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Brazil - Manau Debulfing (See P.O.), 3 Mar 19

government has now moved with vigor against them.

Another factor is that student leaders are in jail and will be harassed by authorities to keep them from regrouping. The Armed Forces are also concentrating on counter-insurgency training and are quite sophisticated about it. The Jungle Warfare Training Center up in Manaus is a rather unique organization and is turning out some tough troopers. Overall, then, security has improved since 13 December.

Question: State Police doing anything to help?

Answer: Yes. One of the major efforts of BG Meira Mattos, Inspector General of State Militias, has been in the sense of promoting coordination and better training. He has also sought to change the rationale of these state militias from one of envisioning world combat as the Army reserve, to one of internal security within their respective states.

Question: What was the role of Lyra Tavares on the night and few days that followed when the "hardliners" pressured Costa e Silva into signing the IA-5?

Answer: On the afternoon of the 12th after the vote in Congress Lyra sensed what the feeling was in the Vila Militar. His agents told him the troops were uneasy. The President got back to Rio about 5 o'clock

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Declassified Per E.O. 12958
Defense Intelligence Agency
By ADK Date 13 Sept 04
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in the afternoon. Lyra went to the palace about 5:30 and told the President that the situation was difficult - a lot of pressure - and he urged the President to consider what the government was going to do. The President said he was very tired, he realized what the pressures were, but he was not going to make any decisions that night. Tomorrow he would announce his decision. Sizeno had been in Brasilia. He got back at 8 o'clock. His Chief of Staff who is a real hardliner and Gen Ramiro decided to fan the flames of passion on the basis of pressures at Vila Militar. They staged a 200-officer reception for Sizeno at the airport so as to impress upon Sizeno that the situation was serious. He got to his office and found 30 General officers including Gen ^{João Dutra de} ~~Castilho~~ CG of the Vila Militar. At that point, Sizeno went up to Lyra's office and said that the situation was very delicate and that the President had to do something. Lyra said that the President would not decide until tomorrow. Sizeno replied: "But I don't think I can hold these people off." Lyra said: "Why don't you go over to see the President and take Gen Calderari with you to make an impression." Those close to Lyra think he did this deliberately, knowing full well that the President would not receive Sizeno and knowing the word would get around

that he had been rebuffed by the President. The President sent word that he was tired, was watching a Western movie, and couldn't possibly see them but that tomorrow he would make the appropriate decision. Sizeno went back to Army Ministry and told the assembled generals there that the President would decide tomorrow. At this stage General Aragao said: "With or without the President we have to take a position tonight." Castillo, the Chief of Staff of First Army, the Commander of the First Brigade, and others went with Sizeno to Lyra's office and announced that action must be taken immediately, "with or without the President." At this point, Lyra said: "I want you to know that I am a member of the President's government - if you are thinking of overthrowing the government do not count on me." The Generals went back to Sizeno's office and decided to give the President until 11 o'clock the following day. Castillo said he would come from the Vila Militar at the head of his troops if a decision had not been made by 11. Sizeno said, "No, you will not be at the head of the troops, I will be at the head of the troops." The next morning the President went over to the Naval Academy. While he was there handing out prizes to the honor graduates General Medici was sounding out the admirals and brigadiers. When the President walked toward

the dining room at about noon, Medici came up behind him and whispered in his ear that the situation was very grave. He suggested the President return to the palace and call a meeting of the high command. This deflated Sizeno's schedule. It wasn't until late that night that the Justice Minister finally came on TV and announced the imposition of IA-5. Lyra was 100 percent loyal to the President. Muricy was assigned by Lyra to stay close to Sizeno to see to it that he did not make any wild moves. The people around Lyra made certain that Costa e Silva found out about Lyra's position. Costa e Silva was fully aware of Lyra's loyalty. Costa e Silva now is playing the game of promoting and reassigning those who were most intransigent that night.

Question: Why is he going to put Aragao in charge of the Third Army? He is such a hardliner.

Answer: The Third Army staff is a professional homesteading staff. It is a safe command because the CG is limited in his capability to stack the headquarters with his own people. On the basis of what he did on the night of the 12th, Aragao should not be promoted. Moreover, he is tired and old and arteriosclerosis has set in and he has become a bit unstable. Nevertheless, the general concensus is that he has earned this star.