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(U) Biographic Data - Brazil

30 JAN 1964

(U) NAME: Lt Gen Pery Constant BEVILAQUA (beh-vee-LAHK-wah)

(U) POSITION: Chief, Armed Forces General Staff, since 19 Nov 1963.

(U) BIRTH: Born 9 Jun 1899 in Rio de Janeiro City. He is a grandson of Brig Gen BENJAMIN CONSTANT Botelho de Magalhaes, a national hero as the leader of the revolt that overthrew the Brazilian monarchy in 1889 and established the republic.

(U) FAMILY: Wife, Alcida (speaks Portuguese and Spanish). Children (3): Jose de Escobar (m), born 4 Sep 1924 (Army Major); another son (civil engineer in Sao Paulo); one daughter.

(U) TRAVEL: Served 3 years in Paraguay, made a few short visits to Argentina.

(U) LANGUAGES: Native Portuguese; French.

(U) RELIGION: Positivist; occasionally attends Catholic services.

(U) CAREER:

1917-1919	- Cadet in Military Academy, graduating with appointment 30 Dec 1919 as <u>Aspirante</u> (Probationary 2d Lt) in Artillery.
1920	- Promoted to 2d Lt
1921	- Promoted to 1st Lt
1925	- Promoted to Capt
1934-1937	- Military Attache to Paraguay. Promoted to Maj in 1934.
1940	- Promoted to Lt Col (merit).
?	- Comdr, 1st AA Bn.
?	- Comdr, 1st Bn, 3d AAA Regt.
1943-1944	- 2d Sec, Army General Staff. Promoted to Col (merit) 25 Jun 1944.
1944-1946	- Chief of Staff, 7th Military Region, Recife.
1946	- Chief of Staff, 4th Military Region, Juiz de Fora (Mar-May).
1946- ?	- Chief of Staff, 2d Military Region and 2d Inf Div, São Paulo.
?	- Chief of Staff, Central Military Zone (now 2d Army), Sao Paulo.
1952	- Comdr, Western Coast Artillery Groupment, 1st Military Region, Rio de Janeiro (to Oct). Promoted to Brig Gen 19 Sep 1952.
1952-1955	- Director of Armament
1955-1956	- Comdr, Divisional Artillery, 4th Inf Div, Juiz de Fora
1957-1958	- Subdirector of Reserves. Concurrently, student in Superior War School Course in 1957.

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1958-1960 - Director of Military Service. Promoted to Maj Gen 25 Dec 1958.
1960-1961 - Comdr, 3d Inf Div, Santa Maria, Rio Grande do Sul.
1961-1962 - Comdr, 3d Military Region, Porto Alegre.
1962-1963 - Comdr, 2d Army, Sao Paulo. Promoted to Lt Gen 23 Mar 1963.
1963-Present - Chief, Armed Forces General Staff

(U) DECORATIONS: Bolivian Order of the Condor of the Andes (Officer); Chilean Order of Merit (Officer); Ecuadorian Medal of Chaco Peace Conference; Paraguayan National Order of Merit (Grand Officer); Brazilian Order of Military Merit (Officer), Military Medal (Silver Clasp), War Medal, Peacemaker Medal.

(C) PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS: Gen Bevilaqua gives the impression that he is subject to conflicting mental stresses and some mental instability, possibly resulting from the fact that his father and grandfather were strong Positivists (a basically anti-Catholic philosophy-religion), whereas his mother was a devout Catholic. Considerable insanity seems to have resulted in his family: his brother and sister both committed suicide, and his daughter has been in mental institutions intermittently for several years. He is affable in manner, very polite and courteous, but forthright in expressing disagreement and quite fearless in stating his views. He is precise in his speech and likes to talk. Of average build (5'7", 160lbs), he has grey, receding hair, wears glasses, and has a somewhat professorial look, though very neat and military in appearance. Although extremely well read, he seems to be confused and misinformed on many important issues. He drinks moderately for social purposes, but does not smoke.

(C) POLITICS: Gen Bevilaqua is one of President Goulart's most loyal supporters, although differing with the regime on labor issues. He is fairly far left politically, favoring the elimination of all foreign influence and believing ardently in the philosophy of Vargas as embodied in the Brazilian Labor Party (PTB), which is headed by Goulart. He was the first general officer publicly to support the legal succession of then Vice President Goulart to the vacant Presidency in August 1961, when the Army high command was opposing Goulart as an alleged ultraleftist. Bevilaqua later came out strongly in favor of increased Presidential powers, which leftists were seeking against moderate opposition. Thus, he was considered one of the most leftist and nationalist officers in the Army, but this image changed after his assignment as Commander of the 2d Army, in Sao Paulo, in Sept 1962. He adamantly opposes all labor strikes, however, as injurious to Brazilian development and unnecessary in view of the compulsory arbitration provided by Vargas' labor legislation, and he took a clear position on this issue in industrial Sao Paulo. This sentiment gradually won him moderate support and drew him close to Sao Paulo's anti-Goulart Governor Adhemar de Barros, so that

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(C) POLITICS: (cont'd)

Goulart found it necessary to transfer Bevilacqua to his present position. He has become almost obsessed with the danger from ultraleftist trade unions and would particularly oppose what he calls "syndicalistic despotism," that is, control of national life by organized labor -- a danger might cause him to split with the regime. He indicates little concern over Communism, which he does not consider to be a serious threat, but he is basically anti-Communist, principally as a result of the Positivist belief that "Bolshevism contains within itself the germs of its destruction because it is contrary to natural law." He has described with pride his part in kidnapping a Brazilian Communist in Paraguay in 1936 and returning him to justice. He is basically friendly toward the United States, but forthrightly disapproves many actions of the U.S. Government. He frequently had criticized Yankee imperialism and business exploitation of Brazil until mid 1963, but appears to have become convinced that this complaint was unjustifiable.

(C) GENERAL COMMENT: His present position is a relatively uninfluential sinecure.

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