

TELEGRAM

Foreign Service of the
United States of America

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subject

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02-005

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ACTION: Secstate WASHINGTON 93

Date:

February 8, 1966
10:46 a.m.

EMBOFFICE
Brasilia

INFO: Embassy RIO DE JANEIRO 121
Anconsul SRO PAULO 26

P. O.	
Exec	<i>✓</i>
Pol	<i>✓</i>
Admin	
Cons.	
Unis	<i>✓</i>
Dist	
Int.	
Off.	
CF	

Subj: Costa e Silva candidacy

1. At lunch February 7, Pedro Aleixo commented to Emboffs he thought WarMin Costa e Silva capable of following Castello 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 candidate, willing submit nomination to political process.

ACTION TAKEN

Aleixo, 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) type were overdrawn. Aleixo said that WarMin had graduated first in class, had worked as journalist and teacher of Portuguese language after abortive revolution of 1922, and all in all was very intelligent man. (Aleixo not only administration leader taking this line. Few days ago Adrabal 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 academy than did President, and that although Castello

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

2. Aleixo told Emboffs that ANKHA nominating convention would be held in June while Costa e Silva still occupied War Ministry. Aleixo commented to us that convention almost certainly had to be held while Costa e Silva still WarMin; otherwise, he might resign only not to be nominated, in which case Aleixo said he would look "ridiculous."

3. Discussing general question of military vs. civilian candidate to succeed Castello Branco, Aleixo said given "present atmosphere" he saw little possibility for civilian. Aleixo said this "nothing to boast about, nothing for us to be proud of," but at same time he lauded basic democratic instincts Brazilian 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 WarMin. Emboffs attending recent gathering of Lacerda-supporting deputies heard Costa e Silva openly referred to as "our next President."

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5. Comment. (A) Pedro Alcixo's acceptance of Costa e Silva candidacy, although evidently reluctant and probably somewhat grudging, suggests favorable position Warlin occupies at this initial stage. Alcixo has been staunch and well known advocate of legality throughout his career, and has consistently taken anti-authoritarian positions ever since he was president of Chamber of Deputies when it was closed in 1937 by imposition of Vargas "New State" dictatorship. (B) Comments about Warlin's intelligence may or may not be true, but indicate rationalizing process underway with regard his candidacy.

GP-3.

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