

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: March 29

SUBJECT: Views of Leader Grantee Barretto Campello

PARTICIPANTS: Sebastiao Barretto Campello - Former Municipal Secretary  
of Public Works of Recife  
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During a recent courtesy call at the Office of Brazilian Affairs, Mr. Sebastiao Campello, former Municipal Secretary of Public Works of Recife and former president of the Municipal Directorate of the PDC, commented on the following topics:

President Castello Branco: Campello stated that he aligned himself with President Castello Branco who was a dedicated person although the President had given in to the pressures of the right. He stressed, however, that he did not necessarily support the Revolution. In his opinion, Castello Branco's programs were basically good ones, but he felt that the administration had failed to publicize its programs (citing the Agrarian Reform Law which few peasants knew about) and to convey their resultant benefits to the people. Campello continued that the GOB had erred seriously in obliterating the role of civilian leaders in favor of military leaders, since military figures will never have a popular following or support in that country.

Pernambuco elections: Campello said that prior to departing for the U.S. he had talked with General Muricy who confided that, reluctant at first, he was now very much a gubernatorial candidate. Campello thought that Cid Sampaio would have no difficulty in winning a direct election (the PDC, he said, had backed Cid in the Assembly mesa elections because Guerra was too conservative); as things stood, however, Cid didn't have a chance. Of possible military candidates, Muricy might be a good governor, far better than alternative hopefuls Colonel Bandeira and Costa Cavalcanti. However, President might seek to have civilian candidate such as Joao Roma (who would be horrible) or Paulo Maciel

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(who would be very good), but Campello did not know whether/President would try to intervene.

The future PDC: In Campello's opinion, the PDC was a party which had looked ahead and definitely had a future following the coming elections. He credited the PDC as being a party with an ideology appealing to the people, whereas other political parties in Brazil were personalistic and could not endure. He claimed that many prominent individuals were prepared to join in enlarging the new PDC, and that the new party would have an expanded area of operation. Campello said that Minister Ney Braga had assured him that such individuals as Minister Juarez Tavora, Carvalho Pinto (whom he alleged had already entered the PDC), Lomanto Jr. and Agnelo Alves (Mayor of Natal) would form the leadership of a new and expanded PDC. (He lamented, however, that Lomanto, Jr. was a forlorn "nobody") Asked about cane grower chief (and PDC State Deputy) Francisco Falcao, Campello said he was "crazy", and cited the "solution" he had suggested during the last sugar crisis: refuse to pay the minimum wage so that there would be violence and after 30-40 people were killed the Government would have to step in and bail everyone out.

Padre Crespo vs Padre Melo: Campello stated that he was instrumental in the days following the Revolution in saving the rural unions. He stated that shortly after the Revolution, Col. Antonio Bandeira had called him to the Colonel's office to consult on rural union leadership. When Campello suggested consulting with Padre Crespo, Bandeira grew incensed and called Crespo a communist. Bandeira then insisted Campello arrange a meeting with Padre Melo whom he trusted. Campello went on to say that in fact, it was Padre Crespo who held the confidence of the rural workers and who had performed past organizational services for the unions. On the other hand, Padre Melo was only an intermediary and a "show off". He claimed that once Melo had gained the upper hand the priest had "lost his head" and lost the struggle for leadership as a result.

In an earlier conversation with a non-government American, Campello expressed himself extensively on the need for political forces to have ideologies which could win the adherence of the people on whom these political forces must rely for support. He stressed that the PDC had this ideology, and, therefore, would emerge from the presently confused Brazilian political scene much stronger than it had been. He also commented that the U.S. would never win in Viet Nam because an ideology which could capture the Vietnamese people was absent.

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