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DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

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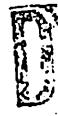
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*26 April 1973*



15. SUMMARY (Leave Blank)

(U) The promotion to Brigadier General of nine Army line colonels on 31 March 1973 contained few surprises. However, there are certain interesting facets attendant upon that list and this IR analyzes them.

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1. (U) In a break with recent tradition, which had established 25 March as one of the three dates throughout the year (the others were 25 July and 25 November), when promotions to General Officer were made, the Army has changed the March date to 31 March; the July date to the 31st; while the November date is expected to remain the 25th. In so doing, the Army was complying with a Presidential directive to establish the same promotion dates for all three services. Previously, the Navy and the Air Force had promoted to and within the General and Flag Officer ranks as vacancies occurred. The following nine line colonels were promoted to Brigadier General on 31 March 1973:

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Artillery Sergio de Ary Pires  
Helio Joao Gomes ~~Fernandes~~  
Mario de Souza Pinto  
Alzir Benjamin Chaloub

Infantry José Alberto Pinheiro da Silva  
Oswaldo Ignacio Domingues

Cavalry Enio Gouveia dos Santos  
Attila Vianna

Engineers Joffre Sampaio

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2. (U) The following statistical highlights may be helpful in pointing to Brazilian Army promotion trends, policies and practices:

- a. Average age of the new BGs --- 55 1/2 years
- b. Those who had overseas assignments --- 7 of the 9 (3 US; 3 Paraguay; 1 Germany)
- c. Graduates of US Service Schools --- 3 of the 9
- d. Veterans of the Italian Campaign --- None
- e. Members of the 1937 Mil. Academy Class --- 1
- f. Members of the 1938 Mil. Academy Class --- 3
- g. Members of the 1939 Mil. Academy Class --- 5
- h. Longest time in grade as colonel --- 8 years 3 months (4 officers)
- i. Least time in grade as colonel --- 7 years 7 months (3 officers)

3. (C) Each of the nine new Brigadier Generals had a "godfather" in the form of a four-star booster within the Army High Command. The promoted officers and their sponsors are as follows:

Sergio Pires (Army Minister Geisel)  
Chaloub (Army Minister Geisel)  
Helio (Gen. Dale Coutinho)  
Souza Pinto (Gen. Humberto de Mello)  
Pinheiro (Gen. Nahon)  
Domingues (Gen. Rodrigo Octavio)  
Enio (Gen. Walter Menezes Paes)  
Attila (Gen. Oscar Luiz)  
Joffre (Gen. Dyrceu)

4. (C) Perhaps the most controversial promotion is that of the unimpressive PINHEIRO. It is generally agreed that he was promoted as a final tribute to the soon-to-retire General NAHON, who recently completed 50 years on active duty. An officer who was present at the Army High Command session told me that General NAHON actually wept as he pleaded with his colleagues to select his long-time executive officer, aide and friend.

5. (C) One other aspect of the recent promotion list which generated some uneasiness and criticism was the disregard which the Army High Command displayed toward the recommendations of the Army Promotion Board. Within the infantry, for instance, the Board had recommended the following:

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1. Col. Domingues
2. Col. Pinheiro
3. Col. Lepiane
4. Col. Murilo
5. Col. Campelo
6. Col. Diegues

The High Command went along with DOMINGUES and PINHEIRO, and placed them 2nd and 6th, respectively, on the list of 19 names of all combat arms sent to the President. However, the High Command completely ignored LEPIANE and DIEGUES. In the Cavalry, the Board selections were as follows:

1. Col. Enio
2. Col. Angelo Irulegui
3. Col. Euclides Figueiredo
4. Col. Attila

The High Command ignored ANGELO IRULEGUI and FIGUEIREDO and dropped down to ATTILA. The discrepancies between Board and High Command selections were fewer in the artillery and engineers, where both adhered to a seniority basis. The joy of ANGELO IRULEGUI and FIGUEIREDO of the Class of 1940 and DIEGUES of the Class of 1941 was of short duration, as Army Minister GEISEL and his senior citizen colleagues decided to promote from the Classes of 1937, 1938 and 1939 only.

6. (C) The passover of LEPIANE probably means the end of what had been a very distinguished career. The pleasant, popular and scholarly LEPIANE, who has a long record of friendship for the UNITED STATES, was "done in" by the late terrorist, renegade Army Captain Carlos LAMARCA. LEPIANE had the bad luck of being in command of the 4th Infantry Regiment in São Paulo at the time LAMARCA was using his position as a company commander with the unit to participate in terrorist actions. At the time LAMARCA fled with three enlisted men and a truckload of weapons and ammunition, LEPIANE was still in command. Reliable sources reported that the current II Army (São Paulo) Commander, General HUMBERTO de Souza Mello, engaged in an emotional diatribe against LEPIANE at the Army High Command meeting, thereby making it difficult for anyone to speak up in defense of the unlucky colonel.

7. (C) Current speculation points toward the possibility of three Brigadier General vacancies on 31 July. The leading candidates would appear to be the following:

1. Cavalry --- Col. Angelo Irulegui Cunha
2. Infantry -- Col. Ruy Leal Campello
3. Artillery - Col. Ferdinando de Carvalho

COMMENT: (C) The competition for promotions to Brigadier General will stiffen considerably from now on as a new breed of intellectually sophisticated colonels replaces the traditional "ticket punchers." The last batch of Expeditionary Force veterans now comes into contention in the form of regular officers who were lieutenants in ITALY.

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