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2. SUBJECT: (U) BAF General Officer Promotions

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12. ORIGINATOR: OAirA, Brazil

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14. APPROVING AUTHORITY: Acting Air Attache

15. SUMMARY:

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(U) The Air Ministry announced 9 general officer promotions during March 1963. Most important were those of Air Minister REYNALDO and Director of Training FLEIUSS (a former Air Minister), both to Lt. Brigadier. Suspected communist Colonel Ricardo NICOLL, Chief of Staff, Air Transport Command, was among those promoted to brigadier general.

REYNALDO Joaquim Ribeiro de Carvalho Filho
Henrique FLEIUSS

- (U) On 13 March 1963, President COULART personally handed to Air Minister REYNALDO his promotion to Lt. Brigadier. Maj. Brig. FLEIUSS, Director of Training, Air Staff, was promoted on the same date.
- (U) On 19 March the Air Ministry announced the following additional general officer promotions:

To Major Brigadier - Brig. Antonio Joaquim da SILVA GOMES.

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To Brigadier General → Colonel Affonso de ARAUJO Costa
 Colonel Carlos Alberto de MATTOS
 Colonel Nelson BAENA de Miranda
 Colonel Alcides Moitinho NEIVA
 Colonel Almir dos Santos POLYCARPO
 Colonel Ricardo NICOLL.

ON 19 MAR 63

3. (C) COMMENTS:

a. (C) REYNALDO was the ranking Major Brigadier prior to his promotion. FLEIUS was promoted over Maj. Brig. ISMAR Pfaltzgraff Brasil, who was passed over for political reasons. BRASIL was Chief of Staff when the military ministers opposed President GOULART's succession to office after Janio QUADROS resigned in August 1961. He has absolutely no chance of promotion during the present administration, and it is rumored he may request retirement.

b. (C) Major Brig. SILVA GOMES, Commander, 2nd Air Zone, Recife, was promoted over several senior brigadier generals, including Brig. Anysio BOTELHO, Command of the 4th Air Zone, Sao Paulo. BOTELHO's pass over comes as a surprise because he is "in" with the present administration. Two reliable sources have recently indicated that SILVA GOMES is closely associated with Brig. Francisco TEIXEIRA, who has the reputation of being the master mind behind the Communist infiltration in the BAF (See IR 1 809 0019 63). See 1-809-0019-63

c. (C) There have been 3 significant pass overs in the Colonel ranks in the promotion lists this year—Colonel Manoel Jose VINHAES, Colonel Henrique do Amaral PENNA, and Colonel Afonso Celso PARREIRAS HORTA. VINHAES and PARREIRAS HORTA were associated with the GRUN MOSS group in the QUADROS administration. VINHAES was very active against GOULART and like BRASIL has no chance of promotion during the present administration. PENNA has retired because of his pass over. PARREIRAS HORTA continues to hold a responsible job as Chief of Staff of the Army-Air Tactical Command.

d. (C) Most significant among the promotions to brigadier general was that of Colonel Ricardo NICOLL, who was the most junior colonel promoted. He is Chief of Staff of the Air Transport Command. It has been rumored for some time that Brig. Francisco TEIXEIRA has been pushing very hard for NICOLL's promotion. NICOLL is reputed to be one of the leading Communists in the Brazilian Air Force (See IR 1 809 0019 63). Believe so many were promoted simply in order to reach NICOLL on the Colonel's list, and that he would have had to wait at least two more years for promotion if TEIXEIRA had not been pushing it.

e. (C) Reliable source informed the Air Attache on 20 March that ex-Air Minister, Maj. Brig. Clovis Monteiro TRAVASSOS, is very much disturbed about NICOLL's promotion.

f. (C) Under normal circumstances, there were not sufficient vacancies to make any of these promotions. The Air Minister used the device of figuring vacancies by excluding from the number of general officer positions allowed by law those generals who are "agregado" (on detached duty for various assignments such as attendance at the Superior War College, numbers of various commissions, etc.).

g. (U) New assignments for the new brigadiers have not been announced.

h. (C) Since writing the above, I discussed the recent promotion cycle with Source BZ1000024. He stated the Air Minister had two objectives in mind in evading the ceiling placed by law on the higher ranks and in promoting this many new officers. The first is that most senior officers remain on active duty until the mandatory retirement age, and as a result there are many on the present rosters who are relatively old men incapable of doing an effective job. Second and most important, the Air Minister feels that he must place in responsible positions officers whom he can trust to support his policies. Source stated the Air Minister plans shortly to announce 25 promotions to the grade of colonel. This is unprecedented since a relatively small Colonel's promotion list was announced not too long ago. The Air Minister has established a policy for the coming promotion cycle to colonel that for

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