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AIR POUCH

TO : Department of State 1963 JUN 14 AM 8 39

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

RM/AN
ANALYSIS & DISTRIBUTION
BRANCH

FROM : Amembassy BRASILIA Office DATE: June 7, 1963

SUBJECT : Borges Returns from Europe Empty Handed

FILE
 No Action
 ARA:LA/BR
 R. Burton

JUN 18 1963

REF :

Governor Mauro Borges of Goias returned from his trip to Europe on May 28, 1963 almost as unexpectedly as he had departed forty days earlier. In statements to the press made upon his arrival in Brasilia and the next day when he reassumed his position, Borges indicated satisfaction with his trip, in particular with his visit to Israel, and he announced that he had sought no monetary assistance during his travels (contrary to many high hopes). The governor took advantage of this opportunity to once again criticize the Alliance for Progress. He said...."we will have to use our own money since the gold from the Alliance for Progress isn't coming". His only comments on the political scene in Brasil related to Reforma Agraria. He said that there must be a constitutional ammendment if there is to be real reform.

During his trip Mauro visited Israel for about four weeks and studied the operation of the kibutz. He was very impressed by the fast development of agriculture in Israel as a result of these cooperative developments but he felt that the program as operated in Israel might not be completely applicable in Goias. "It is necessary", he said "that we take our specific characteristics into consideration....and not use ready-made clothes".

GROUP 4
 Downgraded at 3-year intervals.
 Declassified 12 years after
 date of origin.

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FORM 4-62 DS-323

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Drafted by: ADMIN:RGershenson:kma

Contents and Classification Approved by: J. Koppel

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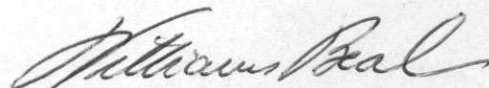
Borges also visited Switzerland, Italy and Yugoslavia. In the first two countries he apparently followed the usual tourist routes. There is little information on what he did while in Yugoslavia. Some Goiania residents feel that Mauro very cleverly made iron curtain contacts in Yugoslavia, not going behind the curtain itself in order to avoid repercussions from the U.S. Others report that the Yugoslav visit was merely a continuation of his tourism. Finally, it is often said that Mauro really went to Yugoslavia to arrange markets for Goias crystal. All the foregoing is in reality only guesswork since no one knows the facts. As time passes, what Borges really did, and the outcome of his trip may become clearer.

Upon his arrival at Brasilia, the governor visited PSD Deputy from Goias Geraldo de Pina (a member of the Frente Parlamentar Nacional) who was badly injured in an automobile accident. The Deputado reportedly asked Borges why he had gone on his trip and the governor replied that he left to give the states' financial problems an opportunity to resolve themselves, i.e.--taxes would come in but no one would spend them. This reason for the trip seems rather far fetched; that Borges actually said this, however is reported by the Deputado's wife, an Embassy employee, who was present during the conversations.

Comment : Borges speaks and acts as if his visit was little more than a vacation, but no one seems to believe him. The governor must have realized that in his absence there would be problems, not to mention many forceful and uncountered attacks on him by opposition parties. For example, he must have known that without his careful handling the PTB-PSD alliance in the state, already showing signs of strain, might well come apart. (This has happened, at least in the State Assembly.) Further, party discussions concerning a candidate to replace Borges have been underway and it would seem unwise for Borges to voluntarily be away during such deliberations.

Borges is a good politician and as such would not be expected to take a long vacation while in office. For these reasons, and because no one, including the Governor, has made a definitive statement of the reasons for his absence, the reporting officer is reluctant to accept the account that the governor just wanted to see the Kibutzim and take a vacation.

For the Ambassador:



Williams Beal
First Secretary of Embassy

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