

**TELEGRAM**Foreign Service of the  
United States of America**OUTGOING**

American Consulate General, RECIFE

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Date: June 7, 1966

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ACTION: Secstate WSHDC

INFO: Amembassy RIO DE JANEIRO 120

1. This telegram wrapup current political situation Northeast. Regional politics still undefined in terms ARENA and MDB organizations. Party apparatus generally formed at state level but municipal directorates remain discussion stage. With four gubernatorial vacancies, Nilo Coelho in Pernambuco only certain candidate to date. The picture in each state follows:

2. PERNAMBUCO. As reported Contel /// ARENA candidates for governor, vice governor and Senator already chosen. Selection ratified by State Committee May 5. Federal and state deputy candidates undecided. Chief characteristic at state level is struggle between ex-PSD and UDN factions. Cid Sampaio wing of UDN will be sub legend. Party headed by Federal Deputy Msgr. Arruda Camara, ex-PDC. Municipal level now being organized with, in theory at least, formula guaranteeing representation all ex-party elements.

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- 3. MDB apparently not contesting gubernatorial candidacy of Nilo Coelho and has no known candidates for any other elective office. Party organized at state level, weak at municipal. MDB president is former PTB senator, Pinto Ferreira. Senator F. Pessoa de Queiroz, publisher Recife's prestigious Jornal do Comercio member MDB directorate.
- 4. RIO GRANDE DO NORTE. Senatorial seat up for grabs with former governor Aluisio Alves reported leading ARENA candidate. Alves previously rumored as MDB nominee but now attempting enter ARENA fielding his Cruzada da Esperanca as sub legend. ARENA president Jesse Freire said to be acting mediator between Alves and long time opponent Dinarte Mariz who has pending court action of corruption against Alves and brother, the mayor of Natal. Alves by no means certain nominee.
- 5. Both ARENA and MDB organized only state level.
- 6. CEARA. Incumbent Governor Virgilio Tavora believes can name own successor on ARENA ticket. Current favorites are ARENA president, Federal Deputy Paulo Sarazate who says doesn't want job and Fortaleza's mayor, Murilo Borges who does. At moment, Borges seems in lead. ARENA organized only state level, MDB scarcely that.

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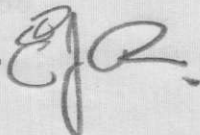
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7. PIAUI. Gubernatorial seat to be contested but no definite candidates yet from either party. Incumbent vice governor, Joao Climaco de Almeida most vocal contender but lacks support governor and other party leaders. Senatorial race undecided. ARENA and MDB organized at state level with ARENA now moving into municipalities.
8. PARAIBA. One Senate seat vacant. Ernani Satiro likely ARENA candidate with possibility Rui Carneiro (ex-PSD), narrowly defeated gubernatorial candidate in 1965, joining MDB to run against him in another close race. Pedro Gondim, ex-governor and previously considered candidate for Senate seems out of race. Both parties organized at state level.
9. ALAGOAS. Federal interventor likely remain office until January 1967. Gubernatorial issue to be decided indirect elections September probably pitting last year's candidates Rui Palmeira for ARENA and Muniz Falcao for MDB against each other. Falcao now hospitalized Recife with rumored lung cancer, still acting like candidate but his health could change political scene overnight.

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