

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

Subject: The Frente Ampla

Date: September 5, 1967

SUBJECT

Place: Congress Building

Participants: Federal Deputy José Carlos Guerra
(ARENA - Pernambuco)
and
Melvyn Levitsky - Political Officer Brasilia

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1. Guerra told me that he was very optimistic about the Frente Ampla's ("Broad Front's") chances for success, and that he personally believed "deeply" in the movement. He said that, while the Frente was active at present, it would become even more vigorous in the near future. I said there seemed to be a good deal of criticism of the Frente in the press and specifically mentioned the Jornal do Brasil's editorial of the previous day (entitled "Cold Front"). Guerra felt that the press as a whole was really not opposed to the Frente, and that the fact it was receiving so much attention showed its importance. According to Guerra, the Jornal do Brasil was really not being as critical as one thought, since it had urged the Frente to be a true force for democracy. Guerra admitted that there was great opposition to the movement but felt that this only proved it was being thoughtfully considered. He said the Frente Ampla was a "fact of Brazilian political life" which no one could ignore.

2. Comment. Guerra, a youthful former member of the UDN, is one of the few members of ARENA to have adhered to the Frente Ampla. His obvious enthusiasm for the movement is an example of the kind of emotion Carlos Lacerda is able to instill within his circle of supporters. While Guerra may be overestimating the Frente's significance, his attitude demonstrates that its disciples at least, take it seriously.

POL/ECON:MLevitsky:drw:9/6/67

Clearance: Herbert/S, Okun