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Defense Intelligence Agency

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BIOGRAPHIC DATA

BRAZIL

Maj Gen Rodrigo Octavio Jordão RAMOS

June 1971

(U) NAME: Maj Gen Rodrigo Octavio Jordão Ramos
(road-REE-go oak-TAH-vee-oh), Army.

(U) POSITION: Commandant, Superior War College,
Rio de Janeiro, from 28 May 1971.

(C) SIGNIFICANCE: A politically active and controversial engineering officer, he was appointed to his current position as a means of removing him from direct involvement in the command element. He publicly stated in his acceptance speech on 28 May 1971 that he did not want the command of the Superior War College (equivalent to U.S. National War College) because he did not want to be separated from the army engineer units that have been actively involved in a program of national development and integration. He remarked, however, that, as Commandant of the Superior War College, he would continue to direct the effort of the school in assisting the government to achieve its plan for the transformation of Brazil into a developed country by the end of the century. He is highly respected and very popular with officers and enlisted men in the Army Engineer Corps and is considered the "patron saint" of the engineer battalions in the Amazon region. He made numerous public statements in 1969 in support of the unsuccessful bid of Maj Gen (Ret) Affonso Augusto de Albuquerque Lima (Minister of Interior, 1967-1969 and a fellow engineer officer) to succeed the late Marshal (Ret) Arthur da Costa e Silva (President, 1967-1969) when the latter suffered a stroke on 30 Aug 1969. His speech before the Institute of Military Engineering in Mar 1971 contained several political statements that have not enhanced his political position with the administration of Emílio Garrastazú Médici (President since 30 Oct 1969). He openly advocates the creation of a Ministry of Amazon Affairs and a Fifth Army in that region. His forceful attitude toward the development of the Amazon region and his insistence that his point of view on a given subject prevail have caused Gen Orlando Geisel (Minister of the Army since 3 Nov 1969) to keep him under close observation.



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(C) POLITICS:

(C) International: Extremely nationalistic; he is very well disposed toward the United States and appears to realize that the best interests of Brazil can be served concomitantly with close relations with the U.S. He recognizes the value of the U.S. military school system as a supplement and model for the Brazilian Army and retains fond memories of the two years he spent at the U.S. Army Engineer School, Fort Belvoir, Virginia (1946-1947). He believes that power politics still predominates in international affairs and that the world powers have been interested only in advancing their own national interest and, until very recently, have been able to impose their will. He advocates a humanistic doctrine and believes that neither Marxism, Leninism, nor liberal society's maximization of individualism is the answer.

(C) Internal: Prodemocratic and a political activist, he has made numerous political statements that have proven embarrassing to past and current administrations. His internal political views were aptly summarized in his inaugural speech to the Superior War College on 28 May 1971. He believes that Brazil can only achieve maturity through liberal democracy, a state of law which guarantees individual rights, representative politics, equal opportunity, social justice, racial integration, religious freedom, and an equitable distribution of wealth. He is apparently anticlerical and stated that the youth of Brazil has been misled by sectarian fanatics and certain apostates who, instead of preaching the gospel of charity, incite Marxist violence.

(U) PERSONAL DATA:

(U) Birth: 8 Jul 1910 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

(U) Family: Wife, name not known. Children (2): Rodrigo Octavio Cézar Jardim Ramos (m); born 10 Apr 1933 (an artillery captain); a married daughter, name not known.

(U) Description: Caucasian; slender build (5'6", 170 lbs); black, graying hair (slightly balding); brown eyes; oval face, ruddy complexion; wears gold-rimmed glasses, has a neat, scholarly appearance; soft spoken; not easily aroused to anger; has a dry sense of humor; does not smoke or drink; eats lightly; enjoys classical music and the theater. Responds well to flattery once friendship has been gained.

(U) Language: Native Portuguese, fair English, fair Spanish.

(U) Religion: Roman Catholic.

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Authority NAVJ 53094

CONFIDENTIAL

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(U) Decorations: Brazilian Count Linhares Prize Medal; Marshal Hermes Study Medal (Bronze with 1 Crown); Military Medal (Gold Clasp); Order of Military Merit (Officer); Peacemaker Medal; War Medal.

(U) CAREER:

1927-1930	- Cadet, Military Academy, Realengo. Commissioned 2d Lt in Engineers, 21 Jan 1930.
1931	- Promoted to 1st Lt, 19 Feb 1931.
?	- Student, Communications Course.
?	- Student, School of Arms.
1934	- Promoted to Capt, 2 Oct 1934.
?	- Student, Officers Advanced School, Vila Militar, State of Rio de Janeiro.
1939	- Toured U.S.
?	- Student, General Staff Course, Army Command and General Staff School, Rio de Janeiro
1942	- Promoted to Maj, 25 Dec 1942
1946	- Student, U.S. Army Engineer School, Fort Belvoir, Virginia.
1946-1947	- Instructor, Course for Brazilian Officers, U.S. Army Engineer School, Fort Belvoir, Virginia.
1947	- Promoted to Lt Col, 25 Mar 1947.
?	- Student, Superior War College, Rio de Janeiro.
1953	- Promoted to Col, 25 Apr 1953.
1954-1955	- Minister of Transportation and Public Works during administration of José Café Filho (President from Aug 1954 until late 1955).
? -1959	- Staff Officer, Directorate General of Engineering and Communications, Department of Production and Works, Ministry of War.
1959- ?	- Commander, 1st Railway Battalion, Bento Gonçalves, Rio Grande do Sul.
1964	- Deputy Chief For Army, Armed Forces General Staff, from 25 Jul 1964. Promoted to Brig Gen, 25 Jul 1964. Concurrently, Chief of Executive Office of the Minister of Transportation and Public Works, Retired Marshal Juárez Távora from 1964.
1966	- Promoted to Maj Gen, 25 Mar 1966.
1967-1968	- Commander, 7th Military Region and Infantry Division, from at least May 1967.
1968-1969	- Commander, 8th Military Region and Amazonas Military Command, Belém, from Mar 1968. Promoted to Gen, 25 Nov 1969.

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- 1969 - Commander, 12th Military Region and Amazonas Military Command, Manaus, from 5 Jul 1969.
- 1969-1971 - Chief, Department of Production and Works, Ministry of the Army, from Oct 1969 to about Jan 1971.
- 1971 - Chief, Department of Engineering and Communications (established in late 1970), Ministry of the Army, from about 27 Jan to 27 May 1971.
- 1971-Present - Commandant, Superior War College, Rio de Janeiro, from 28 May 1971. Visited U.S. on official visit, 10 Jun 1971.

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