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dept of the Navy

BRAZIL

Op-922N4F
18 September 1962

General Carlos Amaury KRUEL

Minister of War

Prior to his present appointment on 14 September 1962 General Kruel was Chief of the Military Household. He has also served as Ambassador to Bolivia and as Commander of the Third Military Region. Somewhat of a political opportunist, Kruel is perhaps best known for his association in 1954 with the famous "colonel's manifesto" a document critical of the Vargas regime which caused a political crisis resulting in Vargas' suicide. During this crisis, however, he changed sides and subsequently organized what amounted to a testimonial to Vargas. In 1956 he supported War Minister Lott during the 11 November military coup which allowed President Kubitschek to take office. Later, however, he withdrew without openly antagonizing Marshal Lott.

He was born on 11 April 1901 in Rio Grande do Sul and was commissioned in the Army in 1921. During World War II, in preparation for service as G-2 of the Brazilian Expeditionary Force in Italy, he was sent to the US Army Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. After a post-war tour as Assistant Military Attache in London he served as Chief of the Army General Staff Second Section. During this time he served as chairman of a board of inquiry investigating Communism in the Armed Forces. This board conducted the largest investigation of Communist activities in Brazil since that occasioned by the abortive Communist coup in 1935. As Chief of Police of the Federal District (1957-59) he pursued an aggressively anti-Communist policy, including an active publicity campaign seeking to induce the national congress to strengthen the anti-subversive laws. In 1958 these activities brought him into a dispute with Goulart who was then vice president, over the close political cooperation of Goulart's PTB with the Brazilian Communist Party (PCB). General Kruel survived only because he had the full backing of Kubitschek, but resigned the following year after an altercation with a congressman who was investigating alleged police corruption.

Decidedly pro-US, General Kruel is reported to be handsome in appearance and exceptionally well poised. He is independently wealthy and his hobbies are polo and horsemanship. He is married and has a son born about 1930. He speaks fluent Spanish and German, and some English besides his native Portuguese.

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DOD DIR 5200.10

ENCLOSURE (2) to
Ser 009862P92

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Defense Intelligence Agency
By *SN* Date *21 Sep 04*
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Authority *WWD 53094*