

# AIRGRAM

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TO : Department of State  
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ANALYSIS & DISTRIBUTION  
BRANCH

FROM : AmConsulate, Curitiba

DATE: August 16, 1963

SUBJECT : Discussion on August 16 with Four Leading Parana State Deputies on U.S.-Brazilian Relations and the  
REF : National and Local Political Scene

### SUMMARY

Invitations have been extended to the deputies to visit Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Poland, USSR and Japan. However, final arrangements have not as yet been made and there is a possibility that acceptance will be pigeonholed. Clarification of Alliance aid to Guanabara and Parana was made and the general misunderstanding about Brazil by Americans was discussed. Soviet bloc menace to Brazil was talked about and a statement was made that the Czechs want to establish an office in Curitiba. Possible presidential candidates were considered along with the possible role of Governor Braga as a candidate running either with Governor Magalhaes Pinto or Carvalho Pinto or Governor Arrais. The conjectures about national and state politics, although premature at this time, may give some inkling of how prominent Parana state politicians are now thinking about 1965.

- ~~BUNDY-SMITH~~
- ~~ALEXANDER~~
- ~~BELK~~
- ~~BRUBECK~~
- ~~CHASE~~
- ~~DINGEMAN~~
- ~~DUNGAN~~
- ~~FORRESTAL~~
- ~~JOHNSON~~
- ~~KILDUFF~~
- ~~KLEIN~~
- ~~KOMER~~
- ~~PARROTT~~
- ~~SAUNDERS~~
- ~~SCHLESINGER~~
- ~~SMITH, WM. Y.~~

The Reporting Officer and Vice Consul Burton called on Agostinho Rodrigues, President of the Parana Legislative Assembly and member of the Christian Democratic Party (PDC) to discuss with him several items which had recently been published about the PDC party's position vis-a-vis President Goulart and an invitation extended to the legislators to visit Yugoslavia, Poland, Czechoslovakia, USSR, Bulgaria, Rumania and Japan.

GROUP 4 - Downgraded at 3 year intervals. Declassified 12 years after date of origin

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Drafted by: AWFeldmar:grt

Contents and Classification Approved by: AWFeldman

Clearances:

DECLASSIFIED  
 EQ 11655, Sec 1.2, and 1.3)  
 Group 4  
 MFD  
 NARS Date 8/25/75

Concerning the invitations, Rodrigues stated that it was true that an invitation was first received from the Yugoslav Embassy. Repeated invitations have also recently been received from the Polish Consul General in Curitiba, the Czech Ambassador and the Japanese Consul General in Sao Paulo. He stated that a news item to the effect that the legislators would pay their own international travel was planted by him to discourage talk about the trip which he personally was going to stall by delaying tactics. Mr. Rodrigues commented that he had not as yet selected the delegation, which would comprise five deputies, each representing a different party and that the question of travel and expenses had not been resolved. Two deputies, each a leader of the PDC and PSD in the assembly, and a third who is unaligned since he had recently left the UDN Party because of his disagreement with that party's position on agrarian reform and support of Governor Lacerda, came in at this point. The PSD Deputy was the only one to say that he would accept the invitation to visit the bloc countries so as to see for himself the conditions therein. The general opinion was that these trips by politically aware persons were most often counterproductive since the visitors were not given freedom of action and they were usually able to assess the political scene from a practical politician's point of view. They all expressed interest in going to the U.S. and hoped that an opportunity to do so would be forthcoming. Whatever interest might exist in going behind the Curtain would generally be secondary to the deputy's real desire to take the trip so as to see western Europe.

Since Almir Passos, the former UDN deputy, had severely attacked the Alliance for Progress several times in the assembly because he believed the emphasis should be on meeting urgent economic needs rather than on education and long range projects, the discussion turned to answering his misconceptions about out of proportionate aid given to Guanabara and little interest shown in Parana. A recent Embassy press release on Guanabara aid was useful in setting the record straight, as was the Reporting Officer's knowledge of Parana projects, already approved and under consideration.

The U.S. citizen was criticized because of his mistaken ideas about Brazil, such as the country is full of Communists and is a jungle. The Reporting Officer rebutted by pointing out that the free press in Brazil as in other democratic countries usually played up sensational events and this could only lead to misconceptions by citizens of other countries reading these reports in their own press. The infrequent race riots in the U.S. were given as an example leading to the belief abroad that blood was flowing all over the U.S. Concerning ignorance about Brazil in the U.S., the suggestion was made that Brazil could easily remedy this by

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distributing films and books about the country through the various U.S. communications media. They were surprised to learn that one of the most outstanding authorities on Brazilian history is an American professor assigned as Cultural Affairs Officer in our Embassy in Rio de Janeiro.

Rodrigues stated that he is worried by the great interest being shown in Brazil by the Soviet bloc. He believes that since Brazil will, by the year 2000, be the dominant power in Latin America that the Soviets have decided to lay the groundwork for penetration while the country is in a state of explosive growth. He stated that not only have the European Soviet bloc countries begun to make frequent visits to Parana but that also the Red Chinese are showing signs of interest in the area. On the other hand he believes that there are very few Communists in Brazil at the present time and that they do not constitute a menace to the country. It is the exterior Communist forces which appear most dangerous to him. He has great faith in the role of the military which have since 1932 acted to institute and perpetuate constitutional government in Brazil. In conclusion, Rodrigues stated that the Czechs want to establish an office in Curitiba.

Although the following conversations on national and local politics are a bit premature at this time, they are being reported as straws in the wind in the thinking of responsible state politicians.

The conversation veered to national politics. The PDC leader of the assembly stated that he would support Kubitschek if the presidential candidates were only the ex-president and Governor Lacerda. All the deputies present were convinced that Lacerda is a dangerous man for Brazil since he seems to thrive on dissension and stirs up trouble. They believe that Brazil will have few peaceful days if Lacerda is elected since the labor unions for one would be taking aggressive actions against him. They agreed that the labor unions are generally in the hands of leftists and this most likely would be one cause of agitation against Lacerda. The ex-UDN deputy stated that Lacerda has admitted that he had been a Communist and asked who was there to disprove the possibility that he may still be playing the Communist game by causing dissension and unrest in Brazil. It was most obvious from the comments made that Lacerda is persona non grata in this group and that Kubitschek is the lesser of the two evils facing the electorate in 1965. The name of Governor Ney Braga was tossed out as an alternative choice by the Reporting Officer to test the reaction. The consensus of opinion was that Braga would make a very good president if he could only enlist the support of a major party for his candidacy. They thought that he has a chance to win since he could fill the vacuum caused by the pull exerted

by Kubitschek and Lacerda. They believe that there are large numbers of voters who are disenchanted with the ex-president and Governor and who would vote for Braga since his prestige is on the upgrade. They assessed his main strength to be in Sao Paulo and the southern states with increasing support in the Northeast.

Rodrigues in private stated that a ticket of Braga with Carvalho Pinto would be the best but he conceded that Carvalho Pinto is rapidly losing his prestige because of his poor performance as Minister. He opined that a Braga-Magalhaes Pinto ticket would be an effective one since the latter could draw support from the UDN, PSD and PTB. He stated that this liaison is under active consideration. He said that he has reliable information to the effect that four governors in the Northeast are currently considering the possibility of shifting to the PDC in support of Braga. He also gave his opinion on the possibility that President Goulart might offer Braga PTB support since the PTB has no candidate on the horizon. His reaction to this was that Braga, as a politician, would accept the offer even if it meant Governor Arrais as his running mate since Braga, once elected, would undoubtedly show himself as the independent person he is and run his own show. He said that Braga has most recently indicated that his main preoccupation is to strengthen PDC and keep Parana.

Concerning the national PDC attitude toward President Goulart, Rodrigues stated that the party heads at their recent meeting expressed their intention to cease supporting the President at an opportune moment. The leaders were also most unhappy with Minister Paulo de Tarso and decided to put him under wraps because of his disregard for PDC policy. That believe that he is embarrassing the party by his speeches and is only a liability to the party. Governor Ney Braga reportedly had a few difficult moments in trying to convince the PDC leadership not to take precipitate action against President Goulart.

Local politics were then discussed and the general belief was that the PDC would form a coalition with the PSD and UDN in order to win the gubernatorial election in 1965. It was apparent that much as those present favored Afonso Camargo, Secretary of Justice and President of the Parana PDC, they agreed that Secretary of Agriculture Paulo Pimentel would be the PDC candidate. The only problem is that Pimentel is as yet an unaligned politician, having UDN tendencies, and that he has as yet not joined the PDC. Rodrigues stated that no date has been set for the state PDC convention and that the delegates, particularly the deputies, would not accept a candidate by arbitrary action of Governor Braga. He however believes that if Afonso Camargo really decided not to run, that Pimentel would win out

over whatever other opposition might be set up. He warned that the gubernatorial election in 1965 is still a long way off and that the current crop of contenders might fall by the wayside and a new cast could take its place. On the 1963 municipal elections, Rodrigues is confident that the PDC will win the majority of the mayoralties.

The PSD leader stated that his state party is not seriously split over Lupion. He commented that the party convention to be held would definitively elect its president and that Santa Catarina PSD deputy Ramos would act as observer and if necessary mediator to prevent illegal action on the part of Lupion and his supporters.

Rodrigues stated that he is against amending the state constitution to provide for a vice governor since he believes this position can only cause problems if given to the opposition. He stated in private that he would forestall its reaching legislative consideration. The other deputies present, however, were in favor of this amendment. He expressed himself in favor of amending the state constitution to lower the age of gubernatorial candidates to 30 from the present 35. The others concurred in this action.

Rodrigues made some interesting comments about the political role of the Catholic Church, of which he is a member. He stated that one could not really classify the Church as forming any particular party since its clergy were active in all parties including the extremists. Thus no matter which party wins, the Church is with the winner. In a more serious vein, he decried the action of Catholic clergy in leftist movements.

The deputies seemed to enjoy the two hour session as they appeared relaxed and loath to terminate the talks. They asked to have "dialogues" of this type on a frequent basis to promote better understanding of our respective countries.

*Arthur W. Feldman*  
Arthur W. Feldman  
American Consul *best*

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