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Military Criticism of Brazilian Triumvirate

A number of high-ranking Brazilian Army officers are agitating against the triumvirate form of government that replaced ailing President Costa e Silva on 31 August.

Gen Albuquerque/Lima views the triumvirate as too awkward and dissension-ridden to function smoothly. As this becomes more apparent, he believes the army high command will be forced to name a single military chief to head up the government until Costa e Silva's term ends next March.

Gen Syseno/Sarmento, commander of the key 1st Army based in Rio de Janeiro, shares the belief that the three-way division of power was unwise. He expects military demands for a switch to a one-man system to increase after the 7 September Brazilian Independence Day celebrations. One of Syseno's subordinates, 1st Division Commander Gen Castilho, told his officers on the 1st that he would not tolerate the air force's having an equal voice with the army in running the government. Other hard-line generals who have long opposed President Costa e Silva's efforts to return the country to some form of civilian rule are also preaching dissension.

These elements have not yet mustered enough strength to force a change. Several generals, eager to succeed the President, have stepped up their maneuvering, however, and a power struggle within the military seems to be shaping up.
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