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Brazilian Military Hardliner Dismissed

Brazilian President Costa e Silva and Army Minister Lyra Tavares have demonstrated confidence in their control over the army by ousting a key intellectual among the army hardliners. A presidential decree issued on 19 May summarily retired army Col Boaventura Cavalcanti for activities incompatible with his active-duty status.

An army investigation had reportedly revealed that he had consorted with cassated opposition leader Carlos Lacerda as well as with opposition congressmen. Although known as a brilliant officer, Boaventura had devoted much of his time for several years to agitating against the government. Efforts had been made to isolate him from both politicians and younger military officers by transferring him to innocuous posts.

His brother, Minister of Interior Jose Costa Cavalcanti, contemplated resigning as a gesture of support for Boaventura but is said to have decided to stay on.

The dismissal will serve as a warning to other military conspirators that excessive agitation will not be tolerated. (CONFIDENTIAL NO FOREIGN DISSEM)

Declassified Per E.O. 12958
Defense Intelligence Agency
By AR Date 13 Sep 04
NOT Reviewed for Public Release

22 May 69

DIA Intelligence Bulletin

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DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 53094