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Leonel Brizzola Attacks the Embassy and the Alliance for Progress

In an exclusive interview with Rio's Jornal do Brasil, April 8 (copy enclosed), Rio Grande do Sul Governor Leonel Brizzola gives his views on the current Brazilian scene. He follows closely the same line he took recently in his statement on Janio Quadros (see Embassy Despatch 771 of March 30) but goes even further in viciously attacking the United States and the Alliance for Progress. His language and approach show increasing use of Marxist language and concepts.

According to a press report, on April 10, Almino Afonso, recently reelected (by a narrow margin) leader of the PTB in the Chamber of Deputies and leader of the Party's extreme left wing, sent a telegram of support to Brizzola and read it into the Congressional Record. "I agree in kind number and degree with all you said. I insist on the necessity of a broad understanding among men of the same political views, with the greatest urgency or else we shall see even sadder days in our country."

After reiterating his demand for a plebescite and return to presidentialism in terms similar to those reported in Embassy Despatch 771, Brizzola turns to the forthcoming October elections: "Everything indicates that an economic conspiracy is being readied to transform the elections into an episode without the transcendental significance they should

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**CONFIDENTIAL**

**CONFIDENTIAL**

4-12-62  
310 Alliance for Progress

have as an instrument of the process of social transformation. The economic oligarchies are becoming active, the persons implicated in the spoliative process spare no resources to elect throughout the country deputies and senators who will be agreeable to reactionary representation, and that representation can come to power only on rivers of money. If in Argentina, the Prussian power wrecked the elections, in Brazil the economic power, a bit more malicious, will arrange, not for the wrecking, but for the frustration of the objectives of the election."

Brizzola calls for an electoral reform law as the best means of combatting these influences, without giving any details of the features to be embodied therein. Presumably he would like to see an end to the literacy requirement for voters, which would enlarge his base enormously.

#### Alliance for Progress

"As conducted now, it is nothing more than a program of neo-colonialism." While claiming to finance progress in Latin America, the fact that no concessions are made in trade nor in aiding Latin America control of her own industries, means, in fact, that Latin America is financing the progress of the United States; in these circumstances, the Alliance is an instrument of the Cold War, an instrument of political coercion against Latin America, Brizzola said.

Also, there are insuperable contradictions in the Alliance, for example, how can one expect basic reforms to be made, Brizzola asks, when the resources of the Alliance are furnished, as in Ecuador and Venezuela, to groups who maintain themselves in power only through preservation of the existing condemned structure.

#### The United States Embassy

Bizzola's direct attack on the Embassy in the terms used is an innovation. According to the Governor, the Embassy effects "practically, the political corruption of Brazil" /it is/ "a species of super-government, since it distributes among Governors, Mayors, businessmen, etc., recommendations for financial favors which, properly, is within the competence of the Brazilian Federal Government and its official credit agencies."

"This outpouring of money is made with the objective of deforming the decisions of the ballot-box, and to impede the

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formation of a national Parliament capable of voting in the measures necessary to promote economic emancipation of the country from the United States. The Embassy finances, thusly, political corruption as a means of maintaining our country as a dependency of the corporations and the trusts. I consider this meddling a true act of alienation of our national sovereignty. I am not content with this and have decided to draft a complaint to the Federal Government in the name of the Government of Rio Grande do Sul. Should this malevolent intervention persist, I prefer to see my state excluded from the part of Brazil touched by the Alliance for Progress."

### Own Political Plans

Brizzola said he would soon announce his decision with regard to standing for Federal Deputy from the State of Guanabara. (He is constitutionally prohibited from succeeding himself as Governor. A campaign in Guanabara would bring him into sharp and widely-publicized contact with the violently anti-Communist Governor Carlos Lacerda.) "What is most important to me is that the new Parliament have the largest possible number of independent popular representatives, authentic public men, deputies and senators who do not confuse their personal interests with those of the nation."

### Program of Reform

Brizzola listed the following reforms as "indispensable": (1) Agrarian reform - "as a condition of the creation of a larger internal market and the possibility of a better field for industrial development." (2) Urban reform - to face "the reality of this country where millions of families live in shacks, huts and shanty towns." (3) Educational reform - "so that education will no longer be, in Brazil, a caste privilege as well as a lucrative industry" (private schools). (4) Reform of the control and administration of foreign trade, commercial, economic and financial relations with the United States, other countries and economic groups, in sum, with the whole world, a spoliative process that transforms Brazil into a 'punctured can' from which our financial resources drain out." (5) Revision of national planning to correct class and regional inequities. (6) Legislative reform - "so that Parliament can vote with greater speed the laws that the country lacks." (7) Tax reform to correct the inequity of the distribution of wealth. (8) Reform of the civil code. (9) Administrative reform to "remove bureaucratic obstacles." (10) Reform of the national communications system.

### Socialization

"Socialization of basic industry is the fundamental condition for the economic emancipation of the country," and, according to Brizzola, history shows that this can be done by revolution, although this does not necessarily mean by violence. "Violence

comes from those who oppose the revolution, who want to maintain the regime of private property in those basic industries."

Expropriation

He said the seizure of the I.T. & T. subsidiary was done only to serve the interests of his state. He denied that President Goulart resented the fact that he had not been consulted prior to the act.

Agrarian Reform

Regarding accusations that he had fomented land seizures by peasants, he said "Up till now, the Government of my state has assured property rights. As Governor, I feel equally obliged to assure the right to congregate of agricultural workers, since they have done so in a perfectly orderly fashion. The Government has the duty to hear the complaints of those who want land to work, with the same patience it hears the appeals of credit bankers and other requests from landowners."

Comment: Although other political figures use the United States as a scapegoat, and call for socialization of basic industries and other extreme measures, none, except acknowledged Communists, are so dogmatic and vituperative. Brizzola's approach may prove too extreme even for Janio Quadros, though this remains to be seen. Brizzola is attempting to create a national issue for the election campaign, but the reception accorded such an out-and-out anti-U.S. bias is unlikely to be a warm one. The national mood is doubtless favorable to reforms but their enactment is more apt to be entrusted to more prestigious, moderate reformers than to Brizzola who will find it hard to attract to his banner any important support not openly Communist or the equivalent.

It is difficult to say whether Almino Afonso's statement of support of Brizzola is a genuine endorsement of the specifics of Brizzola's views, or simply periodic maintenance of his own image as an extreme nationalist.

For the Chargé d'Affaires, a.i.:

Approved by:

*Philip Raine*  
Philip Raine  
Political Counselor

Harry Weiner  
Second Secretary  
of Embassy

Enclosure:

Governor Brizzola's interview  
with Rio's Jornal do Brasil of  
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Page 5  
Despatch 806  
Brasilia Office

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