

Department of State

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Sundry Views of Bahia UDN Deputy Ruy Santos

Our A-185, June 7, 1965

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In a recent after dinner conversation, Deputy Ruy Santos expressed the following views on subjects of current interest: (1) the government of the revolution should not be worried over the outcome of the 1965 gubernatorial elections since it will carry the day in most of the 11 states concerned and can tolerate what occurs in the remainder, (2) if the present economic-financial policy of the government attains its objectives M. Castello Branco will continue to be president after 1967, if not Governor Carlos Lacerda will be president, (3) the president should have mainly political cabinet with ministers drawn from the ranks of the revolutionary parliamentary bloc, (4) relations between Castello Branco and Vice President José Maria Alkmin are friendly and date back many years, (5) Chamber President Bilac Pinto's recent statement on sending Brazilian troops to the Dominican Republic may have been designed by him to counter-balance his generally conservative image. A memorandum of this conversation is enclosed.

Evaluative Comment. Ruy Santos is a politician's politician, having served in the Chamber since 1946 and recently having completed a tour as Secretary General of the UDN. He is an intimate friend and collaborator of Ambassador Juracy Magalhães. He is renowned in particular for the accuracy of his forecasts of votes in the Congress.

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POL: LNE Bowden: fmb

Max Krebs *ML*

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At the same time, he is also a back-woods congressman who has grown up in the wheel, deal, trade and live-and-let-live tradition of the São Francisco valley.

For the Chargé d'Affaires a.i.:

Robert W. Dean
Robert W. Dean
Counselor of Embassy

Enclosure:
Memorandum of Conversation

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: Deputy Ruy Santos (UDN-Bahia)
Lewis W. Bowden, Second Secretary of Embassy

PLACE: Apartment of Deputy Rondon Pacheco in Brasília

DATE: June 5, 1965

In conversation after dinner, Deputy RUY SANTOS expressed the following views:

1965 Elections

Santos claimed not to be worried over the outcome of the upcoming elections in 11 states. He thought the revolution would probably not get its candidate elected in Goiás but would in Mato Grosso, Santa Catarina and Paraná. He agreed that Guanabara was the most important problem of this election, but he could not at the moment foresee the outcome. In Minas Gerais, the Deputy said he thought the PSD would have better sense than to nominate Deputy Sebastião PAES DE ALMEIDA to run for Governor. Regarding UDN candidates, he thought that RONDON PACHECO might be a compromise candidate but said this would have to be the result of an agreement between Minas Governor MAGALHAES PINTO and President CASTELLO BRANCO.

[An interruption at this point prevented the Deputy from expressing an opinion on the elections in the remaining states.]

1966 Elections

In fairly categorical terms, Deputy Ruy Santos said it looked quite clear to him that if the present economic-financial policy of the government worked, then Castello Branco would be the logical man to succeed himself. If this policy does not work, the Deputy felt that CARLOS LACERDA would be the only alternative.

Personalities

H. Castello Branco - The President is a man who tries to weigh all the factors concerning a given problem then decides on his course of action and once decided, can't readily be moved to change his mind. However, he unfortunately has little political sensitivity. He should, for example, have a political cabinet, except for the portfolios of the Army, Planning and Treasury. What he apparently has failed to understand is that the revolution has brought completely new

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circumstances which demand a new party of the revolution. It is from the ranks of such a party, or its equivalent, that the President should draw most of his Ministers.

Three present Ministers, in particular, should be replaced by political types. The first is Professor MILTON CAMPOS who is infuriatingly slow in getting his work done and impossibly legalistic in his approach. The second is JUAREZ TAVORA who is not a well man and cannot devote himself fully to his job. The third is Agriculture Minister HUGO LEME, who is politically a zero. With a team of political Ministers drawn from revolutionary ranks, the President would be able to obtain and keep a better image with the public.

Alkmim - The Vice President of Brazil, José Maria ALKMIM has virtually nothing to do. His election to this post in the first place was an attempt to attract support from PSD ranks. Ruy Santos was against this choice from the beginning, but he says that the President likes Alkmim and knew him many years ago in Army service. In fact, the President calls Alkmim "Cabo José Maria" and Alkmim calls the President "Meu Tenente". It is not inconceivable that Alkmim might ultimately be the PSD's best choice for Governor of Minas.

Bilac Pinto - The Chamber of Deputies President is rigid and single minded in his approach to problems. He seems to forget that there is a traditional way of doing things in the Chamber and that not all past procedures, right or wrong, can be changed all at once. For example, under his rule concerning trips abroad by members of the Chamber, Bilac recently refused permission to four Protestant Deputies to travel to a religious meeting of some variety in the United States. [Actually it was clarified that the Chamber President had refused to allow the Deputies concerned to claim that they were going to the United States on an official visit which would have allowed them to claim their per diem in Brasília while on the trip.]

Another example of Bilac's narrowness of mind was his statement on U.S. action in, and the sending of Brazilian troops to, Santo Domingo. Ruy Santos said that he remonstrated with Bilac over this declaration, claiming to have told Bilac that as an individual he could think such things but as President of the Chamber of Deputies he had a responsibility much larger and could not permit himself the luxury of such controversial foreign policy declarations. Ruy Santos noted parenthetically that certain statements of Senator Robert Kennedy about U.S. actions in the DR context had not been

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helpful in producing a favorable state of mind among the Congress. The Deputy is inclined to think that Bilac feels an internal compulsion to offset his past reputation as an extreme conservative and at present has a tendency to say things which will show that he is also attuned to other bands in the political spectrum.

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