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FM ARMA 210 FEB 69 SECTION 1 OF 2

1. (C/NFD) INFORMATION IN THIS MESSAGE WAS OBTAINED FROM INTERIOR MINISTER COSTA CAVALCANTI DURING A PRIVATE LUNCH IN RIO DE JANEIRO ON 27 FEBRUARY. COSTA CAVALCANTI URGED THAT I EXERCISE GREAT CARE IN DISCUSSING INFORMATION HE PASSED ON. THUS REQUEST THAT SOURCE BE PROTECTED.

2. (C/NFD) USING COLLECTION DEVICE THAT I WAS GOING TO CONUS ON SATURDAY AND WANTED TO HAVE LATEST INFORMATION TO PASS ON TO WASHINGTON, I ASKED FOR COSTA CAVALCANTI'S VIEWS ON DEGREE OF CONTROL COSTA E SILVA HAS OF SITUATION. THE INTERIOR MINISTER SAID THAT PRESIDENT IS IN FIRM CONTROL BUT THAT HE WOULD NOT INSULT MY INTELLIGENCE BY PRETENDING THAT MILITARY PRESSURES ON THE PRESIDENT DID NOT EXIST. IN REPLY TO MY QUESTION, HE SAID THAT THE PRESSURES EMANATED LARGELY FROM GENERALS MURICY, DUTRA DE CASTILHO, ARAGAO, CALDERARI, FROTA, RAMIRO GONCALVES, AND HENRIQUE CARDOSO. THESE GENERALS AND THEIR FOLLOWERS WERE NOT MAKING PUBLIC PRO-
NOUNCEMENTS BECAUSE THE PRESIDENT HAD BANNED THEM AFTER GENERAL HENRIQUE CARDOSO'S "STUPID DECLARATION" IN VITORIA SEVERAL WEEKS AGO. HOWEVER, THEY WERE USING ANOTHER CLEVER DEVICE AND THAT WAS SPEECHES ON THE OCCASION OF CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONIES. TODAY, FOR INSTANCE, COSTA CAVALCANTI EXPECTED THAT GEN FROTA WOULD GO INTO PROFOUND CONSIDERATIONS INVOLVING THE IMAGINED THREATS TO THE REVOLUTION IN HIS SPEECH OF ASSUMPTION OF COMMAND OF THE 1ST MILITARY REGION. AS FAR AS COSTA CAVALCANTI IS CONCERNED, ALL OF THE OTHER 4-STAR GENERALS, INCLUDING SYSENO SARMENTO, AND ESPECIALLY ARMY MINISTER LYRA TAVARES, ARE SOLIDLY ON THE SIDE OF THE PRESIDENT AND MODERATION.

ACT: DIA-20

INFO: NSA-2 CIA-4 FILE-1(27)HAT/JN
PAGE 1 OF 6

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3. (C/NFD) UPCOMING SHIFTS IN COMMAND WILL TAKE CARE OF MANY OF THE RASH GENERALS IN COSTA CAVALCANTI'S VIEW. HE SAID THAT LYRA TAVARES WANTS HIS PET MURICY AS CHIEF OF THE ARMY STAFF TO REPLACE GEN ADALBERTO WHO IS GOING TO THE SUPERIOR MILITARY TRIBUNAL. THE PRESIDENT, HOWEVER, HAS SOME RESERVATIONS TOWARD MURICY WHO EXERTED PRESSURE ON 12 DECEMBER AND IS POLITICALLY AMBITIOUS. COSTA E SILVA LIKES HIM PERSONALLY AND BELIEVES HIM TO BE FUNDAMENTALLY LOYAL, BUT HE HAS INDICATED THAT WERE MURICY TO GO TO THE GENERAL STAFF, HE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO TAKE ALONG MANY OF THE HARDLINE COLONELS (HELIO MENDES, HELIO LEMUS ETC.) NOW IN HIS ENTOURAGE. IT IS CAVALCANTI'S BELIEF THAT GEN SOUZA AGUIAR, WHO WAS CONSPICUOUS IN HIS SUPPORT OF COSTA E SILVA ON THE PRESSURE-LADEN NIGHT OF 12 DECEMBER, AND WHO OUTRANKS MURICY, MIGHT GET THE CHIEF OF STAFF BILLET WITH MURICY REMAINING DIRECTOR GENERAL OF PERSONNEL. COSTA CAVALCANTI CONFIRMED PREVIOUS INFORMATION THAT GENERALS ARAGO, CANAVARRO, AND MEDICI WOULD GET THEIR FOURTH STARS ON 25 MARCH, WITH ARAGO GOING TO 3RD ARMY, CANAVARRO TO 2ND ARMY, AND MEDICI REMAINING IN SNI FOR A WHILE. LATER, HE SAID, MEDICI WOULD TAKE OVER THE 3RD ARMY IN PREPARATION FOR BECOMING ARMY MINISTER. THE NEW HEAD OF SNI WILL BE GB FONTOURA, NOW CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE 3RD ARMY, ACCORDING TO CAVALCANTI. HE ALSO BELIEVES THAT MARSHAL LEVY CARDOSO WILL BE NAMED PRESIDENT OF PETROBRAS AND THAT HIS SLOT ON THE NATIONAL PETROLEUM COUNCIL WILL BE TAKEN BY THE CURRENT CHIEF OF CABINET, ARAKEN. CAVALCANTI ALSO SAID THAT GEN (RET) DIEGUEZ WILL REMAIN AS A PETROBRAS DIRECTOR BECAUSE HE ENJOYS THE FULL CONFIDENCE OF COSTA E SILVA WHO EXPECTS TO MAKE HIM PRESIDENT OF THE CORPORATION AT SOME FUTURE DATE. COSTA CAVALCANTI SAID THAT PROMOTIONS AND REASSIGNMENTS WILL TAKE CARE OF SUCH PROBLEM GENERALS AS HENRIQUE CARDOSO AND RAMIRO GONCALVES, BUT THAT GEN CASTILHO DURTA WILL NOT BE TOUCHED FOR THE TIME BEING.

4. (C/NFD) WHEN I INQUIRED ABOUT THE STRENGTH OF FORMER INTERIOR MINISTER AFFONSO ALBUQUERQUE LIMA, THE CURRENT INTERIOR MINISTER SAID THAT HIS OWN BROTHER, CONTROVERSIAL COL BOAVENTURA CAVALCANTI, ENJOYED FAR MORE PRESTIGE IN THE ARMY THAN DID AFFONSO. COSTA CAVALCANTI SAID THAT AFFONSO HAD THE DISADVANTAGE OF BEING FROM THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS AND THAT CORPS OF ENGINEERS OFFICERS HAD VERY LIMITED FOLLOWINGS IN THE ARMY. MOREOVER, CAVALCANTI SAID THAT AFFONSO HAD LEFT HIS CABINET POST WITH A SMOKE SCREEN OF PIOUS SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS, BUT THAT HE, CAVALCANTI, WAS NOW STUCK WITH PICKING UP THE TAB FOR SOME OF AFFONSO'S SELF-PROMOTION ACTIVITIES. AMONG THESE WAS A BILL FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES FOR 15,700 DOLLARS FOR A PRO-AFFONSO SUPPLEMENT PUBLISHED ON 19 JAN 69.

2 OF 6

31363

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CAVALCANTI IS MAKING SURE THAT THIS AND OTHER STORIES GET AROUND THE ARMY. AS FAR AS A NEW ASSIGNMENT FOR AFFONSO IS CONCERNED, CAVALCANTI BELIEVES HE WILL REPLACE THE TO-BE-PROMOTED GEN CANAVARRO AS DIRECTOR OF ORDNANCE, ONE OF AFFONSO'S MOST ARDENT FOLLOWERS. GEN VINITIUS NOTARE WHO COMMANDS THE ENGINEER GROUP IN NORTHERN BRAZIL, WILL BE SENT TO MANAUS TO THE FRONTIER UNITS COMMAND AND HIS JOB WITH THE ENGINEER GROUP WILL BE TAKEN BY BG NEWTON FARIA FERREIRA. ANOTHER AFFONSO SUPPORTER, CURRENT PETROBRAS HEAD MAJ GEN CANDAL, IS HENDING FROM SURGERY BUT WILL NOT RECEIVE ANY CHOICE CONSIDERATION FROM COSTA E SILVA WHO HOLDS HIM IN DISDAIN. 5. (C/NFD) WHEN I INQUIRED ABOUT LIKELY POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MONTHS AHEAD, CAVALCANTI SAID THAT COSTA E SILVA IS ANXIOUS FOR A RECOMPOSITION OF THE DEMOCRATIC APPARATUS, BUT THAT HE MUST GO CAREFULLY. IN COSTA CAVALCANTI'S VIEW, IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO REOPEN CONGRESS UNTIL ABOUT JULY. HE SAID THAT MANY CIVILIANS-- HEADED BY JUSTICE MINISTER GAMA E SILVA--AND A LIKE FORCE OF

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3 OF 6

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