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Pal 15-1 Brazil

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ACTION ARA 20

INFO OCT 01, CIAE 00, DODE 00, PM 04, H 02, INR 07, L 03, NSAE 00, NSC
P 03, RSC 01, PRS 01, SS 20, USIA 12, AID 28, PC 04, CPR 02, SSC 01,
RSR 01, /120 W

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10/16/69

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R 161935Z OCT 69
FM AMEMBASSY RIO DE JANEIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1661
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMCONSUL RECIFE
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L RIO DE JANEIRO 8635

SUBJECT: RUMORED CABINET CHANGES

REF: RIO'S 8562

1. FOLLOWING IS BIOGRAPHIC INFO ON THOSE PROSPECTIVE CABINET MINISTERS MENTIONED REFTEL WHO WOULD BE NEW, AND EMBASSY'S COMMENT (TODAY'S NEWSPAPERS QUOTE PRESIDENTIAL SPOKESMAN AS STATING CABINET CHOICES WILL NOT BE REVEALED UNTIL MEDICI SWORN IN ON OCTOBER 30, AND OBVIOUSLY THIS LIST CANNOT BE CONSIDERED FINAL AT THIS POINT).

FOREIGN MINISTER: MARIO GIBSON BARBOSA, DIPLOMAT OF 30 YEARS' EXPERIENCE, PRESENT AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON, AND A CLOSE ASSOCIATE OF PRESENT FON MINISTER MAGALHAES PINTO FOR WHOM HE SERVED UNTIL 1968 AS SECRETARY GENERAL. HIS APPOINTMENT APPEARS TO REFLECT DESIRE OF MEDICI TO CONTINUE MAINTAIN CLOSE RELATIONS WITH US. HAS HAD LONG EXPOSURE TO US SCENE INCLUDING EARLIER ASSIGNMENT AND HAS DEVELOPED CLOSE FAMILIARITY WITH VIEWS OF US GOVT (LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE) AND PUBLIC. (WASHINGTON OBVIOUSLY BETTER ABLE TO PROVIDE UP-TO-MINUTE ASSESSMENT OF HIS ATTITUDES AND ABILITIES THAN ARE WE.)

AGRICULTURE MINISTER: FABIO YASSUDA, HEAD OF THE LARGE

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AND POWERFUL AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE OF COTIA AND SECRETARY OF SUPPLY FOR CITY OF SAO PAULO. HIS BROTHER IS SAO PAULO SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS.

MINISTER OF JUSTICE: PROF. ALFREDDO BUZAID, CONSERVATIVE ACTING RECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SAO PAULO, HAS DEMONSTRATED INFLEXIBILITY IN DEALING WITH STUDENTS. ACTIVE IN THE CASSATION OF A NUMBER OF USP PROFESSORS EARLIER THIS YEAR. HIS THINKING IS CLOSE TO THAT OF GAMA E SILVA.

CHIEF OF CIVIL HOUSEHOLD - PROF. JOAO LEITAO DE ABREU, ONE OF BEST-KNOWN LAWYERS IN PORTO ALEGRE, WAS CHIEF OF CABINET TO FORMER MINISTER OF JUSTICE MEM DE SA. BROTHER-IN-LAW OF ARMY MINISTER LYRA TAVARES.

CHIEF OF MILITARY HOUSEHOLD: JOAO BATISTA FIGUEIREDO, AS CHIEF OF STAFF OF THIRD ARMY, HAS WORKED CLOSELY WITH MEDICI DURING RECENT MONTHS. RECENTLY PROMOTED TO BRIGADIER GENERAL, HE IS ONE OF THE BRIGHT LIGHTS IN THE ARMY. ARMA RATES HIM HIGH ON INTELLECT AND LEADERSHIP QUALITIES.

LABOR MINISTER: COL. OCTAVIO COSTA, COMMANDER OF ARMY PERSONNEL CENTER IN RIO AND REGULAR EDITORIAL COLUMNIST FOR JORNAL DO BRASIL. A MILITARY INTELLECTUAL AND CLOSE FRIEND OF PRESENT LABOR MINISTER PASSARINHO SINCE MILITARY SCHOOL DAYS, HE ALSO IS CLOSE TO ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF MURICY. IN CONTACTS WITH EMBOFF HE HAS PROJECTED SELF AS VOCAL BELIEVER IN CIVILIAN RULE AND DEEPLY COMMITTED TO DEMOCRATIC ECONOMIC REFORMS. RECENTLY ATTENDED CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN ARMIES AT FORT BRAGG.

ARMY MINISTER: GEN. ORLANDO GEISEL, CHIEF OF GENERAL STAFF OF ARMED FORCES SINCE 1967. ARMA HAS FOUND HIM BRILLIANT. FIRM, BUT FREQUENTLY INTRANSIGENT IN ATTITUDE AND INSENSITIVE TO VIEWS OF THOSE AROUND HIM, PROPER TO POINT OF BEING STIFF. THINKS HIGHLY OF U.S. BUT AT TIMES HAS ADOPTED EXTREME NATIONALISTIC STANCES.

NAVY MINISTER: ADMIRAL ADALBERTO BARRES NUNES, CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS SINCE NOV 1968. ALUSNA CONSIDERS HIM WELL LIKED IN BRAZILIAN NAVY, ACCESSIBLE TO SUBORDINATES, FIRM AND DELIBERATE. APPOINTS CAPABLE MEN TO WORK FOR HIM. DOES NOT DISPLAY ANY SPECIAL FEELINGS TOWARDS U.S. WILL FOLLOW DIRECTION

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HE THINKS BEST FOR NAVY AND BRAZIL.

AIR FORCE MINISTER: GENERAL CARLOS HUET SAMPAIO, AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF SINCE 1967. US AIR FORCE OFFICERS REGARD HIM AS WEAK AND INDECISIVE LEADER WHO DOES NOT HAVE A DRIVING PERSONALITY AND CAN BE INFLUENCED BY MORE FORCEFUL AUTHORITY. LEAVES MANY DECISIONS TO HIS SUBORDINATES, WHO CONSIDER HIM AGREEABLE BUT INEFFECTIVE. STRONGLY ANTI-COMMUNIST AND FRIENDLY TOWARDS U.S. (ACCORDING TO INFO RECEIVED BY EMBASSY YESTERDAY EVENING, REPORT OF THIS APPOINTMENT ESPECIALLY QUESTIONABLE; PRESENT AIR MINISTER SOUZA MELO MAY CONTINUE IN THAT POSITION.)

2. COMMENT: IF MEDICI'S CABINET EMERGES WITH THOSE CHANGES INDICATED IN REFTEL, HE WILL HAVE OBTAINED CERTAIN MINISTERS WHO HAD DEMONSTRATED COMPETENCE AND SOME DEGREE OF SUCCESS DURING COSTA E SILVA ADMINISTRATION (AS WELL AS SOME OTHERS OF LESS SUCCESS) DESPITE LACK OF POPULARITY OF SEVERAL OF THEM WITHIN CERTAIN MILITARY FACTIONS. DELFIM NETO, FOR EXAMPLE, WIDELY CREDITED AS BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR SUCCESSFUL FINANCIAL POLICY, IS ANATHEMA TO ALBUQUERQUE LIMA FACTION WITHIN MILITARY. MEDICI, WHILE CHIEF OF SNI, CAME TO RESPECT HIS ABILITY, AND APPARENTLY FEELS THIS OUTWEIGHTS EFFECT OF RECENT RUMORS SURROUNDING DELFIM'S PRIVATE LIFE. HIS RESPONSIBILITIES WOULD INCREASE CONSIDERABLY AS HEAD OF NEW INTER-MINISTERIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE. ANDREAZZA IS ANOTHER EXAMPLE. HIS TRANSPORTATION POLICY GREAT SUCCESS IN STIMULATING SHIP-BUILDING INDUSTRY AND RESERVING CARGO TO BRAZILIAN LINES. HE IS POPULAR AND DASHING FIGURE WHO WOULD LIKE TO BE PRESIDENT. HOWEVER, AS RETIRED COLONEL WHO HAS PERSONAL AMBITIONS AND WHO IN PERSONAL TRIUMPH HAS NEGLECTED TIES WITH FORMER MILITARY COMRADES, HE IS INTENSELY DISLIKED BY LARGE SEGMENTS OF MILITARY: PASSARINHO HAS DONE WELL IN A POTENTIALLY DIFFICULT LABOR FIELD AND MEDICI APPARENTLY HOPES HE CAN PERFORM AT LEAST AS WELL IN CHRONICALLY DEFICIENT EDUCATIONAL SPHERE, WHERE TARSO DUTRA HAS BEEN MEDIOCRE. IN THIS JOB PASSARINHO, ONE OF THE MOST BROADLY POPULAR CIVILIANS IN GOVT TODAY AND POSSIBLY EVENTUAL PRESIDENTIAL MATERIAL, WOULD REMAIN IN PUBLIC EYE.

3. DESPITE FORWARD-LOOKING NATURE OF MEDICI RECENT SPEECH TO NATION, BY RETAINING LARGE SEGMENT OF COSTA CABINET, HE RISKS DIMMING PUBLIC ENTHUSIASM AT THE OUTSET AS TO PROSPECT OF NEW DYNAMIC POLICY CHANGES. HENCE IF CABINET DOES IN FACT

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EMERGE ALONG ABOVE LINES MEDICI WILL APPEAR TO HAVE STRESSED SOLID PERFORMANCE RECORD IN MOST OF HIS APPOINTMENTS, RATHER THAN BROADEST ACCEPTANCE BY ARMY COLLEAGUES OR PRESERVATION OF PUBLIC "NEWLOOK" IMAGE.

4. CONSULATES WILL REPORT ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THEY MAY HAVE ON POTENTIAL MINISTERS FROM THEIR DISTRICTS.
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