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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INFO: Amembassy, Rio and Brasilia
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May 3, 1963

Weekly Summary

POLITICAL:

The Governor and State Cabinet Members have declared their "wealth". The only entry made by former Mayor Heitor Dias, now Secretary of Government, was a 1951 Citroen. Secretary of Agriculture Renato Medeiros Neto is by far the wealthiest member of the government according to the declarations.

Comment: It seems clear that no effort was made to give a detailed account of wealth. The measure, required by Governor Louanto, is a token, however, of good faith.

The State PSD held its convention last weekend and elected as President Federal Deputy Regis PACHECO PEREIRA, a former Governor of Bahia, replacing Andre Negreiros. In transmitting the office, Negreiros spoke confidently of the position of the PSD in the state, reminding his colleagues that the party had the Vice Governor, two of the three senators, one third of the federal deputies and 161 mayors (out of 338). Orlando Nossoco (State Vice Governor) was elected First Vice President of the party.

Comment: Ten of the 60 state deputies are PSD. Factional strife led by partisans of Minister Antonio Balbino and Deputy Oliveira Brito was averted by settling on a compromise candidate. Pacheco was recommended by Balbino and Brito. The large proportion of PSD mayors has made for difficulties in implementing the "protocol" by which designation of police

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and judicial appointments in the municipalities are to be made by the coalition which placed Lomanto in office. (See last week's summary). PSD forces have objected to the protocol and are seeking assurances that no "enemy" of the mayor will be appointed to a police or judicial office in a PSD mayor's town.

Governor Lomanto and Labor. Lomanto has stated publicly that he favors a constitutional amendment to Article 141 to facilitate agrarian reform and that he supports the CGT (Confederacao Geral dos Trabalhadores.)

Comment: These statements were made respectively in speeches at a Petrobras model farm inaugural and at the concluding session of the National Stevedore Conference. They were no doubt designed to win more labor support. Labor organizations in general have been cool to Lomanto.

Lomanto and Adhemar de Barros. Reports that Lomanto signed Governor Adhemar de Barros' "manifesto" have been denied by Lomanto. He merely sent a letter to Adhemar de Barros indicating a sympathetic attitude to some aspects of the "manifesto."

The Legislative Assembly voted 36 to 3 in favor of a motion of solidarity with Minister Almino Afonso's conduct of the Ministry of Labor.

Comment: This is not necessarily a vote of confidence in the Minister's political orientation.

PSYCHOLOGICAL:

May day in Bahia seemed to be a kind of office party for PETROBRAS dedicated more to "oust the yankees" than to supporting legitimate labor claims. Francisco Mangabeira, president of PETROBRAS, delivered a two-hour diatribe against imperialism, and rallies and processions in the city were marked prominently by pro-communist banners and leaflets. However, the average Bahiano took the day calmly, and was more upset by road blocks established by the new mayor to check drivers' credentials than he was interested in the activities of the labor front.

The "new broom" tactics of the municipality which have abolished the fringe slums around the Mercado Modelo, cleaned up festering piles of garbage, started to eliminate private on-street parking privileges, and driven several hundred credential-less drivers off the roads, are still meeting with general approval.

There was no significant comment on international affairs.

The Rosary Crusade starring Father Peyton is having a very good reception locally.

Harold M. Midkiff
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