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USDAO BRAZIL

Align itself "to the opposition party even if it doesn't wholly represent the communist ideas." (Encl. 1) As a part of winning over (?) the MDB to AREMA philosophy he drew parallels to the requirement of Ex-President Castelo Branco cassating a number of MDB members in 1966 in the state of Rio Grande do Sul because they were still influenced by the leadership of leonel Brizola and the MNR from Bruguay. Adding that it is not the case in Rio Grande do Sul at this time, the MDB is loyal to Brazil, which shows that "Democracy is a process of permanent transformation."

3. (C) Newly promoted 4 Star General Fernando Belfort BETHLEM arrived on the scend in Porto Alegre to assume command of the III Army and in the presence of Army Minister FROTA Army Chief of Staff FRITZ— and outgoing III Army Commander Oscar Luiz, pledged his loyalty to the 1964 revolution and the destruction of communism. He described the communists as powerful and always involved in corruption, contaminating youth, and cowardly terrorism (enclosure 2). The theme for a following luncheon was "Security provides the climate for order which is indispensable to the maintenance of ldw and constitutional powers."

COMMENT: (C) Passarinho is known as the "mouthpiece" for ABENA and as a party Vice President is given close attention. His pronouncements (see para. 2) are one, a warning to the voters to beware of the MDB party and further a warning to the party that if they overstep their bounds, it is easy to return to more cassations. About two days ago, after our weekly volleyball game, he was in a tirade that the large government organizations eg. FUNAI '(National Indian Foundation) are now being infiltrated with the idea of causing more unrest and problems for the government. During his Schate speeches he is most tactful, while in private he is Very adament.

General Bethlem is known as a favorite of President Geisel so we can assume that his opening speech (encl. 2) in III army was either prompted or influenced by the President. He chose his words carefully by including the efforts of the state police, reserve personnel, Navy, and Air Force stationed in Rio Grande do Sul in the 1964 Revolutionary ideals. But he also let it be known that he had no intentions of being "soft." Remember that Ceneral Dilermando did the same thing when he assumed command of the II Army. On Dilermando's other visits he verified the responsibility of the armed forces for national security and that he intended to "extricate them from our midst" (encl. 3 dated 1 June 76).

Although being corrupt still carries the connotation that one is a communist, it is encouraging to note that the theme is beginning that communism is no longer the threat it once was. As that idea grows, it should also lead to a better acceptance of President Geisel's program for "distensao" and a lessening of the mania that there is a communist behind every tree and democracy cannot function without severe restraints.

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IS. SUHMARY:		(Leeys Blank)
(C) With municipal elections scheduled for 1 November the speech-makers are warming up for buttle. Senator Jarbas Passarinko says the communists always use the opposition party and Generals Dilemando and Bethlem want the military and local populace united. But in sum, depending on election results and their interpretation, "distensão" could improve and other pressures diminish.		
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1. (C) Introduction. As the elections get closer and political platforms and speeches the become more important, the talk of communists, subversion, and security again becomes the most popular subject. The newly promoted 4 star generals are also alerting their areas to the threat of continuing communism.		
Jarbas Vassarinho have opened the discussion again about the presence of communism. It is interesting to note that his tack does not give the commens a lot of strength as to threat. He recently stated, "It is foolish to think that communism does not exist in Brazil, but it is an exaggeration to suppose that it has sufficient force to threaten Brazilian orderliness." His follow on point was the punch he wanted to put across to the electorate; that the communists tactic is always to		
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