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HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INFO : RIO DE JANEIRO, BRASILIA

FROM : Amconsul, BELO HORIZONTE

DATE: May 4, 1964

SUBJECT : Magalhães Pinto's Plan For UDN-PSD State Coalition Fails; Friction
Between Governor And Military Denied

REF : Consulate's A-68, dated April 28, 1964.

SUMMARY

Governor MAGALHÃES PINTO's first major political gambit since the overthrow of GOULART has ended in failure. His plan for a UDN-PSD Grand Coalition in Minas Gerais was stymied, at least temporarily, by opposition within the state UDN.

The Governor's working relationship with Generals MOURÃO and GUEDES has entered a delicate, uneasy phase. The problem was spotlighted by a day-long meeting between the three men, after which a statement was issued denying any friction among them.

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Governor Magalhães Pinto's efforts to form a supra-party state administration in Minas Gerais ended in at least temporary failure when PSD state Deputy Pío CANÊDO rejected the post of Secretary of Treasury on May 2, only two days after having announced that he would accept the cabinet position in Magalhães Pinto's UDN-dominated administration.

GROUP 3

Downgraded at 12-year intervals,
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Friction With Generals Denied. Magalhães Pinto spent most of May 2 conferring with Generals Mourao and Guedes, the two ranking Army officers in Minas Gerais. He first met with them alone; later they were joined by Vice President Alkmim and the Governor's principal cabinet officers -- Osvaldo PIERUCETTI (Interior), MONTEIRO DE CASTRO (Public Security), and Roberto RESENDE (Agriculture).

After the meeting, the following note was issued: "Governor Magalhães Pinto, General of the Army Olimpio Mourão Filho, and General of Brigade Carlos Luiz Guedes, in order to clarify public opinion in the face of attempts to distort the truth, reaffirm: (a) that the solidarity uniting them -- since the planning and executing of the revolutionary movement which Minas assumed the responsibility of unleashing -- is continuing in its totality; (b) that, moved by the same patriotic sentiment and the same spirit of fidelity to the ideals of the revolution, they remain completely united in the defense and execution of the objectives of the victorious movement." Interviewed after the meeting, General Guedes was quoted in the press as declaring that he has no intention of supplanting Magalhães Pinto as the state's chief executive.

Comment.

(1) Magalhães Pinto is likely to continue his efforts to form some sort of coalition administration in Minas, with the primary goal of enhancing his national stature and improving his presidential candidacy. Nonetheless, the Canêdo episode illustrates some of the practical difficulties he, or any politician, is likely to face in trying to unify such traditional opponents as the PSD and the UDN behind a common program. Sources close to the Governor have told the Consulate that Magalhães Pinto was aware of the problems he would encounter within the UDN because of the Canêdo nomination. Alkmim, however, demanded the right to name the PSD cabinet member, and Magalhães Pinto acquiesced in the belief that he could prevail upon his party to accept Canêdo by appealing to the "ideals of the revolution."

(2) Political maneuvering for the presidential succession also lay at the base of Magalhães Pinto's meeting with Generals Mourão and Guedes. The Governor's main goal here was to defend himself against charges of leftism emanating from adherents of his UDN rival, Guanabara Governor Carlos LACERDA. On April 26, Sandra CAVALCANTI, Secretary of Social Services in Guanabara, attacked Magalhães Pinto on a Belo Horizonte television program. Federal Deputy Euripides Cardoso de MENESES (UDN-Guanabara) called for the withdrawal of Magalhães Pinto's political rights, because of the Governor's alleged collusion with the Goulart regime, in a speech to Congress on April 30.

Magalhães Pinto does not appear to be in any present danger of losing his office, but his relationship with Generals Mourão and Guedes is not one of complete

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