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American Embassy, FIO DE JALLIRO (POL)

AmConsul, DELÉ.

July 13, 1970

ARMY MAN PICKED FOR GOVERNOR OF AMAZONAS

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On June 26 President Medici named non-Amazonense Colonel (Reserves) Joao Walter de Andrade as the new governor of Amazonas to succeed civilian Danilo Azeosa who supported the candidacy of Amazonas Federal Deputy Jose Lindoso to the finish. According to press reports the President informed Governor Azeosa that he had nothing against state politicians, but that he preferred Joao Walter, not only because he is a personal friend, but also because he is well-acquainted with the problems of the region, including those concerning national security.

Andrade was born in Aracaju, the capital of Sergipe, on June 24, 1919. He began his military career at the Cadet Preparatory School in Porto Alegre and thereafter entered the Realengo Military School in Rio de Janeiro, graduating as an officer candidate for the military engineer corps. Specialization courses followed including ones in heavy engineering equipment, photo-information and motor mechanization. He then studied at the Army Technical School in Rio de Janeiro where he obtained an engineering degree.

As an officer he exercised many functions beginning as a technical specialist with several road construction engineering battalions and rising to command a motor-mechanization unit in Recife. During the Second World War he served with the 7th Combat Engineer Battalion and thereafter with the 6th Military Region (Bahia and Sergipe). His next assignment was with the 1st Division, where during his tenure he over-saw the general works plans for military exercises held in 1961 and 1962. Then he headed the Works Commission for Grouping Frontier Units in Western Amazonia. In this job he was responsible for planning and coordination along 10,000 kilometers of frontier,

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including the directing and implanting of new units, the improving of existing ones, and the upgrading of social assistance and medical services for both the civilian and military population in the region. During this time he also planned and supervised the establishment of the first frontier military colonies at Tabatinga and Clevelandia.

With the advent of the 1964 Revolution he retired from active military duty to serve the government as the Administrator of the Port of Manaus. Thereafter, the then Minister of Interior, General Afonso de Albuquerque Lima, named him to head SUDAM which he left in February, 1969 when a new Interior Minister was named. Since then he has worked for ESETE Ltda., an engineering firm in his native Aracaju.

The new governor has written a number of works on Amazônia including "A Problemática Amazônica", "Amazônia--Presente e Futura" and "As Telecomunicações na Amazônia". He has also addressed civilian and military authorities at such prestigious military institutions as the Escola Superior de Guerra, Escola de Comando e Estado-Maior do Exército, Escola de Guerra Naval and appeared before numerous industrial and commercial federations, the Engineering Club of Rio de Janeiro and the National Club of São Paulo.

Military decorations awarded to Colonel Andrade include the Military Order of Merit, Merito Tamandare, Medal of War, Medal of the Pacifier and the Military Medal.

COMMENT: With the selection of José Walter de Andrade, President Medici has chosen a very capable administrator to run the second most important state in Amazônia. A number of Amazonense politicians are disgruntled by the President's choice of a non-politician as well as an outsider. However, they have had to admit that Andrade is highly qualified to fill the position and totally familiar with Amazonas and its development needs. Most Amazonenses are reportedly pleased with his selection as they recall Andrade's efforts to assist their state when he headed SUDAM. During his tenure as superintendent of SUDAM, he was considered by the Paraenses as the "Amazonense" superintendent.

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