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JERRY J. HUNT, COL, USAF
Defense Attache

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18. ATTACHMENT DATA:

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Silveira LOBO. He said that the Navy Minister talked with him by telephone almost daily and is most solicitous of his every need.

2. (C) Source discussed ^{11/1/69} ~~the~~ **MOREIRA** Admirals who had supported Army Major General AFFONSO Augusto de Albuquerque Lima in his frustrated bid for the Presidency. Among the handful of Admirals so involved, he cited Vice Admirals **BERUTTI** and **HEITOR**, the latter Commandant of the Marine Corps. Admiral **MURILLO** referred to the two recently aggressive and excited Admirals as being extremely well behaved at the present time. He said that they were "like little boys who had stolen cookies from the jar and were caught doing so". "Now", he said, "they are waiting behind the door hoping that their mistakes will be overlooked". Admiral **MURILLO** said that Marine Commandant **HEITOR** is one of the weakest officers in the Brazilian Navy and that he owed much of his success to the fact that former President **COSTA E SILVA** had known Admiral **HEITOR**'s wife when she was an infant and was a close friend of her family. As a matter of fact, Admiral **MURILLO** characterized the Brazilian Marine Corps as being strong in its enlisted component but very weak as far as officers are concerned. He also claimed that the Brazilian Marine Corps has relied largely on clever public relations to project itself. *Ed. Souza*

3. (C) In describing his first audience with President **MEDICI**, Admiral **MURILLO** said that he had discussed eight items in twelve minutes with the President. He was proud of his ability to synthesize his presentation with attendant ease in obtaining presidential decisions. One of the items he said he had discussed with the President was the bi-lateral Brazilian-U.S. mapping agreement involving **AST-10**. Admiral **MURILLO** said that there had been some controversy involving the fact that the U.S. was acting as the broker for the Bolivian and Peruvian involvement in the program. During General **Orlando GEISEL**'s tenure as Chief of the Armed Forces Staff, controversy had arisen over Brazilian officers flying into Bolivia and Peru and officers of those two countries flying over Brazil. Moreover, some questions had been raised over the propriety of photography of those two countries being processed in Brazil without the benefit of at least informal diplomatic agreements involving all parties concerned. Admiral **MURILLO** said that General **GEISEL**'s first reaction had been to suspend such activities. However, Admiral **MURILLO** did not consider this to be a suitable solution. He had discussed the matter with President **MEDICI** who had authorized him to initiate informal discussions with Foreign Minister **GIBSON** in order to negotiate appropriate agreements among all of the countries concerned. Meanwhile, the program will continue as at present. Admiral **MURILLO** also said that he had suggested to President **MEDICI** that General **George R. Mather**, **USCINCSO**, be invited to Brazil as a guest of the government at an early date. He said that the President had endorsed the recommendation wholeheartedly.

4. (C) Admiral **MURILLO** stated that he had hoped to bring Army Major General **REYNALDO Mello de Almeida**, currently Deputy Chief of the Army General Staff, to Brasilia as his Vice Chief of Staff. He will not be able to do so, however, since, for a period of three or four months at any rate, he will have to accept a Vice Admiral as Vice Chief of Staff. He said that the Navy is entitled to the Vice Chief's billet and that it is anxious to have it, at least for a short period of time, in order to create a vacancy for a promotion to Vice Admiral. Once the Navy is accommodated, Admiral **MURILLO** hopes to carry out a switch which will permit him to bring General **REYNALDO** to Brasilia. As far as his own plans with respect to splitting his time between Rio and Brasilia, the Admiral plans to come to Rio for two or three days every other week.

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(C) Admiral MURILLO was especially amused over what he described as Vice President RADEMAKER's problems during the early days of the new administration. He said that RADEMAKER is trying to establish a co-presidency, at least as far as a staff is concerned. According to source, Admiral RADEMAKER now has a "mediocre" military staff and is seeking to duplicate this with a civilian staff. Moreover, the Vice President allegedly wants to establish himself within the presidential office at Planalto Palace. However, Admiral MURILLO said that neither President MEDICI nor those around him wish to have the growing Vice Presidential entourage within the executive offices. Admiral MURILLO chuckled as he described RADEMAKER's dilemma in trying to find appropriate office space. He said that the Navy Ministry had been suggested, but that RADEMAKER had declined since such close identification would lead to eventual conclusions that he was still commanding the Navy. Another suggestion had been made that RADEMAKER find office space within the Congress, but the leaders of both chambers had objected. A third suggestion had been advanced that the Vice President occupy space in the Civil Service headquarters, but he apparently declined stating that the building was run down and unsuitable. Admiral MURILLO said that the Vice President was anxiously awaiting the return from the United States of Foreign Minister GIBSON in the hope that he could persuade GIBSON to make space available in the plush Foreign Office Building.

COMMENT: (C) With respect to plush office accommodations, Admiral MURILLO's are unquestionably the most plush I have seen in Brasilia. His suite of paneled and thickly carpeted offices include concealed bathroom facilities and sleeping accommodations. The furnishings are of high quality and good taste and he enjoys the luxury of a formal office as well as a working office. The suite also includes an imposing salon called the "Gallery of Former Armed Forces General Staff Chiefs" and a dining room. Admiral MURILLO's taste for the finer things of life has already aroused considerable gossip among army officers in Brasilia. One Army Colonel described the Admiral's staff of eight Navy male servants (Admiral MURILLO claimed he only has five) and criticized Admiral MURILLO for having spent, without public bid, over \$2,000 in fixtures for his apartment. Moreover, several sources raised their eyebrows over the fact that Admiral MURILLO has commandeered a second apartment connected with the huge one already available to the Chief of the Armed Forces General Staff. Admiral MURILLO remains a solid and reliable friend of the U.S. and a highly respected defender of the American cause. However, his outspoken ways, his penchant for elegant living, and his somewhat exaggerated concept of his own role within the present government, could lead to future difficulties.

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