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BIOGRAPHIC DATA

BRAZIL
Maj Gen Carlos Alberto da Fontoura
June 1973

(U) NAME: Gen Carlos Alberto da Fontoura
(fohn-TOO-rah), Army.

(U) POSITION: Chief, National Intelligence
Service, since Apr 1969.

(S) SIGNIFICANCE: Competent, dedicated, and an excellent leader, Gen Fontoura enjoys a good reputation among his contemporaries. His career has consisted primarily of instructor and staff positions. A life-long personal friend of President Emílio Garrastazú Médici (President since 1969), he has the President's complete confidence and is one of his closest advisors on both political and military matters. In Oct 1970, the National Intelligence Service was given virtually direct control over the Security and Intelligence Divisions of the individual civilian cabinet level agencies, thus greatly expanding Gen Fontoura's formal authority in the government. He was occasionally mentioned as a possible candidate to succeed President Médici in 1974.



(U) 1969

(S/NFD) POLITICS:

(S/NFD) International: Anti-Communist and nationalistic; he is friendly toward the United States. He stated in Nov 1969 that subversion in Latin America is harmful both to the Latin American countries and to U.S. efforts in the Western Hemisphere. Sympathetic to Taiwan's cause, Gen Fontoura was reported in Mar 1972 to be virtually the only high ranking Brazilian military officer to have strong reservations about President Nixon's visit to the Peoples Republic of China. He was quoted in Feb 1973 as believing that it was unlikely that any constructive results would come from a forthcoming meeting between President Rafael Caldera Rodríguez of Venezuela and President Médici, since Caldera had tried to undermine Brazil in its relations with other Latin American countries. Gen Fontoura supports the provision for training Argentine, Uruguayan, Paraguayan, and Bolivian intelligence officers at the Brazilian National Intelligence School. He is a graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas (1954).

(S/NFD) Internal: Conservative politically, he believes that the military must intervene at times to preserve constitutional government.

CLASSIFIED BY DI-5
EXEMPT FROM GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
EXEMPTION CATEGORY 2
DECLASSIFY ON Undetermined

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In 1968, he indicated disillusionment over what he considered to be the inability of then President Costa e Silva to control civil disturbances. Gen Fontoura reportedly pressed the foreign ministry in Mar 1970 to allow National Intelligence Service and Army authorities to make sweeping loyalty investigations of foreign ministry personnel. An unconfirmed report in Sept 1972 stated that he was one of the advisors who convinced President Médici to issue expanded press censorship orders with the objective of preventing public speculation on Médici's successor. Gen Fontoura and other advisors were reported to believe that the international bad publicity for Brazil resulting from the censorship would be outweighed by the advantage of preserving Brazilian unity on the question of the presidential succession. In Jan 1973, he was opposed to the Brazilian Catholic Church's liberal political stand.

(C) PERSONAL DATA:

(U) Birth: 23 Sept 1912 in Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil.

(C) Family: Wife, Maria Lucilla Fontoura (Caucasian; born in Uruguaiana, Rio Grande do Sul; attractive and very charming; widely read and has a strong interest in current events; drinks sparingly; friendly toward the U.S., knows English, proud of her knowledge of the U.S. gained while her husband was at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College; Roman Catholic). Children (3): Carlos A. (m), born about 1942 (unmarried, an engineer, lives in Porto Alegre, very pro-U.S., fluent English); Manoel A. (m), born about 1944 (unmarried, studying economics in 1965, good English); daughter born about 1957 (mentally retarded).

(C) Description: Caucasian. Slender build (5'9", 150 lbs); graying black hair, brown eyes; face heavily lined around eyes and mouth; sallow complexion; graying mustache. Excellent military bearing; aristocratic in appearance; dresses neatly and tastefully when in civilian clothes. Friendly, warm personality. Has wide interests. Eats sparingly; smokes American filter-tip cigarettes; drinks scotch moderately but has been observed drinking heavily on rare occasions. An excellent horseman and former polo player.

(U) Languages: Native Portuguese, good Spanish, fair English.

(U) Religion: Roman Catholic.

(U) Decorations: Brazilian Order of Military Merit (Officer); Military Medal (Gold Clasp); Medal of the Peacemaker.

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(U) CAREER:

1931-1934

- Cadet, Military Academy, Realengo. Commissioned Probationary 2d Lt in Cavalry, 25 Jan 1934. Promoted to 2d Lt, 30 Aug 1934.

1936

- Promoted to 1st Lt, 7 Sept 1936.

1943

- Promoted to Capt, 15 Apr 1943.

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- Student, Officers Advanced School, Vila Militar,

1945-1946

- Company Commander, 3d Cavalry Regiment.

1947-1949

- Student, Army Command and General Staff School, Rio de Janeiro.

1950-1953

- Chief, General Staff Section, 2d Cavalry Division. Promoted to Maj, 25 June 1951.

1953-1954

- Student, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, Sept 1953-June 1954. Promoted to Lt Col, 25 July 1954.

1954-1957

- Instructor, Brazilian Army Command and General Staff School.

1958

- Staff Officer, Executive Office of the Minister of War.

1958-1963

- Commander, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 2d Cavalry Division, Uruguaiana. Promoted to Col, 25 Aug 1961.

1963-1965

- Chief of Staff, 6th Infantry Division, Porto Alegre.

1965

- Chief of Staff, 2d Cavalry Division, Uruguaiana.

1965-1966

- Sub-Chief of Executive Office of the Minister of War. Promoted to Brig Gen, 25 Nov 1966.

1966-1969

- Chief of Staff, 3d Army, Porto Alegre, Nov 1966-Apr 1969.

1969-Present

- Chief, National Intelligence Service, from Apr 1969. Promoted to Maj Gen, 24 July 1971.