

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND CENTER
MESSAGE CENTER

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

58310

BEING THE ARMY MINISTER IN THE ERNESTO GEISEL ADMINISTRATION. PRESIDENT MEDICI WAS UNYIELDING, HOWEVER, AS HE PERSONALLY TOLD HUMBERTO IN BRASILIA ON 29 NOV THAT THE ROLY-POLY GENERAL WOULD COMPLY WITH THE ASSIGNMENT ORDER.

2. (C) ONE OF HUMBERTO'S ARGUMENT AGAINST THE ARMED FORCES BILLET HAD BEEN THE FACT THAT HE IS ONE FILE JUNIOR TO GEN BINA MACHADO, COMMANDANT OF THE SUPERIOR WAR SCHOOL, AND THAT THE SCHOOL IS SUBORDINATE TO THE ARMED FORCES STAFF. THE SHREWD POTYGUARA SAID THAT MEDICI AND ORLANDO GEISEL FINESSED THAT ISSUE BY POINTING OUT THAT THE LAW STATES THAT THE SCHOOL IS ASSOCIATED ("VINCULADA") WITH THE ARMED FORCES STAFF. THUS, FROM JANUARY TO THE MARCH DATE ON WHICH BINA MACHADO RETIRES, THE SCHOOL WILL BE SUBORDINATED TO THE PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC.

3. (C) HAVING BEEN SENT TO THE ARMED FORCES STAFF POSITION AGAINST HIS WILL, HUMBERTO HAS DECIDED TO DEMAND THAT MANY OF HIS FAVORITES BE ASSIGNED TO THAT STAFF. ACCORDING TO POTYGUARA, HUMBERTO WILL NOT MAKE ANY EFFORT TO PROMOTE TRI-SERVICE UNITY, WHEREAS CANDAL SELECTED A VICE ADMIRAL AS VICE CHIEF AND AN AIR FORCE COLONEL AS CHIEF OF CABINET. IT APPEARS THAT HUMBERTO WILL FAVOR ARMY OFFICERS. THE RECENTLY PROMOTED MAJOR GENERAL MEIRA MATTOS PROBABLY WILL BE APPOINTED VICE CHIEF, AND HUMBERTO'S CURRENT SENIOR AIDE, COL OSMANY PILAR, MIGHT BE NAMED CHIEF OF CABINET. GEN POTYGUARA ALSO INDICATED THAT HUMBERTO'S NO 1 FAVORITE, BG GERALDO KNAACK DE SOUZA WILL BECOME THE ARMY DEPUTY OF THE ARMED FORCES STAFF. BG MARIO DE SOUZA PINTO, WILL TAKE KNAACK'S 11TH ARMORED INFANTRY BRIGADE AT CAMPINAS, STATE OF SAO PAULO. POTYGUARA SAID THAT HUMBERTO EXPECTS TO ASSUME THE ARMED FORCES STAFF POSITION ON 8 JAN 1974.

COMMENT: (C) THE RECALCITRANT HUMBERTO IS NOT LIKELY TO ENHANCE INTER-SERVICE HARMONY. MOREOVER, HE WILL ANNOY THE MILITARY MINISTERS WITH PERIODIC FORAYS INTO THEIR AREAS. SINCE HE ENJOYS TRAVEL, PERHAPS HE WILL USE UP MOST OF HIS JANUARY-OCTOBER REMAINING ACTIVE DUTY TENURE WITH TRIPS ABORAD. HE HAS STANDING INVITATIONS TO VISIT TAIWAN AND KOREA, AND IS LIKELY TO RECEIVE OTHERS.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L 0890 DEC 73

THIS IS IR NO 6 809 1096 73

1. BRAZIL

2. (U) GEN HUMBERTO TAKES OVER ARMED FORCES STAFF ON 8 JANUARY.

3. N/A

4. 29 NOV 73

5. BRASILIA 7 DEC 73

6. B-1

7. MG MOACYR BARCELLOS POTYGUARA CHIEF OF CABINET TO ARMY MINISTER GEISEL.

8. IR 6 809 1096 73

9. 10 DEC 73

10 FOUR

11. DIRM 7A, 1G

12. USDAO BRAZIL

13, 14. ARTHUR S. MOURA, BG, DATT USDAO BRAZIL

15. --- (C) EVEN THOUGH NOT YET ANNOUNCED PUBLICLY,

IT IS COMMON KNOWLEDGE THAT GEN HUMBERTO DE SOUZA HELLO.

CURRENT COMMANDER OF THE SAO PAULO-BASED II ARMY, WILL

SUCCEED GEN (RET) CANDAL AS CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES

GENRAL STAFF. THE HARD-CHARGING AND AMBITIOUS HUMBERTO

DID NOT WANT THE ASSIGNMENT. HE ENTERTAINED HOPES OF

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