

A-11

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Department of State

of the Meneghetti cabinet or persons holding key "positions of confidence" under the present governor. At least privately, he has stated that he is a believer in regional planning rather than in favoring individual areas for political purposes, although he may presumably have to compromise with his principles in certain areas where the concept of regional planning is not appreciated. He has been invited to visit the United States as a leader grantee, and has indicated he will initiate travel in November. The interests he has indicated in this connection are keeping with his

Amconsul PORTO ALEGRE

18 OUT 1966

Rio Grande do Sul Before The Elections

3. ARENA, by its very composition, is a somewhat incongruous body in which little harmony reigns. Its leading component, the old PRB, was badly split by a feud between Juscelinistas, headed by Deputy Tarciso de Moraes Leite, and anti-

The Consulate recommends that this document not be disseminated outside U.S. government offices.

1. When the Electoral Court's registration lists closed at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 16, the Aliança Renovadora Nacional (ARENA) had entered the names of 85 candidates for the Legislative Assembly, 31 for the Chamber of Deputies, and 3 for the Senate. Incumbent Guido Mondin (ex-PRP) has as his running-mate (for suplente) Niveo Friedrich, former mayor of Novo Hamburgo. The other two would-be senators, entered as sublegenda candidates, are Mário Mondino (ex-PDC) who has heavy support in Caxias do Sul, and Synval Guazzelli (ex-UDN) brother of the mayor of Vacaria and unsuccessful candidate for mayor of Porto Alegre in 1963. The respective suplente candidates are Professor Lucy Monteiro, a distinguished figure in education, former president of the National Association of Primary School Teachers, and one Jaime Tavares. The opposition Movimento Democrático Brasileiro (MDB) has 83 candidates for the Assembly, 40 for the Chamber, and one for the Senate. The latter, Siegfried Heuser, has been serving as president of the state directorate of the party, and is a widely respected person whose chances of being elected would seem extremely good. His running-mate is Hermes Pereira de Souza.

2. Governor-elect Walter Peracchi Barcelos has been actively traveling throughout the state, and has formed 21 campaign "subheadquarters" in strategic locations. His appeal, rather than to the masses, is to the so-called "productive classes", and he has made a great point of collecting information regarding the needs of each município for roads, power stations, technical schools and other installations or facilities favoring development. He has promised to give the state a radically different type of government, and has announced that he does not plan to retain any members

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

TJDuffield:gb

of the Meneghetti cabinet or persons holding key "positions of confidence" under the present governor. At least privately, he has stated that he is a believer in regional planning rather than in favoring individual areas for political purposes, although he may presumably have to compromise with his principles in certain areas where the concept of regional planning is not appreciated. He has been invited to visit the United States as a leader grantee, and has tentatively planned to initiate travel in the last week of November. The interests he has indicated in this connection are well in keeping with his future duties as governor. in the Assembly, assuming that the voters would reason that since he is going to be governor anyway, it only makes sense to have him there.

3. ARENA, by its very composition, is a somewhat incongruous body in which little harmony reigns. Its leading component, the old PSD, was badly split by a feud between juscelinistas, headed by Deputy Tarso de Moraes Dutra, and anti-juscelinistas, led by Peracchi himself, and the feud is far from having been patched up. The small but influential PL was torn apart by the controversy surrounding the ill-fated Rui Cirne Lima candidacy for the governorship, in spite of the efforts of eloquent federal deputy Carlos de Britto Velho, himself a supporter of the candidacy, to arrest the damage, and a number of maragatos (nickname of the party) went over to the MDB to form a sublegenda there. The leaders of the revolt, Paulo Brossard and Honório Severo, are actually running as MDB-2 candidates for the Chamber of Deputies. The UDN's position was damaged by Carlos Lacerda's antics, and the former PDC, with several of its members now in the MDB, is in an uncomfortable position. The PRP has been keeping discreetly silent; other parties are of little importance. To add to the unhappiness, it looks as if several ARENA candidates may be successfully challenged on grounds of ineligibility.

4. The MDB, although it embraces a wide range of opinions from those of the crypto-communists and Brizola followers at the extreme left to that of such eminently respectable figures as banker Egydio Michaelson and Heuser himself, is united by a common aversion to the situation created by the 1964 Revolution. Although many in ARENA itself are far from happy with the Institutional Acts, cassations and high cost of living associated with the Castelo Branco administration, the MDB partisans have the great advantage of being able to express their views openly. In the ranks of the "uncommitted" voters, there are certainly those who will cast their votes for a good man, regardless of his affiliation, but the urge should be strong to vote against the government as a measure of protest. Meneghetti's administration of the state, while not spectacular in its achievements, is generally regarded as no worse than average. The national government, however, enjoys little popularity, and many who favored the revolutionary movement have been deeply disappointed by the regime's failure to emerge as either a true democracy or frankly as a preventive dictatorship. Procedures such as the string of cassations which were required to secure Peracchi's "election" by the Assembly have not aroused much sympathy for their

originators. Peracchi himself, although he has tried bravely to think of himself as the people's choice, would undoubtedly have wished to come to power under more auspicious circumstances.

5. Without predicting an MDB "landslide", the Consulate finds it difficult to share Governor-elect Peracchi's optimism regarding the election outcome, as expressed by him in the course of a conversation with two Consulate officers a few days ago. He stated at that time that he felt certain of securing a slight but nevertheless effective majority in the Assembly, assuming that the voters would reason that since he is going to be governor anyhow, it only makes sense to give him the legislative support he will need in order to do the job. He felt particularly confident of securing the vote of the uncommitted voter and of the new voter, a vote which, in his experience, normally tends to support the government in power. With regard to the national picture, he admitted that the present government was unpopular and its head an austere intellectual whom it was difficult to love. However, Marshal Costa e Silva is an entirely different type, a real human being and a gaúcho to boot. Since he has already been chosen as president, he too must be given legislative support. With one of its sons in the Palácio Alvorada and another in the Palácio Piratini, both of the same political persuasion, it is hard to see how anything but good can come from this combination for Rio Grande do Sul. The voters realize this, concluded Peracchi, and in spite of disappointing experiences with such gaúcho presidents as Getúlio Vargas and Jango Goulart, who seemed to make a point out of not helping their home state, they will see to it this time that President and Governor get the tools with which to work.

DDI/RAR/P, Washington

6. Peracchi realized that ARENA would take a drubbing in Pôrto Alegre, in Rio Grande, and in the southern "frontier" cities (such as Bagé, Livramento and Uruguaiana), and he stated that he had been concentrating his campaigning efforts elsewhere, although he would cover those areas shortly before the election. He felt certain of a rousing victory in the northern portion of the state.

7. As some candidates may be challenged and others withdraw between now and election day, it is still not possible to provide a definitive list. Among interesting candidacies are those of Paulo Gouvêa da Costa, president of the National Directorate of Students (DNE), ARENA candidate for the Legislative Assembly, Leonidas Kausa, former coordinator in the state for the AUI (Sage) educational exchange program, MDB candidate for federal deputy, and Teresinha Chaise, wife of Pôrto Alegre's deposed mayor Sereno Chaise, MDB candidate for the Assembly.

8. The cédula única (single ballot) will be used throughout the state for the senatorial election. In cities of over 100,000 population, the single ballot

UNCLASSIFIED

Porto Alegre A-11

4

will be used for all three selections. In others, the individual candidates, as in the past, will make ballots bearing their name available to the voter. As of September 27, the number of voters in the state was 1,849,319. Thanks to a new method of counting votes on the spot, replacing the former practice of sending ballot boxes to a central counting area for this purpose, it is expected that definitive results will be available within a matter of two days at the utmost following the date of the election.

DUFFIELD

as

cc: Embassy Rio
Pol. Section, Brasília
INR/RAR/P, Washington

UNCLASSIFIED