



~~C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L~~

Declassified Per E.O. 12958

Defense Intelligence Agency

By SMY Date 9/21/04

NOT Reviewed for Public Release

## BIOGRAPHIC DATA

BRAZIL

Vice Adm João Baptista Francisconi SERRAN

March 1967

(U) NAME: Vice Adm João Baptista Francisconi Serran (sehr-RAHN), Navy.

(U) POSITION: Director General of Hydrography and Navigation, since about Feb 1967.

(C) SIGNIFICANCE: Adm Serran has good leadership qualities and is an excellent officer with a strong, positive character. Professionally well qualified, he has held important command and staff positions.

(C) POLITICS:

(C) International: Pro-U.S. and anti-Communist.

(C) Internal: Reportedly greatly interested in Brazilian politics, firmly believes that Brazil must not be allowed to fall into the hands of corrupt politicians, as it had prior to the military revolution in Apr 1964 that ousted leftist-tending President João Goulart and brought the government of Marshal Humberto Castello Branco into power. He was dismissed from the Navy for his involvement in the May 1938 almost successful coup against President Getúlio Vargas by the fascist Integrals, but was reinstated in 1947 along with other naval personnel involved in the uprising.

(C) PERSONAL DATA:

(U) Birth: 27 March 1910 in State of Guanabara, Brazil.

(C) Family: Wife, Vera Rocha Serran (Caucasian, probably born about 1917; 5'5", 145 lbs; black hair; Roman Catholic; knows English but is embarrassed to speak it). Children (7): Lilade Magalhães Coutinho Mamede (f), born about 1930 (married); Maria Reginade Magalhães Coutinho Vieira (f), born about 1931 (married); Vera Maria Rocha de Magalhães Coutinho (f), born about 1933; and Anna Lucia Rocha de Magalhães Coutinho (f), born about 1946 (wife's by previous marriage); Leopoldo Augusto Bhering Serran (m), born about 1923, and Anna Maria Bhering Serran (f), born about 1933 (husband's by previous marriage); Vera Lucia Rocha Serran (f), born about 1949 (by present marriage).



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GROUP-3  
DOWNGRADED AT 12 YEAR INTERVALS;  
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(C) Description: Caucasian, of medium build (5'9", 170 lbs), with gray hair, brown eyes, swarthy complexion, square face; wears a mustache. Appears younger than his age. Good military bearing; always well groomed. Likes to talk. Drinks (Scotch), and smokes cigarettes in moderation. Is member of the Naval Club.

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

(U) Religion: Roman Catholic.

(U) Decorations: French Black Star of Benin; Brazilian Military Medal (Gold Clasp), Order of Naval Merit, Tamandaré Medal of Merit, Order of Military Merit (Oct 1966).

(U) CAREER:

- 1928-1931 - Cadet, Naval Academy, Rio de Janeiro. Extensive midshipman cruise in 1931.
- 1932 - Commissioned Ensign, 27 Oct; assigned to auxiliary vessel Itaúba.
- 1932-1933 - Battleship São Paulo.
- 1933 - Light cruiser Rio Grande do Sul.
- 1934 - Navy Aviation School. Promoted to Lt (j.g.), 5 Apr. Assigned to destroyer Pará.
- 1934-1935 - Hydrographic vessel Rio Branco.
- 1935-1936 - Hydrographic vessel Calheros da Graça.
- 1936 - Student, Hydrography and Navigation Course, Directorate of Hydrography and Navigation, Rio de Janeiro.
- 1936 - Hydrographic vessel Jaceguai.
- 1937-1938 - Hydrographic vessel Rio Branco. Promoted to Lt, 21 Jan 1937.
- 1938 - Commander, hydrographic vessel Grumete.
- 1939-1946 - On inactive status; employed variously as master of a merchant tanker, aerial photographer and director of ground organization services for Brazilian airline Cruzeiro do Sul, manager of Gaillard Battery Factory, and as real estate agent. Promoted to Lt Cdr, 9 Feb 1945.
- 1947 - Reinstated to active duty and assigned to Directorate of Hydrography and Navigation.
- 1948-1949 - Executive Officer, Transport Marajó.
- 1949-1951 - Commandant, Apprentice Seamen School, Santa Catarina.
- 1951 - Student, Anti-Submarine Tactics Course, Admiral Marquês de Leão Training Center, Rio de Janeiro.
- 1951 - Student, Basic Course, Naval War College, Rio de Janeiro.
- 1951-1952 - Commander, destroyer escort Bracuí. Promoted to Cdr, 22 Mar 1952.
- 1952 - Student, Command Course, Naval War College.
- 1952-1953 - Instructor, Naval War College.
- 1953-1954 - Instructor, school ship Duque de Caxias.
- 1954 - Student, Superior Course, Naval War College.
- 1955-1956 - Commander, hydrographic ship José Bonifácio.
- 1956 - Student, Armed Forces Command and Staff Course, Superior War School, Rio de Janeiro.

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- 1957-1958 - Staff Member, Superior War School. Promoted to Capt, 18 Nov 1957.
- 1958 - Student, Superior War Course, Superior War School.
- 1959-1960 - Deputy Commandant, Naval War College.
- 1960-1961 - Commander, light cruiser Tamandaré.
- 1961 - Deputy Chief, Navy General Staff.
- 1961-1963 - Deputy Commandant, Naval Academy.
- 1963-1964 - Deputy Director General of Hydrography and Navigation, Navy General Staff (from 10 May 1963).
- 1964 - Squadron Commander.
- 1964 - Commander, Navy Transport Forces (May-Dec). Promoted to Rear Adm, 2 Dec 1964.
- 1964-1965 - Commandant, Naval Academy (from 15 Dec 1964).
- 1965-1967 - Naval Attaché in U.S., and also accredited to Canada, Nov 1965-Dec 1966. Concurrently, Chairman, Brazilian Delegation to the Joint Brazil-U.S. Defense Commission, and Member, Brazilian Delegation to the Inter-American Defense Board, Sept 1965-Jan 1967. Promoted to Vice Adm, Sept 1966.
- 1967-Present - Director General of Hydrography and Navigation, since about Feb 1967.

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