

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

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BR

IR 6 809 0246 78 USDAO BRAZIL

25 APRIL 1978

de Silva

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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- 14. SOURCE: 7 809 0013
- 15. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: OIRC NO
- 16. SUMMARY: (C) THE "LEYS GET ABREU AND REWARD ERNANI" GROUP IN THE PLANALTO IS SCHEMING TO GET PIRES, A FIGUEIREDO SUPERGRONY, NAMED AS SNI CHIEF TO OPEN A FOUR-STAR VACANCY IN JULY. IF SUCCESSFUL, ABREU WOULD GET PASSED OVER AGAIN, AND ERNANI REGARDED FOR "LETTING" THE HIGH COMMAND "PROMOTE" THE MORE-JUNIOR FIGUEIREDO LAST MARCH (1978)
- 17. BR4, BR17
- 22. DETAILS

- 1. (U) ON 24 APRIL 78 CODED SOURCE CONTACTED RO TO RELATE THE FOLLOWING.
- 2. (C) CODED SOURCE'S PLANALTO INFORMANTS HAVE TOLD HIM THAT ANTI-HUGO ABREU (EX-MINISTER CHIEF OF THE PRESIDENTIAL MILITARY STAFF) ELEMENTS IN THE PRESIDENTIAL STAFF, ARMY MINISTRY AND THE SNI (NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE) ARE MANEUVERING BEHIND THE SCENES TO OBTAIN A VACANCY FOR A FOUR-STAR PROMOTION THIS 31ST JULY 78.
- 3. (C) THEIR GOAL IS TO GET PRESIDENT GEISEL TO NAME GEN WALTER PIRES AS FIGUEIREDO'S SUCCESSOR IN THE SNI EARLY IN JULY, THUS OPENING A VACANCY WHICH, THEY BELIEVE WILL GO TO WWII FEB HERO MG ERNANI AYROSA.
- 4. (C) THE "DUMP ABREU" FORCES ARE AGRUING THAT IF THEIR STRATAGEM WORKS (AS SPELLED OUT IN PARA 3) THEN GEISEL'S "YOU LET ME DOWN" EX-MILITARY STAFF CHIEF, HUGO ABREU WILL "GET THE MESSAGE" (THAT HIS NEVER TO BE FORGIVEN) AND ASK FOR RETIREMENT.
- 5. (C) MOREOVER, ERNANI WILL THEN GET HIS REWARD FOR HAVING ACQUIESCED TO A "VOTE-FIGUEIREDO-FIRST" ACTION ON THE PART OF THE BA HIGH COMMAND LAST MARCH (AND ALSO BE ASSURED THAT HIS HIGHLY PLACED NAVY ENEMIES ARE "POWERLESS TO HURT HIM PROMOTION WISE.")
- 6. (C) THE FLY IN THE OINTMENT IS THAT PRESIDENTIAL HEIR FIGUEIREDO HAS ALLEGEDLY TOLD SOME OF HIS CONFIDANTS (SUCH AS COSTA CAVALCANTI) THAT HE WANTS PIRES TO REPLACE BETHLEM AS ARMY MINISTER. ALSO, WHAT IF PIRES IS NAMED FIGUEIREDO'S REPLACEMENT AS SNI CHIEF IN JULY? HE'S NOT PROFESSIONALLY QUALIFIED. HIS RECORD AS HEAD OF THE FEDERAL PLICE WAS DECIDEDLY NOT BRILLANT (PRE-NILO CANEPPA AND BALDETRAI). WOULD HE KEEP THE SNI POST THROUGH TO 1985? WOULD BETHLEM AGREE TO STAY ON AS BA MINISTER FOR SOME TIME AFTER GEISEL (WHOM HE ADMIRES AS A SORT OF "FATHER OF ALL THE BRAZILS" FIGURE) RETIRES FROM BPUBLIC OFFICE? (THESE QUESTIONS WERE POSED BY CODED SOURCE).

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 Defense Intelligence Agency
 By *AS* Date *26 Aug 91*

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SUBJ: Possibility of a 4-star opening in July 78

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7. (C) IN VIEW OF THE PROCEEDING, CODED SOURCE RATES FIRES' SNI POSSIBILITIES AS 52-50 AT BEST IN SUM, AS A POSSIBILITY AS OPPOSED TO BEING A PROBABILITY AT THIS TIME.

COMMENT: (C) EARLIER SPECULATION HAD IT THAT FIRES COULD WELL INHERIT THE SNI MANTLE WERE BETHLEN TO KEEP THE BA MINISTERIAL POSITION (SEE IR 6 800 0041). HOWEVER, OTHERS HAVE RECENTLY TOLD RO THAT THE HEAD OF THE SNI CENTRAL AGENCY, BE SEBASTIAO DE CASTRO, AND THE HEAD OF THE SNI SCHOOL, RG OCTAVIO MEDIERSO ARE STILL CONNIVING AND INTRIGUING BEHIND-THE-SCENES TO SUCCEED TO FIGUEIREDO'S JOB, AND THAT MEDIERSO SEEMED TO BE FIGUEIREDO'S PERSONAL FAVORITE BUT THAT CASTRO KNEW TOO MUCH AND ENJOYED FIGUEIREDO'S FULLEST PROFESSIONAL RESPECT - IF NOT HIS COMPLETE CONFIDENCE. SOME PA SOURCES HAVE MOST RECENTLY STATED THAT ABREN HAS HAD IT IN RE A PROMOTION. HIS QUARREL WITH GEISEL AND SUBSEQUENT PRESS INTERVIEW (MUCH PUBLICIZED) DEEPLY ANGERED THE POKER-FACED BRAZILIAN KAISER. WHAT REMAINS TO BE SEEN IS WHETHER FIGUEIREDO CONVINCES GEISEL THAT ERNANI SHOULD BE REWARDED VIA PROMOTION IN JUL 78. IF SO, THEN WATCH THE POSSIBLE TURN INTO FACT

XGDS 31 DEC 2008.

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