

A-86

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INFO: Amembassy, Rio and Brasilia
Amcengen, Recife

American Consulate, Salvador

April 26, 1963

Weekly Summary

POLITICAL:

Designation of police and judicial authorities in the municipalities throughout the state has become the subject of a protocol between Governor Lomanto and the parties which sponsored his election -- UDM, PR, PTB, PL, PRP, and PST. In essence, the Governor has agreed to appoint police and judicial officials designated by the political coalition in municipalities where the coalition won the elections. Where the parties were divided in the candidates they sponsored, the designation of the police and judicial officials will be based on the proportionate strength of the Lomanto coalition parties in the municipio. The Governor may dismiss any appointee who exceeds his authority. No appointees are to use their offices for political vengeance.

Comment: While this protocol was signed nearly two weeks ago, it was published only two days ago. It has been much discussed in the interim, however, and some commentators have felt that Governor Lomanto compromised his position by agreeing to it. Municipal appointments in the fields of finance and education have not been subjected to formalized political influence. Implementation of the protocol is proving awkward and complaints have been voiced in many municipalities. It has been reported that the Governor is having second thoughts about the protocol, but feels he can overcome handicaps it imposes. It is an effective means of weakening the PSD influence throughout the state, but at the same time it makes it difficult for the Governor to acquire the support of non-coalition parties.

OFFICIAL USE ONLY
Decontrolled following April 26, 1965

HMWickiff:RCMcGloskey:la

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

The declared fusion of the PR with the PTB has not been consummated. Living as one has been found more difficult than the declaration of intent. Among other things, irritations have developed over the division of representation in the Legislative Assembly Committees and the only way to resolve the impasse has been to de-fuse, at least for the time being.

In the Legislative Assembly the political parties have at last designated their candidates for the various committees. When these are established, the Assembly will be ready to get under way. One of the first bills of significance to be considered will be the establishment of a state lottery to take the place of the numbers game known as "bicho".

Governor Lomanto is planning a trip to Federal headquarters May 5 to meet with the President and the Minister of Finance among others. Among the items he plans to take up are: discriminatory treatment of cacao under SUMOC Order 239; a greater share for Bahia from petroleum production.

Vacancies in State jobs are not to be filled until the state payroll reaches 60% of state revenues. This is the essence of a decree issued by Governor Lomanto on April 24. Exceptions will be made where technical competence is required, in certain judicial functions, and in positions carrying separate means of payment.

Comment: This is the first major step taken to balance the state budget.

Deputy Wilson Lins (UDN) spoke out against Communism again in the Assembly this past week. He said that the struggle between the right and the left is out-dated -- "it is now a struggle between communism and democracy, liberty and slavery." He read sections of a Pastoral Letter of the Metropolitan Archbishop of Diamantina to give weight to his arguments.

Minister of Labor Almino Afonso visited Salvador for two days during the week. He met with the Governor, with labor unions, labor "delegacias", with the press, and with the Legislative Assembly. He spoke in favor of an agrarian reform based on a constitutional amendment providing payment for expropriated properties in bonds; commented on the deplorable status of the pension funds, blaming management for misplacing a good portion of the funds although he admitted the Government had not made its contribution; stated that rural syndicalization will be pushed rapidly; said that his appointment to the cabinet was made without political strings, therefore the President is free to dismiss him at any moment. His reception by the State Assembly was cool. Not one "muito bem" did he receive

during the speech in which he referred to the serious situation the nation faces. A situation demanding revision of economic, financial, political and social policies. "All these revisions are dependent on the reformation of our structure," he said, "and the conscientious public man cannot afford the luxury of being restrained by partisan barriers."

PSYCHOLOGICAL:

The Declaration of Santiago was variously hailed in headlines as a "Strong Defense of Cuba" (Jornal da Bahia) or as a hope that "Progress Will Extinguish Communism" (Diario de Noticias), but editorially, even the "Jornal" carefully pointed out that it was not a defense of Cuba, but a defense of long-established principles. In an oblique reference to the Santiago meeting, the "Estado da Bahia" praised the US's leashing of Cuban exiles as nullifying the Communists' claims of intervention in that island, and said that the "unassailable position of the US must bring a corresponding action from Fidel Castro and his bearded ones", i.e., no more subversion.

The commercial accord with Russia was hailed by all sides, but especially by the leftish "Jornal da Bahia" as proving that commerce had nothing to do with politics. In general, it was agreed that this was "um bom negocio."

On the local scene, there was vociferous condemnation of SUMOC's Instruction 239 on exchange rates as being prejudicial to Bahian commerce.

A Democratic effort to unseat leftist students controlling the Central "Colegio" of Bahia was foiled when the incumbents claimed that 1731 voters had cast 1933 votes and seized the ballot boxes. It was unclear what the winning margin had been.

Harold M. Nickiff
American Consul