

# DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

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1. COUNTRY: BRAZIL  
2. SUBJECT: (U) Antonio BANDEIRA - Updated Bio Information  
3. ISC NUMBER:  
4. DATE OF INFORMATION: Jan-Feb 1970  
5. PLACE AND DATE OF ACQ: Recife, Garanhuns, Boa Esperanca, Brasilia; Jan-Feb 1970  
6. EVALUATION: SOURCE B INFORMATION 2  
7. SOURCE: Well-placed, knowledgeable Army officers and civilians in the Northeast.  
8. REPORT NUMBER: 6 809 0048 70  
9. DATE OF REPORT: 2 March 1970  
10. NO. OF PAGES: 2  
11. REFERENCES: DIRM 7A3  
IR 6 809 0033 70  
12. ORIGINATOR: USDAO Rio de Janeiro, BRAZIL  
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## 15. SUMMARY:

(C/NFD) The referenced Biographic Report (IR 6 809 0033 70) speculated that BGen Antonio BANDEIRA harbors no personal political ambitions. This IR reports newly acquired information which indicates BANDEIRA may indeed have such aspirations although he continues to deny them.

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1. (C/NFD) The referenced IR speculated that BGen Antonio BANDEIRA harbors no personal political ambitions. During a recent visit to the Northeast, RO encountered information which indicates this may not be so. Conversations with a number of sources reveal a widespread belief that in 1966 BANDEIRA rather openly desired the governorship of Pernambuco, where he was serving as commander of the 14th Infantry Regiment, but deferred to his chief GEN Antonio Carlos da Silva MURICY, then commander of the 7th Military Region in Recife, who also coveted the position. Instead, these same sources say, President CASTELLO BRANCO "betrayed" MURICY and imposed his old friend NILO COELHO as governor, a choice which appears to have produced a very weak administration.

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ORIGINATOR USDAO, BRAZIL

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2. (C/NFD) Shortly before the referenced report was submitted, BGen BANDEIRA told me he wanted no involvement in the current effort to select a gubernatorial candidate for the State of Pernambuco. However, an intelligence officer of the 7th Military Region told me BANDEIRA's biggest ambition is to be governor of Pernambuco. He and Major Jose Goncalves VILLARINHO Neto (of the Public Relations Office of the Army Minister's Cabinet in Brasilia) keep plotting very slyly, he said. I asked how he knew about this. He replied that his job gave him access to this kind of information and that BANDEIRA's movements are being monitored by Army G2 whenever he is in the Northeast. He said that BANDEIRA uses his personal contacts with Pernambuco politicians in Brasilia who act as his emissaries.

(COMMENT: I can personally attest to BANDEIRA's close contact with Pernambuco politicians. In fact, his home in Brasilia is always the center of a band of BANDEIRA-clan Northeasterners. One of this band, LTC Joao Baptista BAERE de Araujo, is the Chief of the Army Intelligence Service office in Brasilia and likely keeps BANDEIRA informed on such things as 4th Army G2 interest. He is now leaving that position, however, and his absence will undoubtedly be a loss to BANDEIRA's information apparatus. Nonetheless, his group still contains several members of the Central Agency of the National Intelligence Service (SNI) headquartered in Brasilia.)

3. (C/NFD) During a conversation with a group of senior businessmen in the important interior town of Garanhuns, Pernambuco, I threw out BGen BANDEIRA's name. They replied that he strongly desires the governorship but that he would be very bad for the state. They said BANDEIRA is virtually unknown outside the military and a small group of politically active civilians. To the people in general he would be seen as an imposition of the military-backed federal government. However, they speculated he could be the choice of Brasilia. In discussing the same subject with the President of the Hydroelectric Company of Boa Esperanca, a retired Army colonel, he stated his belief that although BANDEIRA wanted the governorship in 1966, he did not want it anymore. Finally, in Recife, a member of the BANDEIRA group there, who is an influential lawyer and closely associated with ex-governor PAULO GUERRA, told me that only Brasilia can stop the selection of the highly popular GUERRA. Should this occur, he said, GUERRA will throw his support behind BANDEIRA, "who is his man."

(COMMENT: BANDEIRA once told me that he considered GUERRA an outstanding governor and the most attractive candidate in the state today. A presidential advisor in Brasilia told me a week ago that GUERRA will not be acceptable to the President because of his pre-Revolutionary associations, a possibility I heard throughout the visit from GUERRA's friends and foes alike.)

4. (C/NFD) Returning to Brasilia, I visited Gen BANDEIRA to thank him for the courtesies he and his wife had arranged for me in Recife. To test his reaction, I commented that I frequently had heard his name mentioned as a possible gubernatorial candidate. He replied that these are his enemies talking (which is not exactly true). He said this is a game, the politicians throw out a military name to see what kind of a fire they can start. The place for a military man is in the barracks, he said, adding that it is not good for the Revolution if he mixes in politics. He appeared genuinely concerned when I told him many in the Northeast feel PAULO GUERRA will be stopped by the federal government.

COMMENT: (C/NFD) Although this report is not conclusive in determining whether or not BGen Antonio BANDEIRA has political ambitions, it establishes a much greater possibility than previously believed. If the 4th Army intelligence assessments on BANDEIRA are true, the next 30 to 60 days may well see him emerge in the middle of the controversy over the government gubernatorial candidate for Pernambuco. However, I am inclined to believe that the cagey BANDEIRA will avoid what looks like a nasty, career-threatening fight.

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