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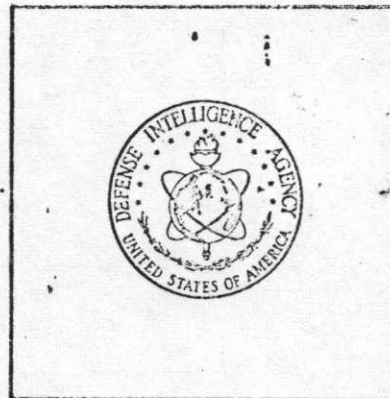
BIOGRAPHIC DATA

BRAZIL
Marshal (Ret) Márcio de Souza e MELLO
November 1971

(U) NAME: Marshal (Ret) Márcio de Souza e Mello (MAHR-see-oh), Air Force.

(U) POSITION: Minister of Aeronautics since 15 Mar 1967.

(S/NFD) SIGNIFICANCE: Despite his excellent reputation in the past as a capable, serious, and dedicated administrator, Márcio has been one of the weaker cabinet members, both in the government of the late Marshal (Ret) Arthur da Costa e Silva (President, 1967-1969) and in the current administration of Gen (Ret) Emílio Garrastazú Médici (President since 30 Oct 1969). He has antagonized both civilian and military elements in Brazil. Political disillusionment with him over the years has been caused by a general decline in air force morale, alleged fraud in the purchases of major equipment, and weak command decisions, especially the inept handling of the allegation that an air force unit was being used as a paramilitary repression force. These factors, coupled with his failing health following surgery at the beginning of 1971, have resulted in repeated rumors that he might resign. He is, however, a strong supporter and friend of President Médici.



(U) 1970

(S/NFD) Márcio became a member of the governing triumvirate (Ministers of Army, Navy and Air Force), which assumed the powers of the Presidency (31 Aug-30 Oct 1969) when Costa e Silva was incapacitated by a stroke. He is extremely conservative politically, and strongly endorsed Institutional Act No. 5 (promulgated 13 Dec 1968), which gave Brazil's Chief Executive unprecedented authoritarian powers. He served briefly as Minister of Aeronautics (15 Dec 1964-6 Jan 1965) during the administration of the late President Marshal (Ret) Humberto Castello Branco, but resigned in protest of the President's compromise decision of 13 Jan 1965 on embarked aviation, which provided that the air force would operate only fixed-wing aircraft from the navy's aircraft carrier, whereas the navy would operate all antisubmarine-warfare helicopters. A pilot, he participated in World War II.

(S/NFD) POLITICS:

(C/NFD) International: Extremely anti-Communist and nationalistic; he is considered to be friendly toward the United States, although he successfully recommended the purchase of French Mirage jets rather than U.S.-built planes in Oct 1968. He appeared to favor the purchase of military equipment from European sources in 1970.

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GROUP-3
DOWNGRADED AT 12 YEAR INTERVALS,
NOT AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED

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(S/NFD) Internal: Conservative in ideology; he is one of the more temperate leaders of the hard-liner faction in the air force that advocates strong measures against Communists, Communist sympathizers, and corrupt elements in the government. He was a primary target of leftist terrorists in late 1969, because he allegedly shot and killed a Brazilian air force colonel during the 1964 revolt that installed Castello Branco as President. He firmly supported Institutional Act No. 5 (promulgated 13 Dec 1968), which imposed censorship on the news media and further restricted political activity. He is antagonistic toward Army Marshal (Ret) Henrique Baptista Duffles Teixeira Lott (Minister of War, 1954-1960), whose strict legalism paved the way for the leftist trend in Brazilian government, and he held relatively unimportant assignments during the administration of leftist-tending João Goulart (President, 1961-1964). He was arrested in 1937 for his association with the Ação Integralista Brasileira, a Brazilian fascist movement.

(C) PERSONAL DATA:

(U) Birth: 26 May 1906 in Santa Catarina, Brazil.

(U) Family: Father, Rear Adm (Ret) Francisco Agostinho de Souza e Mello. Wife, Zilda Andrade de Souza e Mello (Roman Catholic). Children (2): María Lucia (f), single; Marina (f), married.

(C) Description: Medium build (5'8 1/2", 160 lbs); dark complexion, brown eyes, graying brown hair, graying brown mustache, bushy eyebrows; wears glasses; in poor health following operation at beginning of 1971. Intelligent, logical, consistent, sober and hardworking. Very reserved, shy, extremely protocol-minded; does not like social functions. Has shown special skill for teaching. President of Aeronautical Club, 1957-1959; associated with Condor Syndicate, Ltd. (private aviation company), where he won many friends and admirers by his devotion to the cause of aviation.

(U) Language: Native Portuguese, good Spanish, fair English.

(U) Religion: Roman Catholic (devout).

(U) Decorations: Italian Cross of the Crown (Knight); Paraguayan Order of Merit (Commander); Brazilian South Atlantic Campaign Medal, Aviation Cross, Order of Aeronautical Merit (Commander), Santos Dumont Medal of Merit (Silver, 16 Jan 1957), Military Medal (Gold Clasp, 6 Dec 1957), Order of Military Merit (Grand Officer), Rio Branco Medal (May 1960).

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Marshal (Ret) Marcio de Souza e MELLO

November 1971

(U) CAREER:

- 1925-1928. - Cadet, Military Academy, Realengo. Appointed Probationary 2d Lt, 20 Jan 1928. Promoted to 2d Lt, 16 Aug 1928.
- ? - Student, Military Aviation Course.
- 1930 - Promoted to 1st Lt, 14 Aug 1930.
- ? - Student, Aviation Officers Course.
- 1933 - Promoted to Capt, 16 Jun 1933.
- ? - Chief, Training Division, Military School of Aviation (3 years).
- 1937 - Arrested for activity in a fascist-oriented group.
- 1938 - Student, Postgraduate Course for Air Officers, graduating Dec 1938. Promoted to Maj, 7 Sep 1938.
- 1939-1940 - Chief, General Training Division, Aviation School, Feb 1939-Apr 1940. Made flights to Asunción, Paraguay, 1939.
- 1940 - Student, Preparatory Course, Army Command and General Staff School.
- 1941 - Transferred to air force when it was established as a separate service, 20 Jan 1941. Promoted to Lt Col, 20 Dec 1941. Adjutant, Directorate of Air Bases and Routes, from 20 Dec 1941.
- 1942-1944 - On leave of absence to carry out technical civil aviation activities, 14 Feb 1942-15 Jan 1944.
- ? - Served with Brazilian Air Force in Europe during World War II.
- 1944 - Commander, Santos Air Base.
- 1944-1945 - Student, U.S. Army Command and General Staff School, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and, subsequently, Army Air Forces School of Applied Tactics, Orlando, Fla., from Oct 1944.
- 1945-1946 - Chief, 4th Air Zone, Air Force General Staff, from May 1945.
- 1946 - Student, Command and General Staff and Superior Command Courses, Air Command and General Staff School, from Apr 1946. Promoted to Col, Nov 1946.
- 1947-1948 - Chief Instructor and Deputy Commandant, Air Command and General Staff School, from Feb 1947. Concurrently, student, Special Intelligence Course, Air Command and General Staff School.
- 1949-1951 - Air Attaché, Buenos Aires, Argentina, Jan 1949-Apr 1951. Also accredited to Uruguay.
- 1952-1953 - Chief, unidentified section, Air Force General Staff, 1952-29 Apr 1953.
- 1953 - Student, Superior War College, Rio de Janeiro.
- 1954 - Deputy Chief, Office of Inspector General of the Air Force, 1 Jan-25 Jul 1954. Promoted to Brig Gen,

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- 10 Apr 1954.
- 1954 - Deputy Chief for Air, Armed Forces General Staff, 25 Jul-1 Sep 1954.
 - 1954-1955 - Chief, Executive Office (Gabinete) of Minister of Aeronautics, 25 Aug 1954-9 Feb 1955. Concurrently, Member, Promotions Commission, 27 Dec 1954-20 Dec 1955.
 - 1955-1956 - Deputy Chief for Intelligence and Operations, Air Force General Staff, 9 Feb 1955-1 Jun 1956. Concurrently, Chief, Air Force Tactical Command Cadre, Ministry of Aeronautics, from Apr 1955.
 - 1957 - Commandant, Air Command and General Staff School, 7 Mar-5 Aug 1957.
 - 1957-1958 - Staff Officer, Air Force General Staff, 21 Aug 1957-20 Feb 1958.
 - 1958-1959 - Deputy Commandant for Air, Superior War College, 21 Feb 1958-21 Oct 1959. Conducted study trip to north and northeast sections of Brazil as Chief of the Armed Forces Command and Staff Course, Sep 1959.
 - 1959-1961 - Unassigned, 29 Oct 1959-2 Feb 1961.
 - 1961 - Commander, 3d Air Zone, Rio de Janeiro, 6 Feb-20 Sep 1961. Concurrently, Member, Promotions Commission, from 20 Feb 1961. Promoted to Maj Gen, 22 Apr 1961.
 - 1962-1964 - Chief, Air Force Operational Sub-Commission on Military Subjects, Department of Aeronautical Commission of Studies and High Planning, 22 Jun 1962-20 May 1964.
 - 1964 - Chief, Coordinating Section, Military Assistance Program (MAP).
 - 1964 - Commander, 4th Air Zone, São Paulo, 2 Apr-15 Dec 1964.
 - 1964-1965 - Minister of Aeronautics, 15 Dec 1964-6 Jan 1965.
 - 1965 - Unassigned, 7 Jan-15 Mar 1965.
 - 1965-1966 - Inspector General of the Air Force, 16 Mar 1965-Oct 1966. Promoted to Gen, Apr 1966.
 - 1966 - Promoted to Marshal and retired, Oct 1966.
 - 1967-Present - Minister of Aeronautics from 15 Mar 1967. Member of the governing military triumvirate (composed of the ministers of Navy, Army, and Air Force), 31 Aug-30 Oct 1969.

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