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September 1964

(U) Brazil - Biographic Data(U) NAME: Lt Gen Henrique Fleiuss (FLYss).(U) POSITION: Chief, Air Force General Staff, since 5 April 1964.

(C/NFD) SIGNIFICANCE: Gen Fleiuss is highly regarded by fellow officers for his impartial and judicious approach to Brazilian problems and is expected to exercise a stabilizing influence in the Air Force, following the disruption of the April 1964 revolution. He is a dedicated, hard-working, professional officer and demands much of his staff, but is very fair, just, and considerate of his subordinates and believes that it is the man who honors the position, and not the position that honors the man. As a relatively junior general officer, he served as Minister of Aeronautics in 1956-1957, during the controversial period following President Kubitschek's election, voluntarily terminating the assignment to attend the Superior School of War.

(C/NFD) POLITICS:

International: Gen Fleiuss is western oriented and has consistently shown a friendly attitude toward the U.S. He supports the United Nations and the inter-American collective-security system. He believes that the future development of Brazil depends upon foreign investment, and favors an active policy to encouraging its emphasizing that the best way to attract foreign capital is to give investors confidence in Brazilian laws. He has travelled widely in Europe and made three official visits to the U.S., first as a junior member on the staff of the Minister of Aeronautics (1943), later as a member of the Brazilian Delegation to the San Francisco Conference (1945) and finally as Minister of Aeronautics (1957). He was twice awarded the U.S. Legion of Merit. He visited the USSR in 1959.

Internal: He has consistently maintained a nonpolitical attitude in domestic politics and is morally dedicated to law and order. An accomplished career officer, he has been acceptable to opposing factions in Brazilian politics and has held responsible positions under opposing administrations.

(U) PERSONAL DATA:

Birth: 1 September 1904 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Family: Gen Fleiuss is of German descent. His father, Professor Max Fleiuss, was a writer, journalist, and well-known historian, and one of the great enthusiasts of Pan-Americanism in Brazil. Gen Fleiuss is a widower, since 13 Nov 1963, and has had no children. His wife, Rita de Cassia Fleiuss, was 20 years older than he and reportedly wealthy.

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Lt Gen Henrique Fleiu (cont.)

Description: Gen Fleiu is approximately 5'8" tall, weighs about 190 pounds; has light brown hair, very fair complexion, grey eyes, and is neat appearing. He uses glasses and wears a mustache. He has published a book on air tactics.

Languages: Native Portuguese; speaks Spanish, French and German well, and fair English.

Religion: Roman Catholic.

Decorations: U.S. Legion of Merit; French Legion of Honor; Chilean Medal of Aeronautical Merit; Netherlands Grand Cross of Orange and Nassau Medal (1957); Spanish Medal of Naval Merit (1st Class); Brazilian Aviation Cross, Order of Aeronautical Merit (Commander), Medal of the South Atlantic Campaign, Order of Naval Merit (Grand Officer, 1956).

(U) CIVIL EDUCATION: Primary and secondary civil education in Rio de Janeiro.

(U) CAREER:

1920-1924 - Attended Naval Academy and graduated as honor student of class, 3 Jan 1924.

1924-1930 - Commissioned in Navy. Duty included Instructor and Vice-director, Naval Aviation School; Secretary to Director of Naval Aeronautics.

1931 - Student, Naval Aviation Course; received pilot wings as first student in class.

1931 - Assigned to duty with Army Aviation (31 Dec). Promoted to LCdr, for merit, 2 May 1935.

1941 - Transferred to newly organized Brazilian Air Force, Jan 1941.

1941-1945 - Chief of Gabinete (Executive Office) of Chief of Staff, Air Force. Promoted to Lt Col (seniority), 20 Dec 1941, to Col (for merit), 1 Sep 1944.

1945-1950 - Chief of Gabinete to Minister of Aeronautics. Promoted to Brig Gen, 18 Sep 1950.

1950-1952 - Air Attache to United Kingdom, France, and Spain.

1952-1953 - Second Subchief (personnel and logistics), Air Force General Staff.

1953-1956 - Commander, Air Academy, Campo dos Afonsos. Elected President, Aeronautical Club, 30 Jul 1955.

1956-1957 - Minister of Aeronautics. Visited USAF installations (official tour, Apr 1957), Dutch civil-aviation facilities, and Royal Canadian Air Force installations (May 1957). Relieved at own request, 30 July 1957.

1957 - Air Force member, War Reparations Commission (Dec).

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Lt Gen Henrique Fleiu (cont.)

- 1958 - Student, Superior War School. Promoted to Maj Gen, 26 Aug 1958.
- 1958-1961 - President, National Petroleum Council. Visited Soviet Union as member of Brazilian Trade Mission, Nov-Dec 1959.
- 1961-1963 - Director General of Training, March 1961.
- 1963-1964 - Director General of Civil Aeronautics, March 1963-9 Jan 1964. Promoted to Lt Gen, 13 March 1963.
- 1964-Present - Chief of Staff, Air Force, 5 Apr 1964.

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