



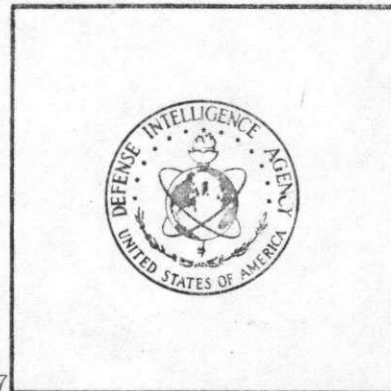
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**BIOGRAPHIC DATA**

BRAZIL  
Brig Gen (Ret) José Costa CAVALCANTI  
June 1973

(U) NAME: Brig Gen (Ret) José Costa Cavalcânti  
(kah-vahl-KAHN-tee), Army.

(U) POSITION: Minister of Interior since  
27 Jan 1969.



(U) 1967

(S/NFD) SIGNIFICANCE: A retired army officer who has been active in politics since 1958, Brig Gen Cavalcânti was twice elected to the Federal Chamber of Deputies (1962 and 1966) and was appointed Minister of Mines and Energy in 1967 by the late President Arthur Costa e Silva (President, 1966-1969). He is the political spokesman for the military hardliners who advocate strong action against leftism and corruption in the government and he often defended military affairs while in congress. Cavalcânti is a serious, hardworking, and intelligent administrator and an ambitious and vigorous leader. While on active duty, he was regarded as one of the most brilliant field grade officers in the Army (graduated first in his class at the Military Academy and the Army Command and General Staff School). He served as assistant military attaché in Washington, D.C.

(S/NFD) POLITICS:

(C/NFD) International: Anti-Communist, nationalistic, and a staunch U.S. supporter. Open and completely at ease with U.S. diplomats. Brig Gen Cavalcânti received advanced infantry training at Fort Benning, Georgia.

(S/NFD) Internal: Cavalcânti supported the Apr 1964 revolution that ousted Leftist João Goulart (President, 1961-1964) from the presidency. He was a close confidant and important adviser to Goulart's successor, President Humberto Castello Branco (President, 1964-1967). He is a member of the hardline faction which advocates a firm, even authoritarian approach to solving Brazil's problems, especially those of subversion and corruption. He warmly endorsed the Institutional Act No. 5 of 13 Dec 1968 which imposed censorship on the news media and further restricted political activity. Very ambitious politically, he actively sought the governorship of the state of Pernambuco in 1970, and at one time had ambitions for the vice-presidency

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BRAZIL  
Brig Gen (Ret) José Costa CAVALCÂNTI  
June 1973

under the then incumbent President Emílio Garrastazú Médici (President since 1969). He was first elected to the Federal Chamber of Deputies in 1962 on the ticket of the now defunct National Democratic Union (UDN). He was reelected to the Chamber in 1966 as a member of the currently ruling party, the National Renewal Alliance (ARENA).

(S/NFD) PERSONAL DATA:

(U) Birth: 6 Jan 1918 in Fortaleza, Ceará State, Brazil.

(S/NFD) Family: Wife, Haidéa Corrêa Cavalcânti (pro-U.S.; speaks excellent English). Brother, Col Boaventura Costa Cavalcânti (a leading member of the hardline faction who was active in the Apr 1964 Goulart ouster; forcibly retired from the army in 1969). His other brother, Col Manuel Costa Cavalcânti reputedly considers himself a liberal. Children (3): José (m), born about 1946; Magda Maria (f), born about 1950; third child, name, date of birth, and sex not known.

(C/NFD) Description: Stocky build (5'11", 186 lbs); brown hair, wears tinted glasses. Quiet; pleasant; sociable; well-liked by his co-workers.

(U) Languages: Native Portuguese, excellent English, good Spanish and French.

(U) Religion: Roman Catholic.

(U) Decorations: U.S. Legion of Merit, (Degree: Officer). Brazilian Military Medal (Silver Clasp); War Service Medal; Medal of the Peacemaker; Ruy Barbosa Medal.

(U) CIVIL EDUCATION: Primary and secondary in Brazil.

(U) CAREER:

1934-1937 - Cadet, Military Academy, Realengo, graduated first in class, 1937. Commissioned Probationary 2d Lt in Infantry, 22 Nov 1937.

1938 - Promoted to 2d Lt, 30 Dec 1938.

1940 - Promoted to 1st Lt, 25 Dec 1940.

? - Commander, Infantry Company.

1944 - Adjutant, 4th Section, General Staff, Brazilian Expeditionary Force of the Interior. Promoted to Capt, 25 Dec 1944.

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- 1959 - Promoted to Lt Col.
- 1959-1962 - Leave of absence to become Secretary for Public Security, Pernambuco State.
- 1962-1967 - Deputy from Pernambuco State, Federal Chamber of Deputies, from Oct 1962. Concurrently, Vice Chairman and then Chairman, National Security Commission. Retired from active duty as Brig Gen, reportedly in 1966.
- 1967-1968 - Minister of Mines and Energy, from Mar 1967. Visited England, France, West Germany, Canada and U.S. touring nuclear power plants, Nov-Dec 1968.
- 1969-Present - Minister of Interior, from 27 Jan 1969.

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July 69

BRAZIL

José COSTA CAVALCÂNTI

Minister of Interior

Col. (Ret.) José Costa Cavalcânti was installed as Minister of Interior on 31 January 1969. He had previously served as Minister of Mines and Energy since the inception of the Administration of President Arthur da Costa e Silva in March 1967. Officials of the US Embassy consider Costa Cavalcânti a serious, hard-working, and intelligent administrator. His subordinates feel that he is quick to pick up new ideas and to understand difficult problems.



(1967)

Costa Cavalcânti is a member of the hardline faction of the government, which advocates a firm, even authoritarian approach to solving Brazil's problems, especially in dealing with subversion and corruption. He warmly endorsed the promulgation on 13 December 1968 of Institutional Act Five, which allows the President to govern, in essence, without the trappings or inconveniences of a democracy.

Costa Cavalcânti is ambitious politically. He reportedly intends to seek the governorship of Pernambuco in 1970 and is believed to aspire to the Presidency of the Republic. His political future has been significantly weakened, however, by the recent forced retirement of his brother, hardline Col. Francisco Boaventura Cavalcânti Júnior, who had openly and actively disagreed with a number of administration policies. Costa Cavalcânti had not agreed with or sanctioned his brother's activities and accepted the President's decision to force him out of active military service. Nevertheless, leaders of the government feel that Costa Cavalcânti should have resigned his position immediately, since his continued presence in the government implies a complete lack of family loyalty, a factor considered very

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José COSTA CAVALCÂNTI (cont.)

important in the Brazilian character and culture. They are of the opinion that his failure to resign may cause people to regard him as a servile or fawning politician.

Costa Cavalcânti's decision to remain in the Cabinet has cost him considerable prestige, at least temporarily, and has even brought affronts to his person. For example, on 20 May 1969 Gen. Rodrigo Otávio Jordão Ramos, commander of the 9th Military Region, encountered Costa Cavalcânti at the Brasília airport and deliberately walked past him on two occasions without so much as nodding a greeting. The snub was reportedly so apparent that others at the airport were stunned.

José Costa Cavalcânti was born on 6 January 1918 in Fortaleza, Ceará. He enlisted in the army in 1935 and graduated from the Military Academy in 1937. He subsequently held military assignments in Fortaleza, Manaus, Belém, Belo Horizonte, and Rio de Janeiro. He spent 5 years as a professor of military tactics in various military schools, attended the Brazilian General Staff College in 1948, and completed the infantry officers' advanced course at Fort Benning, Georgia, in 1951. He became assistant military attaché in Washington, D.C., in 1955.

After 3 years in the United States, Costa Cavalcânti took a leave of absence from the army to serve as state secretary of public security in Pernambuco from 1958 to 1962, under his cousin, Governor Cid Sampaio. Costa Cavalcânti was reportedly ineffective as secretary of public security, but used his official position to ensure his election to the Federal Chamber of Deputies in 1962, on the ticket of the now defunct National Democratic Union. He was reelected to the Chamber in 1966 as a member of the National Renewal Alliance, a new, pro-government party formed in early 1966, after all existing parties were abolished in October 1965. He is believed to have retired from the army in that same year.

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José COSTA CAVALCÂNTI  
(cont.)

Costa Cavalcânti is very friendly toward the United States. He recently spent a month in this country studying nuclear power. US diplomats have consistently found him one of the easiest Ministers to talk to. Although he was depicted in the past as a nationalist, as Minister of Mines and Energy he consistently maintained a moderate approach to the sensitive question of whether Brazil should retain full freedom to develop peaceful uses of nuclear energy, including explosives, and should remain steadfast in its opposition to the signing of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. More than once he stated publicly that Brazil should approach nuclear energy calmly and "with its feet on the ground," making it clear that he disagreed with the "grandiose and simplistic view" of the subject presented by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, José de Magalhães Pinto. According to a reliable source, Costa Cavalcânti confided to a trusted staff aide that as far as he was personally concerned, Brazil for the next 20 to 30 years had more than it could do to utilize its vast, untapped hydroelectric potential, and that Brazil was ill equipped or prepared to enter into serious nuclear development which could lead to explosions for peaceful purposes. He did indicate, however, that Brazil should not abdicate her right to develop the capability to make such explosions at some future date. In view of Costa Cavalcânti's reported presidential aspirations, such seemingly unselfish political behavior is worth noting. Moreover, it contradicts some intelligence information from his home state of Pernambuco which contends that he has a reputation for being a self-serving politician.

As Interior Minister, Costa Cavalcânti is charged with dealing with the myriad problems of poverty-wracked Northeastern Brazil, his native region. There is no indication, however, that he will be willing to fight with his fellow Ministers to promote Northeast development ahead of other priority projects. An outspoken political conservative, Costa Cavalcânti nevertheless is not identified--at least on a national level--with *status quo* economic groups. On the other hand, he is not expected to blaze any new trails in the reform area.

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José COSTA CAVALCÂNTI (cont.)

Most observers feel that he will probably prove to be a competent but unspectacular Minister of Interior, just as he was a competent but unspectacular Minister of Mines and Energy.

Personally, Costa Cavalcânti is a quiet, pleasant, sociable individual, well liked by his coworkers. Married to the former Haidéa Corrêa, he is the father of three children. Both Costa Cavalcânti and his wife speak excellent English.

July 1969

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