

OPERATIONS MEMORANDUM

POL

TO: Amembassy Rio de Janeiro

FROM: Amconsul Porto Alegre

SUBJECT: POLITICAL: Roundup of Events For Week August 14-20

REF:

DATE: August 19, 1966

OMP-4

1. Elections:

Following the national pattern, the RGS MDB withdrew the candidacy of Professor Rui Cirne Lima for governor by indirect election, and allowed August 17 to pass without registering any candidate with the executive board of the Legislative Assembly. On the same day, the MDB addressed to the state Regional Electoral Tribunal a challenge of the legality of ARENA candidate Walter Peracchi Barcelos, on the grounds that he is ineligible under article 3, paragraph 1 of Law No. 4738 of July 15, 1965, as director of a hotel company, the Sociedade Guaibinha, to which exemptions from state turnover and sales taxes had been granted. ARENA's reply is that Peracchi severed his connections with the company in 1965 and that the company, moreover, has yet to build any hotels which might benefit from the proposed exemptions.

2. Opening of a Sublegenda in MDB for (PL) Dissidents From ARENA

By an agreement signed on August 18, the state MDB agreed to accept persons who seek a political home they have been unable to find either in ARENA or in the MDB itself, by offering them semi-independent status in the latter as a so-called "sublegenda", which commits them only to support certain broad principles, enumerated below, rather than the specific principles of the MDB itself. The principles are as follows: a) restoration of a democratic regime; b) Reestablishment of the federation principle; c) the creation of conditions which will make possible and favor the assurance of a minimum of economic security required for the well-being of the population and to the needs of production; d) the preservation of social structures in conformity with the Christian tradition of the Brazilian people. Deputies Paulo Brossard and Honório Severo, ex-PL and launchers of the Rui Cirne Lima candidacy, as well as a number of others associated with that candidacy, signed the agreement. Also signing was city alderman and Army captain Rui Sommer de Azambuja, a person identified with the anti-Communist cause and originally with the Revolution, but who has been against just about everything in recent months. All three are expected to run for political office under the auspices of their new party.

3. Support for Dom Hélder Câmara

Messages of support to Dom Hélder, in his controversy with President Castelo Branco, have been sent by the Bishop of Santa Maria and the parish curate of São Pelegrino in Caxias do Sul, where the famous Locatelli stations of the Cross are located. A speech defending the Archbishop as "the best the Church has to offer", was made in the Legislative Assembly by Deputy Nelson Marche-

zan (just returned from the United States, and who has announced that in spite of belonging to ARENA, he will refuse to cast his vote for Peracchi on September 3).

4. Plotting in Passo Fundo

Several persons have been arrested and are under confinement in the Brigada Militar guardhouse in Passo Fundo for alleged planning of terrorist attempts. They are said to have been following orders emanating from Cuba. Details will be transmitted as they become available.

5. Student Elections Setback For Government

In elections to their respective Central Directorates (DCE), the students of Porto Alegre's Catholic and Federal Universities chose in each case the candidates representing the forces in opposition to the present federal government. At PUCRGS, Paulo CHANAM won over Reginaldo PUJOL (independent) by 1373 to 1140 votes, while at UFRGS, Carlos Alberto VIEIRA defeated DNE-backed Carlos Luis GAZOLA by a 202 vote majority. It is too early to depict a definite trend in the elections to the Academic Centers, although it is assumed that the pro-government candidates will in many cases be defeated.

cc Embassy Office Brasilia

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