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BIOGRAPHIC DATA

BRAZIL

Brig Gen Joao COSTA
April 1965

NAME: Brig Gen Joao Costa

POSITION: Commander, 6th Military Region,
Salvador, Bahia, since Oct 1964.

SIGNIFICANCE: Highly regarded by his contemporaries. His last two field-grade promotions were for merit. Position as Airborne Division Nucleus commander in 1963 was administrative assignment inasmuch as General Costa is not qualified as an Airborne Officer.

POLITICS:

International: Generally pro-U.S. and very friendly to U. S. military personnel. Expressed approval of strong stand taken by the U. S. on Soviet rockets in Cuba in October 1962.

Internal: Political moderate, with some nationalist views concerning economics. Close to War Minister Castello Branco. Basically a legalist who supported former President Goulart and his War Minister Jair Ribeiro in constitutional actions. Prudent in expressing any political views. Has pleased the hard liners in his current position by insistence on repressive measures against two former members of the State Assembly.

PERSONAL DATA:

Birth: 18 Aug 1907 in Sergipe, Brazil.

Family: Wife: Nilde, attractive, quiet, brunette. Does not share views of her far-leftist brother-in-law, Col Humberto Freire de Andrade. Children (2): son, Cavalry Lt; daughter, married to Air Force officer serving in the Congo (1964 information).

Description: Height, 5'5", graying black hair, handsome. Extremely well liked for his quiet sense of humor and lack of pomposity. Although reputedly forceful and energetic, believed to be basically insecure and continually worried about the future. As a young officer, distinguished himself in the pursuit of the famous bandit "Limpeao" and was wounded in this action.

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C Languages: Native Portuguese, some English and Spanish.

C Religion: Roman Catholic.

U Decorations: U.S. Bronze Star; Italian Cross of Military Valor; Brazilian Combat Cross (2d Class), Campaign Medal, Order of Military Merit (Officer), Military Medal (Gold Clasp), War Medal, Peacemaker Medal.

C CAREER:

1926-1930	- Cadet, Military Academy, Realengo. Appointed Probationary 2d Lt in Infantry, 21 Jan 1930. Promoted to 2d Lt, 24 July 1930.
1931	- Promoted to 1st Lt, 13 Aug.
1937	- Promoted to Capt, 3 May.
?	- Student, Advanced Course, School of Arms.
?	- Assigned to Staff, Divisional Infantry, Brazilian Expeditionary Forces, Italy.
1945	- Promoted to Maj, 25 Mar.
?	- Student, Army Command and General Staff School.
1946	- Assigned to Gabinete (Executive Office) of Minister of War, from Feb.
1951	- Promoted to Lt Col, 25 July.
1954-1955	- Duty with Interministerial Commission of Study of Special Laws, Nov 1954-July 1955. Promoted to Col, 25 Mar 1955.
1955-1957	- Commander, 3d Lt Inf Bn. Delegate of Executor of State of Espirito Santo, during seige, Dec 1955.
?	- Student, Superior War Course, Superior War School.
1962-1963	- Chief, G-5 (Historical, Statistical, Geographic) Section, Army General Staff, 1962-Nov 1963. Member, General Tasso Fragoso Prize Award Committee, Aug.
1963	- Commander, Airborne Div Nucleus, Deodoro, Vila Militar, from Nov. Promoted to Brig Gen, 25 Nov.
1964	- Chief of Staff, 1st Army, Rio de Janeiro, from May.
1964-Present	- Commander, 6th Military Region, Salvador, Bahia, since Oct 1964.

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