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UNITED STATES ARMY SECTION
UNITED STATES MILITARY GROUP, BRAZIL
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SCBRAR-A

January 1967

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SUBJECT: Military Assistance Program

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In compliance with para 19, AR 551-50, and Sec III, para 11, AR 381-25, the following biographical data is submitted for Brazilian Army officers scheduled to participate in Orientation Tour for Brazil Group BR 24-67, leaving Rio for Miami 11 January 1967, and departing Miami for Rio 28 January 1967:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1. Full Name: | SYSENO <u>Sarmento</u> |
| 2. Military Rank: | Major General |
| 3. Branch of Service: | Infantry |
| 4. Present Position: | Director Ordnance Corps |
| 5. Date of Birth: | 3 June 1907 |
| 6. Place of Birth: | Manaus, State of Amazonas, Brazil |
| 7. Nationality & Origin: | Brazilian |
| 8. Wife: | Cynthia Carneiro Sarmento |
| 9. Children: | None |
| 10. Languages: | Portuguese, French, English |
| 11. Past Career: | Battalion Commander - WW II; Chief of Staff;
Commander of UNEF |



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1. Major General SYSENO Sarmento (No 1, Pg 1, Incl 16)

A. Career. General Syseno was an Infantry Officer, served in the usual assignments for that branch, and in addition, has had some assignments of particular interest. He served in Italy during World War II as a Battalion Commander in the Brazilian Expeditionary Force; he was Commander of United Nations Force in Gaza for about a year, returning from that assignment in late 1965 or early 1966; and during his career he has served several times as Executive Officer or Chief of Staff for President-Elect Costa e Silva. He has attended the usual military schools in his own country, including their command and general staff course, and he attended a school or on-the-job training course in the United States during World War II. I judge his area of primary professional interest now to be in high level command or staff positions of similar responsibility. His current assignment is Director of Ordnance. He seems well satisfied with it and, according to the other members of the tour group, performs it well. Besides his native Portuguese, he speaks French and English and he understands Spanish and some Italian. I cannot judge the quality of his French. His English is good, lacking only practice to make it very good. He is interested in continuing his English training and asked for advice about instructors in Brazil or other means of maintaining and improving his proficiency.

B. Personal Background. He is short, stocky, and has the rather large head which is typical of the north and northeast of Brazil. He is slightly overweight, but not unusually so for a man of his rank and position in Brazil. He is active and seems to be in adequate physical condition for his rank. He is relaxed, occasionally careless with minor things such as whether his overcoat is buttoned or his cap is on exactly straight, but when he cares to, he makes a very good appearance in his uniform and his bearing and manner are good. He is a Catholic, but as the Brazilian expression goes, "nonpracticing," or nearly so. I do not know if he is a member of Arena, the "majority" party in Brazil, but he obviously is a supporter and is supported by that party. He is very friendly toward the United States and repeatedly mentioned, both publicly and privately, that he believes the United States and Brazil must work effectively together, as they are the principal powers on their respective continents; that the two countries are bound by a long history of friendship and cooperation; that our two armies are especially close because of shared combat experience in two world wars and the Dominican crisis. He is married, has no children. He likes all types of music, likes history and is familiar with US history in general and the Civil War in particular. I could not identify any particular preference in entertainment, as he entered wholeheartedly into and thoroughly enjoyed everything we did, from a night club show, to a visit to the Seaquarium, a boat ride, bus trips, visits to historical sites or simply conversation over a drink. He drinks more than most Brazilians, but seldom drinks to the point that I could note any appreciable effect. He usually drinks scotch and soda but enjoys beer and wines and was interested in other types of drinks, insisting I write the name, ingredients and how to prepare a 'gibson' so he might try it later. He did not smoke during the trip.

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1. General SYSTEMO (Cont'd)

C. Personal Characteristics. He is generous, not unduly concerned about money, but not wasteful. Though he obviously has the ambition required to arrive at his present position, he does not strike me as overly or dangerously ambitious. He was unfailingly courteous to me and everyone he contacted. He did very well in his official and social contacts with the dignitaries he met and showed an attractive gallantry with ladies. I believe he was honest with me and in his comments to other people. He never seemed to be evasive or to skirt the issue in conversations. He showed initiative of his own and he was quick to accept suggestions or innovations from any source during the trip. Though he was frank in his comments, he was tactful and was careful to verify that what he was about to say or do was acceptable when he was in doubt. He meets the standards of morality expected in his own country and during the tour his behavior was completely within the ranges of acceptable behavior by our standards. As to courage, his combat record was apparently good, and he showed no hesitation in announcing his decisions to the group whether they were likely to be in accordance with the desires of the majority or not. I can identify no points which I would describe as weaknesses. In his own country, using his country's standards, I believe the man is exceptional, and given a few changes in background and training, I think he could do well in our own Army.

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