



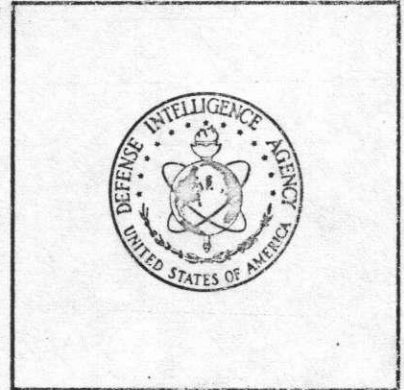
BIOGRAPHIC DATA

BRAZIL
Air Marshal Eduardo GOMES
January 1967

(U) NAME: Air Marshal (Retired) Eduardo Gomes (GOH-mess), Air Force. Nicknames: "O Brigadeiro" and "Timid Hero".

(U) POSITION: Minister of Aeronautics, since 11 Jan 1965.

(C) SIGNIFICANCE: One of Brazil's greatest military heroes, he was recalled from retirement by President Castello Branco to serve as Minister of Aeronautics in the justified hope that he would achieve general Air Force acceptance of the President's compromise decision (announced the day after his appointment) that the Air Force would operate fixed-wing aircraft from the Navy's aircraft carrier, whereas the Navy would operate all antisubmarine-warfare helicopters. He accepted the post when two other Air Force Generals refused it, and following the resignation of the two previous Ministers of Aeronautics over the embarked aviation issue, because the Air Force wanted exclusive jurisdiction over carrier-borne aircraft. He became a national hero as the sole survivor of 17 supporters of the 1922 revolution besieged in Fort Copacabana by Federal forces; rather than surrender, the 17 chose to march out, unarmed, facing the fire of the Federal troops, draped in a piece of the fort's flag to show their patriotism. All but two were killed and Gomes was seriously wounded (the other survivor later was killed in an airplane accident in pioneering aviation). He later became a pioneer in Brazilian aviation and in 1931 founded the Military Air Mail Service. Respected for his exceptionally high moral standards, and outspoken in his youth in support of what he considered right, he is well educated, intelligent but a slow thinker, and stubborn once he reaches a decision. He is loved and admired by most Brazilians and nearly all officers in the Air Force, even though he is an old and visibly tired man, now living mostly in the past, and considered verging on senility by some of his subordinates.



(U) Date Unk

(C) POLITICS:

(C) International: Anti-Communist. Cooperative and friendly toward the U.S., but intensely nationalistic and prior to 1948 was instrumental in confining the operations of foreign airlines (including U.S. firms) to the coast of Brazil. Very anti-Nazi during World War II; he was at that time air commander of the 2d Air Zone in Recife and played an important role in the establishment of Allied air bases in northern Brazil, for which he received the U.S. Legion of Merit. A strong proponent of active Brazilian participation in inter-American and other

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international organizations intended to preserve the peace.

(C) Internal: Right of center in ideology and a firm believer in democracy. He participated in the revolutions of 1922, 1924, and 1930, the latter bringing Getúlio Vargas to the Presidency. He was one of the founders of the anti-Vargas National Democratic Union party and its unsuccessful candidate for the Presidency of Brazil in 1945 and in 1950. Juracy Magalhães, another founder of the National Democratic Union, was a Major in the Army and one of Gomes' strong supporters in 1945 and has been Foreign Minister since Jan 1966. In 1955, along with some elements in the Navy he unsuccessfully attempted to prevent President Kubitschek, one of Vargas' successors, from taking office and was unassigned during the latter's administration (1956-1961).

(C) PERSONAL DATA:

(U) Birth: 20 Sept 1896 in Petropolis, State of Rio de Janeiro.

(U) Family: Single. Sister, Eliane Gomes. Was very dedicated to his mother, Genny de Oliveira Gomes, until her death in Jan 1956.

(C) Description: Caucasian, medium build (5'9", 175 lbs), erect posture. White hair, receding hairline; blue-gray eyes; oval face, pale complexion; wears glasses. Distinguished and very neat appearance; was very handsome in his youth. Quiet, soft-spoken, polite, reserved, shy about receiving special honors in public. Retiring, rarely attends social functions. Extremely religious with ascetic tendencies, attends daily Mass, and is a prominent and active layman. In poor health, underwent surgery in Jan 1957 and late 1964. Honorary Member No. 1 of Aeronautical Club and Honorary Member of Military Historical and Geographical Institute of Brazil.

(U) Languages: Native Portuguese, fluent French and Spanish, extremely limited English.

(U) Religion: Roman Catholic (devout).

(U) Decorations: U.S. Legion of Merit (Commander, Jan 1945); French Legion of Honor (Commander); United Kingdom Order of British Empire (Commander); Paraguayan Order of National Merit (Grand Cross, 14 July 1955); Portuguese Medal of Military Merit (Grand Cross, 26 July 1955); Swedish Order of the Sword (Grand Cross, 20 Aug 1955); Ecuadoran Abdón Calderón Medal (1st Class, 27 Aug 1955), Order of National Merit (Grand Knight, 21 July 1959); Brazilian Military Juridical Order of Merit (2 Apr 1965), Military Medal (Platinum Clasp, 25 Feb 1957), South Atlantic Campaign Medal (6 June 1950), Santos Dumont Medal of Merit (Silver, 16 Jan 1957), War Medal, Order of Military Merit (Commander), Order of Aeronautical Merit (Grand Officer, 2 Jun 1944), Aviation Cross, Order of Naval Merit (Grand Officer), Marshal Hermes Study Medal, Peacemaker Medal, Grand Medal of "Inconfidencia".

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(U) CIVIL EDUCATION: Werneck School; College of Saint Vincent de Paul, Petropolis.

(U) CAREER:

- 1916-1918 - Cadet, Military Academy, Realengo. Appointed Probationary 2d Lt, 17 Dec 1918.
- 1919 - Promoted to 2d Lt, 30 Dec.
- ? - Student, Artillery Course.
- 1921 - Promoted to 1st Lt, 5 Jan.
- ? - Student, Communications Course.
- 1922 - Participated in the Fort Copacabana Lieutenants Revolution against President Epitacio Pessoa, July. Badly wounded, arrested, spent some time in various hospitals and jails.
- 1924 - Escaped from prison and joined revolutionists in Rio Grande do Sul. Recaptured.
- 1927 - Transferred to Army Aviation Corps, 15 Nov.
- ? - Student, Military Aviation Courses, categories "A" and "B".
- ? - Student, Officers Advanced Course.
- 1930 - Participated in revolution which installed Getúlio Vargas as President on 3 Nov 1930.
- 1930 - Assigned to Gabinete (Executive Office) of Minister of War. Promoted to Capt, 15 Nov (retroactive to 13 Jan 1925); to Maj, 20 Nov (retroactive to 9 Feb 1928).
- 1931 - Commander, 1st Air Zone, Belém. Founded "Correio Aereo Nacional" (Military Air Mail Service, Jun, and apparently became Director of Air Routes at this time.
- 1933 - Promoted to Lt Col, 16 Jun.
- 1938 - Promoted to Col, 3 May.
- 1941 - Transferred to Air Force, with its creation as independent service, 20 Jan. Promoted to Brig Gen, 19 Dec.
- ? - Student, General Staff Course, Air Force Command and General Staff School.
- 1942-1945 - Commander, 2d Air Zone, Recife, Jul 1942-Jan 1945. Visited U.S. military installations in North Africa and the Allied front in Tunisia, 1943. Promoted to Maj Gen, 1 Sep 1944.
- 1945 - Resigned as Director of Air Routes, Rio de Janeiro, 3 Apr (apparently held this post without interruption since its creation in 1931). Member, Promotions Council, until Apr 1945.
- 1945 - Inactive status, Apr-Dec, at own request to campaign as candidate for President of Brazil for the anti-Vargas National Democratic Union. Defeated in elections of 2 Dec; returned to active duty, 18 Dec.
- 1946 - Student, U.S. Army Command and General Staff School, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Subsequently, student, Senior Officers Flight Course, Orlando, Florida. Toured U.S. and Canada; returned to Brazil, 28 Sep.

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- 1946-1950 - Director of Air Routes, from 30 Oct 1946. Visited Berlin, Germany, as guest of U.S. Air Force during Berlin Airlift, 1949.
- 1950 - Candidate for Presidency of Brazil for the National Democratic Union; defeated in Oct elections.
- 1951 - Student, Superior War Course, Superior War School, Rio de Janeiro.
- 1952-1953 - Unassigned.
- 1953-1954 - President, Joint Brazil-U.S. Military Commission, Rio de Janeiro.
- 1954-1955 - Minister of Aeronautics, 24 Aug 1954-11 Nov 1955.
- 1955-1960 - Unassigned, Nov 1955-Sep 1960. Official visit to Lima, Peru, Aug 1957. Personal visits to Europe, 7-19 July 1957 and Oct 1958.
- 1960 - Compulsory retirement (maximum age), with concurrent promotion to Air Marshal, 22 Sept, and assigned to the Reserve.
- 1960-1965 - Inactive.
- 1965-Present - Minister of Aeronautics. Invited to visit U.S. as guest of Secretary of the Air Force, 10-24 Oct 1965, but did not accept and has requested opportunity to visit 15-20 Feb 1967.