

AIRGRAM

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INFO: Amembassy RIO DE JANEIRO
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FROM : Amconsul CURITIBA

DATE: March 11, 1964

SUBJECT: Trip of Paraná State Deputies to Soviet bloc countries

REF : Curitiba A-23 dated August 16, 1963

About seven months ago, Paraná State Deputy Miran Pirih obtained an invitation from the Yugoslav Embassy for a representative group of state deputies to visit Yugoslavia. The Polish Consul General lost no time in inviting the group to visit his country as did Czechoslovakia, USSR and Japan. The President of the Legislative Assembly managed to delay any action on the trip because he does not favor contacts with the Soviet bloc. (Consulate A-23 of August 16, 1963)

No more was heard about these invitations until March 1, when the Diario do Paraná published an item on the renewed Yugoslav invitation. It reported that PTB Deputy Miran Pirih would head a delegation of eight other deputies which would spend about forty five days visiting Yugoslavia and other behind the curtain countries: Cuba was also recently reported to have invited two of the deputies. The delegation reportedly consists of the following: João Mansur and José Afonso of the PDC; Haroldo Leon Peres of the UDN; Igo Losso of the PRT; and Almir Passos, independent. According to Deputy Pirih, the trip would start in Paris and continue on to Yugoslavia and Poland. The cost of travel to and from Europe would have to be paid by the delegation at a cost of about Cr\$ 1 million or half that if a discount can be arranged. The trip is to start in the first half of May.

The Reporting Officer called upon PDC Deputy Agostinho Rodrigues, President of the Legislative Assembly, to discuss this newspaper report. Deputy Rodrigues stated that he was going to try once again to stop the

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trip by refusing to allocate state funds for the travel. However, he believed that this tactic would not be effective this time since Deputy Pirih was working hard to obtain an expense-free trip from the bloc countries and it looked as though he might be successful. Deputy Rodrigues was particularly worried about the effect of such a trip on these non-communist deputies who are at times slightly left of center and the possibility that they, if favorably impressed by their reception in the bloc countries, would on their return make their views known.

Paraná is playing an increasingly important role in national affairs and its state deputies should be given the opportunity to personally compare what the democratic and Communist bloc have to offer. With Brazil trying to weaken its bonds with the U. S., it might be a good idea to create vociferous and public spirited groups to prevent further deterioration in Brazil-U. S. relations. The post is not trying to assume upon itself the prerogative of making policy but is only giving its worm eye view of what might be done.

Thus the Reporting Officer, sharing Deputy Rodrigues' views, wishes to recommend that the Department or USIS extend an invitation to the deputies to visit the U. S. on their way home from the bloc countries, if funds are still available. The invitation would provide only for travel and per diem expenses while in the U. S. since the international travel expenses would have been met by other sources. The cost of returning from Europe to Brazil via the U. S. is a small additional charge. Since last impressions are generally the most vivid, the visit to the U. S. should more than counter any favorable impressions gained in the non-democratic areas and give the deputies an opportunity to observe life in the U. S., about which they know very little.

Arthur W. Feldman
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