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RECIFE REPORT NO 54

TO: Embassy Office BRASILIA

INFO: = Embassy RIO DE JANEIRO

FROM: RECIFE

SUBJECT: Pernambuco Sugar Syndicate President Praises Recent Events  
Affecting Northeast Sugar Zone.

REF: Recife Report No 52; Recife 960

Enclosed are portions of a newspaper account of an interview with Gustavo Colago Dias, President of the Pernambuco Sugar Syndicate, Vice President of the Northeast Sugar Foundation and President of the sugar mill Usina Nossa Senhora do Carmo.

Colago Dias speaks very highly of the appointment of Francisco de Rosa Giticica as the new President of the Sugar and Alcohol Institute (IAA), citing particularly Giticica's long experience with that organization. He also praises the remarks which Governor Nilo Coelho and SUPENE Superintendent Euler Dantas made before visiting students of the Escola Superior de Guerra, criticizing inactivity in sugar zone reform (Ref. Report). To Colago Dias, the importance of such events is that they point out that everyone involved in sugar zone reform is arriving at common denominators and points of understanding which should result in an united, constructive and efficient effort.

Colago Dias is remembered for the letter which he addressed to GERAN criticizing its inactivity in land reform (Recife Report No. 6, March 8, 1968). This is the letter referred to in the penultimate paragraph of the enclosure of this report.

HILLIER

Enclosure: as stated

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ENCLOSURE

Diario de Pernambuco, June 2, 1968

COLAÇO PRAISES THE CHOICE OF OITICICA AND SHOWS CONFIDENCE  
IN THE ACTION OF GERAN

Mr. Gustavo Colaço Dias, President of the Sugar Syndicate in the State of Pernambuco understands that the naming of Mr. Francisco de Rosa Oiticica - "An Alagoano of Pernambucano sentiments" - as the President of the IAA "was happy and made with much propriety."

SUM OF QUALITIES

He, the President of the Sugar Syndicate thinks that the choice was "proper and happy because the man chosen is serious, austere, of great honor, with much public spirit, who has worked in several posts in the administration of IAA, in its legal Department, having been its General Attorney. He knows, as no one else, the problems of the autarchy and of the sugar industry and the complex legislation of this industry."

"It is clear" - he continued - "that all of us, industrialists and sugar producers in the different areas of sugar economy have great hopes and a wide confidence in the action of this good employee who reaches the Presidency of IAA not as an opportunist or by political injunction, but as the culmination of a career entirely dedicated to the service of the autarchy. The Minister of Industry and Commerce, the illustrious General Macedo Soares, and the Federal Government merit the best congratulations for so proper choice."

NILO AND EULER: REALISM AND GOOD SENSE

Mr. Colaço Dias also spoke of the conferences - "real practical lessons" - on the problems of the Sugar Zone in Pernambuco which were given by Governor Nilo Coelho and General Euler Bentes, Superintendent of SUDENE, for the students of the Superior War School.

"We all know" - he said - "that the Superior War School is a real Institute for Higher Learning, not only military, but for the problems of Brazil. One must only check the high level of the students and its permanent Staff to see this. Only this would give the measure of importance on a matter taken for study and debate in the auditorium of an institute for higher learning of this category and responsibility. Much has been written and said on the sugar economy and problems - not always just or from good sources - what is to be praised is the objectivity, realism and the good sense with which Governor Nilo Coelho and the Superintendent Euler Bentes have just done it."

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COMMON EFFORTS

To the president of the Union of the Sugar Industry, what is happening - "and it is of the greatest importance to emphasize this detail" - is that "at the end of such painful effort, of so many and such complex studies and debates, we - public agencies, technicians and management - are all arriving at common denominators and points of understanding which may and must result in a conjugation of efforts in one sense, one constructive and efficient direction."

COINCIDENCE OF POINTS OF VIEW

He also said that the denunciation and criticisms of the Governor, made with the greatest impartiality and clarity, to disastrous experiments, the criticisms of General Euler Bentes "a public man of the greatest objectivity and affirmative sense, to the inertia and apathy of GERAN coincide perfectly with the points of view of technicians, studious persons and managers. There is another coincidence which should be pointed out and stressed: the purpose which unites us - public agencies, technicians and management - the positive and constructive purpose of performing a concrete program of reformulation and betterment of this basic activity for the economy of Pernambuco and the region, reputed to be an indispensable support to the process of development in the Northeast. It is necessary that each one of us that fulfill his part in this task."

NEW INTERROGATION OF GERAN

The interrogatory letter which sugar industrialists in Pernambuco addressed to GERAN, requesting the definition of a policy of action and the unleashing of a dynamic program, has not been answered, said Mr. Gustavo Colaço Dias. He added that the inquiry is now seconded, with such authority, by the Governor of Pernambuco and the Superintendent of SUESE, at the time at which a new President of IAA "with the category and the experience of Dr. Oiticica," takes office.

ANOTHER CHAPTER

"We are going to join our forces and open, again, a credit of confidence and hope in the activity of GERAN, now under the inspiration of the great public servant, such as Dr. Oiticica, in the certainty that a new chapter is opening for the strengthening of this substantial activity for the economy of the region and of such interest to the exchange revenues of the country."

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