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POLITICAL

1. Meneghetti Slowly Rebuilds His Government After ADP Survives Violent Wrenches
2. Minor Goldfinches Released in Yuletide Spirit
3. Affable French Ambassador Discusses Foreign Relations Freely

1. Meneghetti Slowly Rebuilds His Government After ADP Survives Violent Wrenches

As anticipated, the RGS governmental crisis touched off by accusations directed against members of the Governor's inner circle of advisers (See Weekly Summary No. 24, A-28, December 15, 1964) was aggravated by the resignations of Secretary of Interior and Justice Paulo Brossard (de Souza Pinto) - PL, and of Secretary of Public Works Synval Guazzelli - UDN. However, although both of the above-mentioned parties were practically torn apart during the course of "agonizing reappraisals" made by their state directorates, with the participation of members of the national Congress, they have not thus far pulled out of Meneghetti's coalition, the ADP (Ação Democrática Popular) which still retains its broad spectrum (PDC-PSD-PSP-UDN-PL-PRP) and its shaky one vote majority in the Legislative Assembly.

To replace the figures currently missing from his government, Meneghetti has appointed as Secretary of Public Works Engineer Waldir José Maggi - UDN, son-in-law of Senator Daniel Krieger; as Chief of the Civil Household Sr. João Petersen Jr. - PSD, and as Chief of the Military Household Lt.Col. Assis Fontoura de Almeida, the latter well known to the Consulate as one of the

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PORTO ALEGRE

more capable younger officers of field grade in the Brigada Militar. Efforts are being made by the PL to secure the return to the Treasury Secretariat of Dr. Ruy Cirne Lima, although the latter has been proposed for the Federal Supreme Court and will presumably accept the post if offered to him. Dr. Ary Burger, presently director of the Far South Regional Development Bank (BRDE) is a likely choice for the Treasury seat if Cirne Lima refuses to come back. José Zacchia (PDC) may be given José Mansur Filho's old position as director of the State Bank of RGS (BERGS). Who will be Secretary of Interior and Justice is anyone's guess, but it will unquestionably be a member of the PL or someone in every respect acceptable to that party. In the meantime, the seat is being held temporarily by Secretary of Economy Otávio Cardoso, also of the PL, and one of those most opposed to the party's withdrawal from the Meneghetti administration.

The PL's original intention to leave Meneghetti to his fate unless he met their conditions 100% was apparently altered by a few sober words from III Army Commander General Justino Alves Bastos, who, along with other Army figures, has consistently made it clear that the military wish, at least for the present, that Meneghetti remain in power. Senator Mem de Sá (PL-RGS) appears to have been one of the main figures in bringing his party to a more accommodating frame of mind.

Among the casualties and near casualties of the crisis, Colonel Orlando Pacheco, former chief of the Military Household, feels that he has been badly let down by the man he had served so well, and sent back to Meneghetti without comment a letter of appreciation which the Governor had addressed to him. The Governor's son, João Eurico, has somewhat rashly announced that he would bring suit against General Rui Sampaio, who had accused him of being a partner in the alleged nefarious dealings of Mansur and other "operators".

2. Minor Goldfinches Released in Yuletide Spirit

Although the Army seems to have been unable to determine clearly which political figures were most directly involved in plans for the proposed terrorist "Operation Goldfinch", and accordingly released and rearrested certain persons a number of times during a matter of days, it is now holding only such reliables (or unreliables, depending on the point of view) as João Caruso, Wilson Vargas, Sereno Chaise, and a few others most closely identified with the old Brizola gang. Kindly General Justino may yet let the above-mentioned out so that they may spend Christmas with their families. No comments have been made recently by III Army regarding the conclusions reached by the IPM (investigating committee) or the supposed present whereabouts of Captain Alfredo Ribeiro Daudt, last seen in confinement in the barracks of the 6th Military Police Company.

3. Affable French Ambassador Discusses Foreign Relations Freely

French Ambassador to Brazil Édouard de la Chauvinière arrived in Porto Alegre

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