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44 DEPARTMENT OF STATE	
AIRGRAM	
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HANDLING INDICATOR	
TO : Department of State	
INFO : Amembassy BRASILIA	
FROM : Amembassy RIO DE JANEIRO	
SUBJECT : Biographic Data on Captain Pedro Thedim Barreto and his Role in Brazilian Science Policy	
REF : Rio 12782, Oct. 15, 1968; Rio 13970, Dec. 3, 1968	

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DATE: Jan 21, 1969	

Information recently reported by the Embassy has suggested that Captain Pedro Thedim Barreto of the Brazilian Navy, who is currently Chief of the Navy Section in the Presidential Military Household, is playing an active role in the formation of Brazilian Science Policy at the National Security Council Secretariat level. A review of available biographic information reveals no special qualifications for such a role nor as far as the Embassy is aware has he ever shown a special personal interest in science or been closely associated with Brazilian scientists prior to his present activities.

These factors combine to make something of a mystery of exactly what role he actually has been playing in recent science policy developments reported by the Embassy. We would in fact be inclined to assume his role to be a casual one or purely administrative were it not for the fact that for the last several months high level sources have repeatedly linked his name with actual policy formation. No less a person than the President of the National Research Council, Dr. Antonio Couceiro, on December 3rd indicated flatly that Thedim Barreto of the National Security Council Secretariat had participated in drafting and was coordinating approval in Brasilia of a proposed new

Attachment A: Biographic Data

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decree governing scientific expeditions and cooperation. Accordingly, although the Captain's exact role in Brazilian science policy formation remains somewhat unclear it seems appropriate to report available biographic information on him for the information of those in the Department concerned with Brazilian science and technology.

Attached to this airgram as Attachment A is the standard available biographic information. Although the Science Attaché has not had an opportunity to meet and personally assess Captain Barreto, several reliable sources within the scientific community have volunteered their personal evaluations of him recently. The available consensus seems to be that Captain Barreto could be described as a competent, rather unimaginative, nationalistic, Naval officer. One military source described him in U.S. Naval jargon as being "something of a sea lawyer." Practically all sources agree that he is the type of man who would attempt, at all costs, to avoid direct disagreement with his superiors even if he realized that his superiors were pursuing a course of action or policy which was factually wrong or in the long run counter-productive. One source indicated that on at least two occasions within the past six months he had found it necessary to go around Captain Barreto directly to General Portello in order to assure that senior officers of the military household would be aware of the counter-productive results of certain proposed actions relating to scientific cooperation (one case involved a program with the U.S. and the other one was with France).

At least one other military officer connected with the National Security Council Secretariat has been involved in science policy. He is Lt. Col. Oswaldo Muniz Oliva who accompanied Minister José Costa Cavalcanti on his recent trip to the U.S. There is no indication, however, that Col. Oliva has been playing a role comparable to or even in direct association with Captain Barreto.

If additional significant information is developed concerning Captain Barretto or the role of the National Security Council Secretariat in science policy it will be reported in due course.

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Captain Pedro Thedim Barreto

Born: October 31, 1919, Rio de Janeiro, Guanabara, Brazil.
Race: Caucasian.
Religion: Catholic.
Attitude toward the U.S.: Believed to be friendly.
Education: Colegio São Bento; Brazilian Naval Academy.
Courses: Damage Control; Preliminary Course Naval War College;
Command and Staff Naval War College.
Language Proficiency: Portuguese (native)
English (poor)
Travel: Brief visits to various European countries in connection
with the fitting out of the Carrier Minas Gerais.
Military Service: Commissioned Ensign 10/16/42; LTJG 6/30/44;
LT 5/9/46; LCDR 3/25/53; CDR 7/11/58. Duty in following
naval vessels: Ceara; Minas Gerais; Piranha; Barroso;
Beberibe. Duty at following Stations and Districts: Naval
Staff, Naval Base at Salvador, Naval Academy, Assistant to
Commander Destroyer Flotilla Cabinet of the Naval Minister.
Comments on Service Reputation and Competence: Excellent service
reputation. Medals: Medal for War Service WWII with 2 stars;
Naval Forces of the Northeast; Military Service medal (Silver -
for 20 years of service).

Wife: Myriam Sayao Barreto
Nationality: Brazilian
Race: Caucasian
Religion: Catholic
Description: Fairly tall attractive woman, educated, but with
very limited knowledge of English language. Sister of fellow
naval officer.
Comment: Captain Barreto has served in the U.S. as Assistant
Naval Attaché at the Brazilian Embassy in Washington.

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