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ANALYTICAL BRAND

ANALYSIS BRANCH

DATE: June 5, 1964

TO : Department of State

INFO : Amembassy RIO DE JANEIRO
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FROM : AmConGen RECIFE

SUBJECT: Pernambuco Secretary of Education Resigns

REF :

Action

1. Pernambuco Secretary of Education, Barreto Guimaraes, resigned June 1. Governor Coelho replaced him with Roberto Magalhaes Melo, former Chief of the Department of Water and Energy. Guimaraes stated in his letter of resignation that he did not concur in the Governor's decision incorporated in article 222 of the State Constitution to confirm teachers in the interior in their posts. Secretary Guimaraes, after securing the concurrence of the Governor, recently announced a competition to fill vacancies in the interior with the intention of replacing less qualified teachers with successful applicants.

2. Local sources, including press, are unanimous in considering this development another step in the erosion of Governor Coelho's political image. He is seen as administratively inept for not consulting with Secretary Guimaraes before countermanding a previous action by instructing his legislative leader to support proposed article 222. Guimaraes' resignation followed approval of article almost immediately. Coelho's position is also weakened by the replacement of Guimaraes with a person not considered his equal, as Guimaraes was regarded generally as one of the most competent members of Coelho's cabinet.

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