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SUGGESTED DISTRIBUTION				SUMMARY			
				The tempo of political activity in the Northeast is increasing in anticipation of municipal elections in November. A state-by-state survey of campaign activity reveals that the most significant contests will take place in Rio Grande do Norte (Mossoró) and Paraíba (Campina Grande). Even in these states, however, political ramifications will be confined largely to the states themselves. Elsewhere it is politics as usual with leading elements of the region's power structure exhibiting only peripheral interest in pre-electoral activity.			
POST ROUTING				*****			
TO:	Action	Info.	Initials	With municipal elections only two months away, political activity in the Northeast is increasing in tempo. In the four states of the Consular District which will hold elections in November -- Pernambuco, Rio Grande do Norte, Paraíba, and Alagoas -- candidates have been named for most municipal contests and the campaigning is now in full swing. In the remaining states of the District, Ceará and Piauí, political maneuvering has also increased in anticipation of general elections in 1970. The state-by-state rundown is as follows:			
AMB/PO				PERNAMBUCO: In Pernambuco, where control of 96 of the state's 164 municipalities is at stake, the real contest is not between ARENA and the MDB but rather among the various ARENA factions.			
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ARENA leaders approach the elections with well-justified confidence. Liberal resort to the sub-party (sublegenda) device has succeeded, temporarily at least, in re-establishing the semblance of party unity. The November balloting now shapes up as essentially a contest between partisans of former Governors Paulo Guerra (ex-PSD) and Cid Sampaio (ex-UDN), with followers of Guerra now in the commanding position. Incumbent Governor Nilo Coelho, who apparently has his eye on a Senate seat in 1970, continues to remain conspicuously aloof from municipal politicking. He has publicly pledged that the administrative apparatus of his government will not be used for partisan political purposes during the coming elections.

The MDB, in frank recognition of its organizational and financial weaknesses, is concentrating its efforts in Recife (where only councilmen will be elected) and the few nearby municipalities with significant urban populations. According to Federal Deputy and State Party President Oswaldo Lima Filho, the MDB will seriously contest elections in only about a dozen of the far more numerous municipalities of the interior. MDB leaders privately concede the party little possibility of making significant additions to the fewer than half-dozen municipal administrations which it now controls. The Party's problems are compounded by internal bickering over the use of sublegendas. The majority led by Party President Oswaldo Lima Filho, which favors their use, has prevailed over the objections of a vocal minority, led by Geraldo Pinho Alves, Opposition Leader in the Legislative Assembly and the Party's candidate for Mayor of Paulista.

RIO GRANDE DO NORTE: Of the 88 municipal elections to be decided (out of a total of 150), easily the most significant is the mayoralty election in Mossoró in the far western portion of the state. There, in microcosm, the panorama of the state's political life clearly reveals itself. The forces of Federal Deputy and ex-Governor Aluizio Alves, easily the most powerful politician state-wide, are pitted against those of the politically potent Rosado Maia family, which has long dominated the municipality. Recent disagreement between Alves and former ally Senator Duarte Filho has prompted the belated candidacy of the Senator's son, Cid Duarte, which threatens to split Alves' forces and throw the election to Vingt-un Rosado, the candidate of the Rosado Maia clan. Should Aluizio's candidate win in the principal stronghold of his political rivals, he will have a clear path to the Governor's Palace in 1970. Should he lose, Aluizio's opponents will have renewed hope for blocking his candidacy in 1970.

PARAÍBA: Elections for Mayor and Municipal Council in Campina Grande, the second city of the state, dominate the political scene. Efforts at political pacification during June, led by Governor João Agripino and Senator Argemiro de Figueiredo (MDB) came to naught. Pacification attempts were opposed by major powers in each party, including Federal Deputy Pedro Gondim of ARENA and Senator Rui Carneiro of the MDB. Gondim viewed the pacification effort as but a ploy by the Governor, his principal political rival, to

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consolidate his control of the political apparatus of the state. Carneiro, on the other hand, staunchly maintained that the role of the opposition is to oppose. Subsequent maneuvering has only succeeded in further emphasizing existing divisions within both ARENA and the MDB.

ALAGOAS: Of the elections scheduled in November, those in Alagoas (where only 22 of 94 municipalities are affected), have generated the least regional interest. Traditional political patterns continue to hold sway, and neither national nor even regional issues appear to have made significant impact on local electorates. Both ARENA and MDB leaders are reasonably optimistic regarding the expected results, and sources from both parties claim that personalities will be the determining factor in most municipalities. In numerous instances both parties, following traditional practice in the interior, have reportedly decided to support single candidates.

Major political leaders such as Governor Lamenha Filho and Legislative Assembly President Antonio Gomez Barros, both of ARENA, and Federal Deputy Cleto Marques and Djalma Falcão of the MDB clearly have their attention fixed on the general election scheduled for 1970.

CEARÁ: No municipal elections will take place this year in Ceará. Consequently, political attention is focused on the 1970 gubernatorial elections. Front-running ARENA candidate is former Governor Virgílio Távora. Távora is the logical heir of the political support of fellow ex-UDN member Paulo Sarasate, who until his death in June 1968, was also a leading contender. Távora has of late stepped up his fence-mending activity in the state with a view to reconstructing the UDN-PSD-PTB alliance responsible for his impressive electoral victory in 1962.

Members of the PSD wing of the party are, however, reluctant to fall into line. They have already shown their independence by joining in an alliance with the MDB earlier in the year to wrest control of the Legislative Assembly from their UDN colleagues. ARENA members of PSD suasion, with considerable encouragement from the state MDB leadership, are still considering entering into a more formal electoral alliance in exchange for MDB support of a PSD gubernatorial candidate in 1970.

Governor Plácido Castelo continues to exhibit uncertain political leadership and seems content to remain on the sidelines with his eye on a Senate seat in 1970. The deep divisions within ARENA, which have been contributing factors in several recent instances of violence in the interior, give the MDB, behind the likely candidacy of Federal Deputy Martins Rodrigues, a unique opportunity to wrest control of the state house.

PIAUI: Like neighboring Ceará, no elections are scheduled in isolated Piauí until 1970. ARENA is in firm control of the state political machinery (the party has 34 of the 42 state deputies). Within ARENA, the ex-UDN wing of

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the party controls the state house through Governor Helvídio Nunes, with Federal Deputy and former Governor Petrônio Portela, the real political power in the state, waiting in the wings to return to the Governor's Palace in 1970. Increasing rumblings are nevertheless heard from the ex-PSD wing of the party led by Vice Governor João Climaco de Almeida, who has let it be known that he too will seek the governorship in 1970. The MDB remains a distant also-ran, with ex-Governor Chagas Rodrigues the most likely gubernatorial nominee of the Party in 1970.

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Municipal elections have thus far proven to be of only peripheral interest to some of the leading elements of the region's power structure. There is no evidence that the military establishment has directly involved itself in the elections or sought to influence their outcome. The region's commanders nevertheless remain interested, though discreetly so, in developing pre-electoral activity.

Although all politicians are now more acutely aware of the political role of students, youth itself has made little effort to assert itself in municipal politics. Both parties have nevertheless placed increased public emphasis on youth in campaign activity, and university students have actually been nominated as candidates in a number of municipalities.

Aside from the largely innocuous May statement by the three Bishops of Paraíba reminding the faithful of their electoral responsibilities (see Recife Report No. 47 of May 29, 1968, forwarded as Enclosure 2 to Brasilia's A-310), the region's progressive churchmen have not addressed themselves directly to the municipal elections. Organized labor likewise continues to remain on the sidelines, content to concern itself with issues which more directly and immediately affect the interests of its members. MDB "Popular Mobilization" efforts, designed to engage all of these groups, have thus far failed to evoke any significant response.

As the preceding state-by-state summary indicates, November municipal elections in the Northeast will have the most significant impact in Rio Grande do Norte (Mossoró) and Paraíba (Campina Grande). However, even in these instances, political ramifications will be confined largely within state borders. Elsewhere in the region it is generally politics as usual.

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