

AIRGRAM

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HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department of State

INFO: RIO DE JANEIRO, BRASILIA

FROM : Amconsul PORTO ALEGRE

DATE: December 1, 1969

SUBJECT : BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION: Colonel Jayme Miranda Mariath
Secretary of Security of the State of Rio Grande do Sul

REF :

1. Mariath is a professional Army officer who was hand-picked by General Garrastazu Medici, now President of Brazil, to become Secretary of Security of the State when the previous incumbent died unexpectedly. At the time of his appointment he was Chief of the Second Section (Intelligence) of the Third Army. A native of Rio Grande do Sul he has served a large part of his career in this area. Although he was serving as an intelligence officer at the time of his recent appointment his specialty is communications and particularly radio communications. He studied this specialty in the United States at the United States Army Signal School at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey. He visited the United States on one other occasion quite recently on a USAID program designed for secretaries of security. He is an admirer of the United States and has attempted to adopt and apply U.S. methods in the police and security field to Brazilian conditions. Despite his two visits to the United States he speaks no English though he understands a little.

2. In his present job Mariath has been outstandingly successful not only defusing the ancient rivalry between the military and the civilian police, but also bringing improved organization and greater efficiency to both. In a little over a year he has reduced the total size of the security force from 7,000 to less than 5,000 men by substituting vehicles and communications equipment for people at a great net saving in funds without any loss of efficiency. He also appreciates the value of public relations and one of his first acts was to create a highly capable public relations unit as part of his personal staff. This unit has done a great deal to improve the standing of the police in the community and correct ~~the~~ ^{their} previously deplorable public image. It is greatly to Mariath's credit that he has used this unit solely for the benefit of the institution he heads and not for personal aggrandizement.

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GROUP 3

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FORM 4-62 DS-323

Drafted by:

Contents and Classification Approved by:

PO:AHewitt, Jr.:djg

11-27-69

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On the contrary by his own discretion his own name and picture seldom appear in press or television stories about the police.

3. Mariath is a short, stout, balding man who wears glasses with heavy horn rims. He has a rather muddy complexion and is altogether quite homely. However his homeliness is more than salvaged by a broad grin and a personality so perpetually cheerful that it approaches jolliness.

4. Though his chief contributions to the security force of the state have been of a management, administrative, and logistical nature he is an extremely hard and tough little man when he has to be. The manifold problems of burgeoning crime, inefficient law enforcement, and political cross currents have not eroded his apparent cheerful outlook but they have given him a duodenal ulcer.

5. Mariath was among the original revolutionaries of 1964 and forms part of the revolutionary mainstream. However he is not a hard-liner but forms part of what has been called the Third Army Group which holds that the Revolution was essential and should continue for a period of at least 10 years. Thereafter he believes the country should have developed to the point that power could and should be returned to civilian leaders. Mariath will probably remain as Secretary of Security for less than a year after which time he will return to active duty, probably to a job on the Army General Staff. He expects his Brigadier star within the next two years.

6. Personally Mariath is extremely warm, friendly, and informal. One of his greatest pleasures, in fact virtually his only pleasure these days, is yarning and shooting the breeze with old friends or new acquaintances whom he is apt to adopt as a close friend almost immediately if he likes them. He is married to a large Bahian woman whose jolliness is his own squared. His own life is cozy, happy, and extremely noisy. They have one son who is presently a student in the Porto Alegre Military College and doing poorly in his studies to his father's great distress.


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