

May 71

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(Classification and Control Markings)

ORIGINATOR USDAO
Brazil

16 May 1971

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Ivan de Souza ~~Amador~~

General is the subject of early speculation on likely successors to President Medici. Whether in a political role or in a purely professional capacity, Ivan is a comer very much worth watching.

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i. Celso dos Santos Meyer Colonel, Artillery, age 52. One of the Army's most popular officers who acquired national standing as a young officer when he starred on Brazil's first basketball team of international stature. Celso is also regarded as a man of considerable intellectual substance who has always excelled in his career courses. He is a graduate of the U.S. Field Artillery School and speaks fluent English. His identification with the U.S. is of long-standing. Currently an instructor at the Superior War School, Celso has everything in his favor to become a General Officer. He could also be tapped for important non-military assignments. His major drawback is his chronic threat to leave the Army for more attractive civilian opportunities. That attitude cost him a delay in promotion during the Castello Branco Government because the President refused to "commit a scarce colonel's vacancy to a man who, while fully deserving, keeps announcing that he is going to leave the service." Celso has outstanding influential civilian contacts as well as strong supporters within the General Officer Corps. The current Ambassador to France and former Army Minister, General Lyra Tavares, considers Celso one of the Army's best officers.

j. Luis Carlos Vieira Duque Colonel, Artillery, age 48. Presently performing command duty as CO of an artillery battalion in Rio Grande do Sul, Duque is bound to reach the highest posts of the Army. He is one of the Army's intellectual giants and one of the few officers to have both the Armed Forces Staff Course and the Superior War Course at the Superior War School. Moreover, he was a long-time member of the faculty of the Superior War School and is a graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College. Duque is an attractive individual with an easy-going personality. He is married to an equally attractive wife who is helpful by participating with dignity and efficiency in those attributes attendant upon the service wife. The Duques have independent income and are able to sustain a comfortable (albeit not ostentatious) standard of living. Duque is closely identified with General Geisel, the current Army Minister, but he has a large following among the General Officer Corps in general. As a result of his long Superior War School duty and the influence of a well-known surgeon brother and an equally well-known businessman brother, Duque is very prominent in the civilian sector. He has traveled extensively giving lectures on national security doctrine and has earned high marks in those efforts. Unless he decides to retire prematurely, he will reach the highest posts of the Army and could easily occupy a high office of a non-military nature.

COMMENT: (C) The list is fluid and arbitrary, reflecting RO's judgment. However, while some may fall by the wayside, the officers indicated above would appear to warrant special attention. The number ten is an obvious target of convenience by those who requested the data. Perhaps another fifty could qualify for inclusion in such a list. The ten suggested here constitute the first to come to mind.

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