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Foreign Service of the United States of America

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Classification Control: Charge: 02-005 Embassy Sollan S Date: February 🚒 1966 Secstate WASHINGTON ACTION: 10thó a.m. EMBOFFICE INFO: AMERICAN BIO DE JAMEIRO Brosilia Amcongul SRO PAULO 26

Subji Costa e Silva candidacy

1. At lunch February 7, Fedro Aleixo commented to

Suboffs he thought WarMin Costa e Silva capable of following

Contello Branco in presidency. Said he was "revolutionary"

and could assure continuity. Said further that important

- factor was WarMin's indication he would only be administration

condidate, willing submit nomination to political process.

ACTION Takenteixo, former govt leader in Chamber of Deputies and now Minister Education, stressed WarMin's intelligence, calling him "cultured", and pointing out that press reports portraying him as "top kick" (sargentão) typo were overdrawn. Aleixo said that WarMin had graduated first in class, had worked as journalist and teacher of Portuguese language after abortive revolution of 1982, and all in all was very intelligent man. (Aleixo pet only administration leader taking this line. Few days ago Asdrubal Ulisses, Dep Chief President's Civil Household for Parliamentary Affairs, told me WarMin not the "primitive" type some newspapers claim, that he graduated higher from military acedemy than did President, and that although Castello

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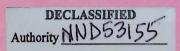
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Branco "not the author" of WarMin's candidacy he probably coming to accept it).

- 2. Aleiso told Emboffs that ARCHA nominating convention would be held in June while Costa e Silva still occupied War Ministry. Aleiso commented to us that convention almost certainly had to be held while Costa e Silva still Marking otherwise, he might resign only not to be nominated, in which case Aleiso seld he would look "ridiculous."
- j. Discussing general question of military we. civilian candidate to succeed Castello Branco, Aleixo said given "present atmosphere" he saw little possibility for civilian. Aleixo said this "nothing to boset about, nothing for us to be proud of," but at same time he lauded basic democratic instincts Brasilian military.
- 4. Congressional reaction to Costa e Silva candidacy, at this early stage, largely cautious fence-straddling. But we have heard no congressional voice raised against WarWin. Emboffs attending recent gathering of Lacerda-supporting deputies heard Costa e Silva openly referred to as "our next President."

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5. Commont. (a) Fedro Alcino's acceptance of Costa e
Silva camildacy, although evidently reluctant and probably
semembat gradging, suggests favorable position Wardin occupies
at this initial stage. Alcino has been staunch and well known
advocate of legality throughout his career, and has consistently
taken anti-subheritarian positions ever since he was precident
of Chamber of Deputies when it was closed in 1957 by imposition
of Vargas "New State" dictatorship. (B) Comments about Wardin's
intelligence may or may not be true, but indicate rationalizing
process underway with regard his candidacy.

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