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C O N F I D E N T I A L 951. FM ARMA, SEP 69.
1. (C) SOURCE OF INFORMATION IN THIS MESSAGE IS AN ARMY COLONEL ON THE STAFF OF MINISTER LYRA TAVARES. THE COLONEL DINED AT THE RESIDENCE OF THE MINISTER ON 16 SEP AND ENGAGED HIS CHIEF AND MRS. LYRA TAVARES IN RELAXED CONVERSATION UNTIL 2200 HOURS. IN VIEW OF SOURCE'S LONG RECORD OF RELIABLE REPORTING AND HIS ALMOST SON-LIKE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE MINISTER, I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT THE INFORMATION HE FURNISHED REFLECTS THE ARMY MINISTER'S TRUE FEELINGS OF THE MOMENT.
2. (C) DESPITE CONSIDERABLE SADNESS OVER THE APPARENT TREACHERY OF SOME COLLEAGUES OF MANY YEARS' STANDING, ARMY MINISTER LYRA TAVARES IS QUITE CONFIDENT THAT HE HAS THE SITUATION GENERALLY UNDER CONTROL WITHIN THE ARMY AND THAT THE HIERARCHICAL STRUCTURE REMAINS SOLIDLY INTACT. THE MINISTER IS DISAPPOINTED OVER THE POLITICKING OF MAJ. GEN. AFFONSO DE ALGUEQUERQUE LIMA BUT IS GRATIFIED THAT THE DISAPPOINTMENT ALSO IS FELT BY THE OTHER COMPONENTS OF THE HIGH COMMAND. AS FAR AS ACTUAL TROOP COMMANDERS ARE CONCERNED, MAJ. GEN. CASTILHO, COMMANDER OF THE 1ST INF. DIVISION AND THE VILA MILITAR IS A SOURCE OF WORRY TO THE MINISTER AND MAY BE REPLACED SOON BY MAJ. GEN. FROTA, COMMANDER OF THE 1ST MILITARY REGION, WHO IS EFFECTIVE AND LOYAL.
3. (C) AS FAR AS THE PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION QUESTION IS CONCERNED, LYRA TAVARES AND THE ARMY HIGH COMMAND HAVE NO PRESENT INTENTION OF RUSHING INTO A SOLUTION, WHILE LYRA

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