58 of the 114 PTB deputies.

§ § § § § § § § § § § § §

On October 5, the day after President Goulart's request for a state of siege was presented to the Congress, the PTB forces in Congress met to consider their position. Following the meeting, a note was issued, stating the party's support of the President. The note read:

"The PTB bench has decided, unanimously, to reaffirm its integral and unrestricted support of the Government of President João Goulart and the message sent by him to the Congress, requesting Constitutional measures to confront the threat to the Nation of

GROUP 3

Downgraded at 12-year intervals,
not automatically declassified.

CONFIDENTIAL

FOR DEPT. USE ONLY

☒ In ☐ Out

FORM DS-223
4-62

Drafted by:

POL:Werner/rm

Contents and Classification Approved by:
Robert W. Dean/JKappel

Clearances:

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 939529

OCT 15 1963
FILE
No Action
ARA/LA/BR
R. Burton

CONFIDENTIAL

Airgram A-31
Page 2
Brasilia Office

internal disorder. It was decided, furthermore, to confer the fullest powers on Leader Bocaiuva Cunha to proceed with understandings with other parliamentary forces and allied popular movements, with the objective of achieving large-scale support for the government's position, in terms of the message sent to Congress, in order that the orientation between the Government and those popular and nationalist forces, in defense of the reform of the juridical structure of the country and of economic emancipation, be strengthened in the exercise of the government's measures."

The newspapers of October 6 that carried this message also noted that soon after its release Bocaiuva Cunha had unsuccessfully attempted to recall the note.

In the afternoon of October 6, Bocaiuva called a press conference and issued the following note:

"The unlimited credit enjoyed by President Goulart, as a result of his firm connection to the working classes and to popular aspirations, persuaded the PTB to approve the request for a state of siege, despite the natural objections against this measure among the popular sectors and in the PTB bench itself. However, the reactionary character which has been imposed on this instrument, accentuated by the obstacles to the amendments that the PTB intended to present, with the object of protecting union rights, the right to assemble, protection against illegal search, and the limitation of the state of siege to Guanabara and São Paulo, where the foci of reaction are concentrated in the persons of Governors Carlos Lacerda and Ademar de Barros, I am obliged to reappraise the position of my party, so that we are true to our popular origins and intransigent in our opposition to the forces of reaction.

For these reasons, conscious that I am fulfilling my duty as leader of the PTB, I will defend before our bench a revision of our position with regard to the state of

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 939529

CONFIDENTIAL

Airgram A-31
Page 3
Brasilia Office

siege, henceforth holding it to be inopportune, in view of the anti-labor character which, in my view, it has come to assume."

This about-face by Bocaiuva understandably upset the bulk of the party which, on the previous day, had dutifully, if reluctantly, decided to support the President in the seemingly impossible task of getting his proposal through Congress. Ironically, it now seems evident that Bocaiuva acted on the knowledge that the President, who had been in conference with CGT leaders in Rio, had decided that on the next day he would withdraw this request. Other members of the grupo compacto, in addition to Bocaiuva, seemed to be in on the President's decision. Almino Afonso and Sergio Magalhaes, upon their arrival in Brasilia from Rio in the afternoon of October 6, told reporters that they were firmly opposed to the state of siege request.

October 7 was largely taken up with the plenary sessions that accepted the President's withdrawal of the siege request. But on October 8, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. the PTB held a bitter caucus which culminated in a 45-36 vote of "no confidence" by secret ballot, in Bocaiuva. The only defense of Bocaiuva came from grupo compacto deputies. During the hot discussion there was a personal dispute between Bocaiuva and Zaire Nunes (Rio Grande do Sul) in which the latter reportedly attempted to draw his pistol but was restrained. During the course of the meeting, several Presidential advisers, including Darci Ribeiro, as well as the President himself, reportedly by phone attempted to blunt the attack on Bocaiuva. Following the vote, Bocaiuva announced that he had no intention of resigning the leadership and that anyone who desired to oust him from that post should address a petition to that effect to the Presidency of the Chamber of Deputies with the signatures of a majority of the PTB bench, that is, 58 of the 114 PTB deputies.

COMMENT: Whether or not Bocaiuva leaves the leadership, the PTB's face will be red for some time. It is to be hoped that the moderate wing of the party, which often allows the grupo compacto to use it for a doormat, (see A.2, Sept 6, 1963) will not allow its anger to dissipate and will keep a closer eye on the grupo than it has in the past.

For the Charge'd'Affaires (a.i.)

Robert W. Dean

Robert W. Dean *per MS*
Counselor of Embassy

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 939529