

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

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1. COUNTRY: BRAZIL	8. REPORT NUMBER: 6 809 0411 73
2. SUBJECT: (C) Apparent Divisions Within the Naval High Command	9. DATE OF REPORT: 6 May 1973
3. ISC NUMBER:	10. NO. OF PAGES: 2
4. DATE OF INFORMATION: 2-4 May 1973	11. REFERENCES: DIRMs 1C1, 7A2
5. PLACE AND DATE OF ACQ: Brasilia, 2-4 May 1973	12. ORIGINATOR: USDAO BRAZIL
6. EVALUATION: SOURCE <u>B</u> INFORMATION <u>2</u>	13. PREPARED BY: <i>Alexander Castro, USN</i> Alexander Castro, USN Assistant Naval Attache
7. SOURCE: Personal Observation and well informed Staff Officers.	14. APPROVING AUTHORITY: <i>Arthur S. Moura</i> ARTHUR S. MOURA Brigadier General, GS Defense Attache

15. SUMMARY:

(C) The multiple Navy High Command Change Ceremonies and related functions held in Brasilia during 2-4 May revealed some unhappiness on the part of one of the four-star Admirals involved. What may result, is the emergence of a feud between the new Chief of Naval General Staff and the Admiral that relieved him as Secretary General of the Navy. This report provides the details.

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1. (U) On the afternoon of 2 May, Navy Minister Admiral (Ret) ADAIBERTO de Barros NUNES arrived in Brasilia to preside at the Change of Command Ceremonies scheduled the next day for the four top posts: Chief of Naval General Staff, Director General of Naval Personnel, Director General of Naval Material and Secretary General of the Navy. Arriving with the Navy Minister were Admiral Geraldo Azevedo HENNING, Vice Admiral Arnaldo de Negreiros JANNUZZI, Vice Admiral Joaquim Americo dos Santos COELHO LOBO, and several Rear Admirals. Waiting at the airport to meet the incoming party were Admirals Francisco de Augusto Simas de ALCANTARA, José de Carvalho JORDAO, HELIO Ramos de Azevedo LEITE, and many lesser ranking Naval officers stationed in Brasilia.

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16. DISTRIBUTION BY ORIGINATOR: USCINCSO COMUSNAVSO	17. DOWNGRADING DATA: Classified by AAIUSNA. SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652. AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED AT TWO YEAR INTERVALS. DECLASSIFIED ON 31 DEC 79.	18. ATTACHMENT DATA: None
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2. (U) At 1100, 3 May, the Navy Minister presided at a multiple Change of Command Ceremony involving the following Admirals:

a. Admiral Geraldo Azevedo HENNING relieved Admiral HELIO Ramos de Azevedo LEITE as Director General of Naval Personnel.

b. Vice Admiral Arnaldo de Negreiros JANNUZZI relieved (interim) Admiral Octavio José SAMPAIO FERNANDES as Director General of Naval Material.

c. Admiral Octavio José SAMPAIO FERNANDES relieved Admiral José de Carvalho JORDÃO as Secretary General of the Navy.

3. (U) At 1600 on the same day, Admiral José de Carvalho JORDÃO relieved Admiral ALCANTARA as Chief of the Naval General Staff. That evening the Navy Minister hosted a farewell reception for Admiral ALCANTARA that was well attended by Naval officers stationed in Brasília and representatives of the other Armed Forces.

4. (C) Conspicuously absent from all the functions related to these Command Changes was Admiral Mauricio DANTAS TORRES, the Director General of Navigation, who lost out to Admiral JORDÃO in the bidding for the top position of Chief of Naval General Staff/Chief of Naval Operations. His absence was to be expected. However, Admiral SAMPAIO FERNANDES and the officers of his immediate staff also did not attend the Navy Minister's reception. Furthermore, unlike the other four-star admirals cited above, Admiral SAMPAIO FERNANDES did not extend his relief, Vice Admiral JANNUZZI, the courtesy of receiving him at the airport.

COMMENT: (C) Admiral SAMPAIO FERNANDES is apparently unhappy over being switched to the less prestigious Secretary General of the Navy position. According to a Commander close to Vice Admiral JANNUZZI, Admiral SAMPAIO FERNANDES' staff reportedly intends to minutely review the records of Admiral JORDÃO's tenure as Secretary General in an effort to uncover evidence of poor administration. The rivalry between these two submarine-qualified officers is intense and well known, although they appear friendly on the surface. Now it appears that Admiral SAMPAIO FERNANDES feels that Admiral JORDÃO did not support his remaining as Director General of Naval Material --- perhaps because as Secretary General he will not be in as good a position to challenge JORDÃO for the coveted Navy Minister's post in the next Administration. Thus, it is reasoned that he will endeavor to discredit JORDÃO's stewardship as Secretary General of the Navy. This rivalry will more than likely result in the neutralization of both these officers as a possible Navy Minister with the more successful being offered a seat on the Supreme Military Tribunal which becomes vacant next year with the statutory retirement of the incumbent. Both these officers are considered well disposed to the UNITED STATES, with Admiral SAMPAIO FERNANDES having the edge on personal ability and leadership. The snubbing Admiral SAMPAIO FERNANDES gave his relief, Vice Admiral JANNUZZI, has undoubtedly alienated the latter officer who becomes the next four-star Admiral at the end of July. Coupled with the outcast status accorded Admiral DANTAS TORRES, reunions of the Navy High Command in the next six months could prove to be scenes of discord and derisiveness. Whether or not this was intended by the politically astute Navy Minister is unknown, but it does strengthen his position and increases significantly his capacity to name his own successor.

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