

## OPERATIONS MEMORANDUM

TO: Amembassy Rio de Janeiro  
FROM: Amconsul Porto Alegre  
SUBJECT: POLITICAL: Peracchi Indirectly Elected By Assembly Without Incident

DATE: September 6, 1966

OMP-7

REF:

POW 18-1

1. On Saturday, September 3, Federal Deputy Walter Peracchi Barcelos, former Minister of Labor, was chosen as the next governor of Rio Grande do Sul by the state Legislative Assembly, receiving 23 of the ARENA votes, with three dissenters casting blank ballots. The MDB abstained completely, and did not show up for the session.
2. The dissenters, supporters of the candidacy of Professor Rui Carne Lima, issued statements declaring that while they had no personal resentment against Peracchi, they roundly condemned the tactics which made his election possible. They indicated, however, that they were prepared to support him in his endeavor to give the state good government.
3. It was not until a few hours before the election that it became known what the MDB's line of action would be. A number of deputies considered that the most significant gesture would be for the bancada to join the ARENA nonconformists in casting blank ballots, thus giving Peracchi a minority vote (23 for him: 25 blank), and clearly indicating that he was not the "people's choice". It was decided, however, possibly by wiser heads, that it would not be in keeping with the party's dignity to take any part whatsoever in the "arbitrary Election".
4. Peracchi has issued statements stressing peace, conciliation, burying the hatchet, etc., and is probably making as good a start as possible under existing conditions. He has announced, in spite of the advice of some of his assistants, that he will await the outcome of the elections before inviting anyone to take a seat in his new cabinet. As of the present, the outlook appears fairly gloomy.

cc Embassy office Brasilia