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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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November 20, 1964

Bi-Weekly Summary

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US GOVERNMENT OFFICES

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1. Legislative Assembly Supports Mauro Borges

Some weeks ago the Legislative Assembly passed a motion by PSD Deputy Juarez Souza granting Goiás Governor, Mauro Borges an honorary citizenship of Bahia. Last week, when the President of the Assembly and a number of the more influential deputies were not in attendance, the Assembly voted to invite Borges to receive the award on November 19, flag day! After much humming and hawing and after a violent speech against the proposal by Deputy Wilson Lins who had not been present when the Assembly approved the proposal, it was decided that no action would be taken on the vote and that Borges would not be given the invitation to appear for the delivery ceremony. On the 18th the Assembly approved a resolution presented by Wilson Lins expressing its solidarity with the Armed Forces, and the brewing storm passed. There had been talk of military intervention in the Assembly during part of the embarrassing situation.

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COMMENT: This last rub with the pro-Revolutionists and especially the hard-liners, has drawn additional attention to what is regarded as irresponsibility on the part of the state legislative body. The practice of allowing alternates to serve because of "illness" has become flagrant and there are now almost twice as many persons drawing deputy salaries as there are deputies. This and the proposal of Salvador's City Councilmen to boost their own salaries to a million cruzeiros per month (a proposal which has been withdrawn) brought a scathing attack on the State and City legislative bodies by the Diarios Associados which in one front page editorial concluded: "Revolution, where is thy victory!"

2. JFK to Receive Honorary Citizenship of Bahia

The Legislative Assembly has passed a motion of PDC Deputy Menandro Minahim granting ex-President Kennedy a post-mortem honorary citizenship of Bahia. The Consul has been asked to be the recipient of the award since the Ambassador is not able to be in Bahia for the ceremony.

3. Ex-Mayor Denied Injunction

By an unanimous vote, the Civil Branch of the State Court denied the injunction sought by ex-Mayor of Salvador, Virgildasio Sena, against the City Council for "impeaching" him from office. The decision handed down on November 18 was based on a determination that the City Council's action was a mere confirmation of a revolutionary act of the military authorities and therefore not subject to review. Sena's lawyer, Milton Tavares, took issue with this position saying that an act of the revolution is not irreversible and that no one could say that a revolution is capable of extinguishing judicial institutions. He will appeal the decision to the Supreme Court.

In the meantime, on November 10 4 volumes resulting from the IPM investigations of the ex-Mayor have been turned over to the Military Court of the Sixth Military Region. The officer in charge of the Inquiry, Lieut. Col. Jaime Brown Martins, requested the preventive arrest of Sena as he handed in the case. This request is now being studied by the Military Prosecutor.

COMMENT: The decision of the court turned out as expected. There are some three or four other mayors in Bahia who have sought injunctions against their Councils for "impeaching" them. Their cases may not be so clear cut since it is understood that the action of the Councils was taken well after the outbreak of the revolution and was not preceded by removal from office by the military. Sena was imprisoned on April 5 and "impeached" on April 17. Nevertheless, it may be anticipated that where the armed forces gave clear indication to the city council of the action the council was to take, the State Court will turn down the injunction request.

It is reported that the decision of the National Convention in not recognizing Sena as ex-President of the Republic will never support any movement in opposition to the President of the Republic. With regard to the question of

4. Seixas Dória Released

The Sixth Military Region released ex-Sergipe Governor Seixas Dória on November 17, perhaps anticipating favorable Supreme Court Action on his writ of Habeas Corpus. At the time of his release Dória was under house arrest in Aracaju. The following day he departed for Rio where, newspapers report, he will make his residence. Spokesmen for Seixas Dória have disclaimed any intention on the part of the ex-Governor to attempt to regain his position.

COMMENT: Prior to Dória's release the Sixth Military Region had initiated a request for the preventative imprisonment of the ex-Governor before the Superior Military Court of Guanabara. The fate of this action is still unclear; but judging from the limited excitement generated by Dória's release it would appear that the military does not consider his continued detention of major importance. A military inquiry continues.

5. Minister Costa e Silva Denies that Lomanto is Next

Governor Lomanto Junior telegraphed his thanks to Minister of War Costa e Silva for having publicly denied a Rio newspaper (Diario de Noticias) comment that action would be taken against him after the difficulties in Góias were resolved. The local Diarios Associados papers remained silent amidst the affirmations of support for the Governor that followed the exchange of telegrams.

Today's papers announce that the Minister of War is to visit Salvador shortly and be the Governor's guest.

6. Sixth Military Region Commander

General Manoel Mendes Pereira of the Sixth Military Region has received official notification of his assignment as Director of Active Personnel, a position he will hold on a temporary basis. To replace Mendes Pereira the President has named General of Brigada João Costa who has been serving as Chief of Staff for the First Army. No date has been set for the transfer of authority, although it may be when Minister Costa e Silva visits Salvador on November 30.

7. Antonio Carlos Magalhães Discusses Lacerda

Federal Deputy and Bahia UDN leader Antonio Carlos Magalhães returned to Brazil from a visit to the United States during which he spent some time in Washington with Ambassador Juracy Magalhães. To newsmen Antonio Carlos said that he had unsuccessfully attempted to get through to the Bahia UDN prior to the São Paulo convention but that in any event Bahia's delegates did not need instruction in order to act as they did. He said that he supports the decision of the National Convention in nominating Lacerda but that the Bahia UDN will never support any movement in opposition to the President of the Republic. With regard to the question if

two years is not a long time to run a campaign Antonio Carlos said that the answer depends ultimately on Carlos Lacerda himself.

COMMENT: Antonio Carlos' comments on Lacerda's nomination, which by implication contained the views of Ambassador Magalhães, were somewhat less than enthusiastic.

8. Cocoa

The month-long suspension of cocoa sales in accordance with the First International Agreement of Cocoa Producing Countries is causing increasing concern in Bahian government and business circles. With exporters unable to buy cocoa, growers find themselves unable to meet bank and payroll obligations. The halt in sales threatens the State's tax revenue and has resulted in a drop in business activity in the cocoa region.

A major purpose of Governor Lomanto's trip to Rio this past week was to request Federal Government assistance in setting a minimum price for cocoa, in purchasing cocoa now in the hands of growers, and in providing credit for growers. As a first step Minister of Finance Bulhões has announced a temporary elimination of the 5% retention tax on the export value of cocoa products.

COMMENT: If, as seems likely, the Government couples this action with steps to assist cocoa processing plants to purchase cocoa supplies in the hands of growers, the present cocoa crisis will be at least temporarily resolved. Exports of cocoa products are also banned under the Agreement of Cocoa Producing Countries and, therefore, a more firm solution depends on the resumption of international sales.

9. Psychological

The majority of comment was devoted to the Goiás situation to which was linked the note from the Ministry of War approving Lomanto's political image. The Diarios Associados took a hard line policy against Borges while the independent Jornal da Bahia hailed the President's decision to abide by the Court's opinion. Many observers wondered what the hard-liners would do if the Court exonerated Borges. Out of State pride, commentators were pleased that Lomanto had been approved, but at the same time they circulated a joke which asked why Lomanto had not signed the manifesto of the nine governors supporting Castelo Branco? Because only "governors" were allowed to sign. People generally were resigned to being stuck with Lomanto for his full term.

The headline of the week was: "Kennedy says Lacerda is the Brazilian Goldwater". Lacerda's candidacy was accepted as a "normal democratic procedure" by the independent Jornal da Bahia, was hailed by the Diarios Associados, but independent A Tarde saw it as weakening the Revolution by introducing divisive factors.

A Diarios Associados sportscaster was beaten up by thugs hired by a local football club with whom he had been carrying on a feud. Privately, practically all press people felt the attack was long overdue, but publicly the local, and national, press erupted into screams about violation of freedom of the press.

The jinxed "Teatro Castro Alves", which was gutted by fire the night before its inauguration, and has been a white elephant ever since, has, hopefully, had the jinx removed. A numerologist took a reading on the name and found that if it had more letters, the recently-concluded fund-raising show would have shown a profit instead of a heavy deficit. Solemnly the board members studied the recommendation and agreed to change the name to "Teatro Castro Alves da Bahia" and then sat back expectantly.

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Legislative Assembly Supports Mauro Borges

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