

BRAZIL

NAVY ADMIRAL STATES NATIONAL OBJECTIVES UNITE ARMED FORCES

Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 12 Oct 78 p 14

[Text] Bauru--Adm Mozart Padilha de Souza, chairman of the Naval Construction Commission of the corps of naval construction engineers, in Sao Paulo, said, yesterday, that he is convinced that the Armed Forces are "united around the nation's great objectives."

"We are actually experiencing a very important phase in our history. I am certain that we are going to overcome our difficulties. Brazil must move in a direction that will lead to achieving its great destiny," Mozart Padilha added.

He refused to express an opinion on the candidacies of Gen Joao Baptista de Figueiredo and Gen Euler Bentes for the office of president of the Republic. He stated:

"That is a matter of a political nature on which I should not express myself. Election legislation is being complied with. The problem of the candidacies must be treated by politicians."

Adm Mozart Padilha denied the possibility of a confrontation between the navies of Brazil and Argentina, in spite of the existence of differences between the two countries in connection with matters of national sovereignty.

Brazil and Argentina are traditional friends. Possible differences with regard to issues of a political nature do not imply enmity. Both nations are following policies that have various points of similarity. Argentina has made a very great effort to acquire its own capability and to build modern, sophisticated ships. We work together on joint operations, conducted annually in collaboration with the United States. We are cooperating without little or big wars," the admiral said.

The chairman of the Naval Construction Commission stated that the position of the Brazilian Navy "is consistent with the importance of Brazil in Latin America."

He concluded by saying that "at present, Brazil occupies a privileged position among developing countries and our Navy has sought to go along with the country by planning and building ships with Brazilian resources."

10,042  
CSO: 3001

JPRS

11/17/78<sup>47</sup>

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 53094