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Costa e Silva

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6. EVALUATION: SOURCE B INFORMATION 2

7. SOURCE: Long time personal military aide
of Marshal Costa e Silva; various other
officers.

14. APPROVING AUTHORITY:

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15. SUMMARY:

(C) Report covers plans for ex-President COSTA E SILVA following assumption of Presidency by General MEDICI. Portions of this report are only classified confidential pending public announcement of information contained herein.

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1. (C) On 24 October 1969, Major Antonio Gabriel CONRADO Dias, Senior Military Aide to President Artur da COSTA E SILVA, came by my office and made a number of remarks about the future plans of COSTA E SILVA. CONRADO's service with him terminates on 30 October when General Emilio Garrastazu MEDICI assumes office. It is interesting to note the lack of any warm, sincere feeling for the suffering of either the President or his wife on the part of either Major or Mrs. CONRADO although he has been in COSTA E SILVA's personal service for the bulk of his military career. CONRADO says he was asked to stay on but declined because of his military career needs. (Comment: His family was very weary of the demanding life and he cannot afford an apartment in Rio.)

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(Classification and Control Markings)REPORT NO. 6 809 0243 69
PAGE 2 OF 3 PAGES
ORIGINATOR USDAO, BRAZIL

2. (C) As recently authorized by the ruling military ministers, COSTA E SILVA will enjoy the honors of the rank of President until 15 March 1971. According to source, this will not include pay but will provide a staff and certain living accommodations.

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a. The officers who will remain with him are:

Colonel Hernani D'AGUIAR
Lt Colonel LAHYR Andrade de Almeida
Captain (Dr.) HELCIO Simoes Gomes
Major (Air Force) ARIEL Chaves de Castro
Lt Cmdr Fernando Portella PEIXOTO
Captain Murillo BETTAMIO Guimares

b. Reportedly Colonel D'AGUIAR is the only one who did not volunteer. His ambition was to command the Army Technical School at Leme in Rio de Janeiro near where he owns an apartment. However, he had accompanied President-elect COSTA E SILVA on his round-the-world trip in 1967 and felt he could not turn down now in less advantageous circumstances. Mrs. COSTA E SILVA's request that he stay on to take charge of the COSTA E SILVA staff. (Comment: Friends tell me his big goal is a foreign military attache assignment. D'AGUIAR apparently has his eye on Europe because he is supposed to have turned down the Assistant Attache slot in Washington before it was accepted by incumbent Colonel TANCREDO Ramos Jube. It is not unlikely that at the end of his present job he will be rewarded with an attache assignment through the intercession of the COSTA E SILVA family with President MEDICI.)

c. The other officers all volunteered, principally because they own apartments and want to live in Rio de Janeiro. (Comment: ARIEL and PEIXOTO are currently COSTA E SILVA presidential aides and BETTAMIO is a former aide. HELCIO is COSTA E SILVA's personal doctor and heart specialist. LAHYR is presently in charge of all Presidential property in Rio.)

d. Also available to COSTA E SILVA will be four cars and four drivers as well as the staff of the Laranjeiras Palace in Rio. All palace expenses will be paid for by the government.

e. Although he is entitled to his staff until March 1971, CONRADO believes he will be letting some of them go much sooner.

3. (C) According to source, COSTA E SILVA plans to stay in the Laranjeiras Palace until December when the medical treatment he is now receiving will be completed. He then plans to go to Petropolis for the summer but it is not known whether he will use the official Rio Negro Palace now available to him by law or his personally owned apartment there. He then plans to return to work perhaps between August-October 1970. He plans to accept the offer of old friend and his Minister of Health, Leonel Tavares MIRANDA de Albuquerque, to be President of a Miranda owned holding company. The work will be light, only three hours a day, and will provide the extra income he needs as well as therapeutic activity.

4. (C) CONRADO, who at the time of our conversation was preoccupied with putting the President's finances in order, said the President's monthly personal pay has been NCr \$3800. Effective 30 October 1969, and under provisions of the recently promulgated new Constitution, Brazil will pay a pension to ex-Presidents. At present this will amount to NCr \$2200. Hence, ex-President COSTA E SILVA will receive NCr \$2200 and his pension as an Army Marshal of NCr \$1800, or

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(Classification and Control Markings)REPORT NO. 00000000000000000000
PAGE 3 OF 3 PAGES
ORIGINATOR USDAO, BRAZIL

(Leave Blank)

NCR \$4000 per month plus that which he "gained as President".
(Comment: CONRADO was vague in what the latter covered but seemed to imply things which COSTA E SILVA managed to buy or perhaps acquire through other means while President, "such as an apartment in Teresopolis". In sum, his remarks indicate that while not wealthy, COSTA E SILVA will have a comfortable income in retirement. Whether this income will keep his wife happy in the manner to which she has become accustomed remains to be seen. There still may be money scandals in the COSTA E SILVA family.)

5. (C) Describing the President's current physical condition, his aide said he now walks with an exaggerated lifting of the right foot which the doctors regard as a better sign than if he had continued to drag it. His right arm remains the same: movement in the fingers and shoulder but no control over the arm itself, hence he does not write. His speech is slow and forced, and consists of a vocabulary of 70-80 words. It is through the latter medium he manages to painstakingly express his thoughts.

6. (C) There is no conflict between COSTA E SILVA and President-elect MEDICI over palace space in Rio, another Presidencia source told me, because MEDICI is content to use the official Air Minister's residence at Galeao Air Base. It is larger than Laranjeiras Palace and easier to secure. The Air Minister, Marshal Marcio de Souza MELLO, is a close friend of MEDICI's and rarely uses it. Furthermore, MEDICI will spend much more time in Brasilia than COSTA E SILVA and plans to remain here initially until mid-December, said this source and a host of others both in and outside the Presidencia. Therefore, these sources speculate, the ministers will be spending more time in Brasilia.

7. (C) As for the other members of COSTA E SILVA's military household, I have been told by various sources that Army Minister General (Ret) Aurelio de LYRA TAVARES has been most generous in permitting each officer to submit his request for the type and location of assignment desired. It appears that those closest to COSTA E SILVA are getting what they asked for. However, the other evening I overheard two of these officers bitterly complaining they were being given a "snow job" treatment to accept assignments in undesirable areas quite different from those they requested. Until last evening (26 October) officers of his personal staff, were saying that even Military Household Chief, MGen Jayme PORTELLA de Mello, did not yet know for certain where he was going. (Comment: These assignments are undoubtedly complicated by the fact that the new Army Minister General Orlando GEISEL will have his own ideas about filling some of the positions and he will not be able to clarify the situation until he is formally in office.)

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