

# TELEGRAM

OUTGOING

AMEMBASSY OFFICE BRASILIA

Foreign Service of the  
United States of America

*PC 13*  
*Lacerda*

CONFIDENTIAL

Classification

Charge:

Control: 842

Date: August 31, 1967

ACTION: SecState WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO: AmEmbassy RIO DE JANEIRO

AmConsul RECIFE

AmConsul SAO PAULO

BRASILIA 842

RIO POUCH OTHER CONSULATES

SUBJECT: Lacerda Continues Attack, Criticizes Military  
in Politics

REF: Brasilia 817

1. Fourth of Carlos Lacerda's anti-administration articles, published Tribuna da Imprensa Aug 29, attacked "invasion of politics" by Armed Forces, and called for campaign for direct presidential elections. Frente Ampla movement being <sup>revived</sup> ~~renewed~~ as Lacerda aiming at presenting himself as sole civilian alternative to continued dominant military role.

2. Lacerda said communist threat not sufficient justify "usurpation of public life by military" and that military government in general was "backward and incapable." Lacerda urged military retire from politics

Drafted by: POL/ECON:MLevitsky:drw:

Approving Officer:

*MY*  
8/31/67

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**SUBJECT**

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and return to primary tasks. Also said Armed Forces would never remain united "against people." Implicitly linking present administration to US, Lacerda declared "mortal error" of "Americans, State Department, Pentagon, CIA," and American companies was to think their presence in Brazil and Latin America assured by "promoting and sustaining military regimes." Said he had more affinity with democratic left than with "American Embassy," Walter Moreira Sales, Roberto Marinho, and "other stars of permanent corruption and national backwardness."

3. While lashing out at "stupidity" and "immaturity" of Costa e Silva government, Lacerda at same time advocated dealing with it on basis good will and patience, in order help it correct and avoid errors. Lacerda asked for quid pro quo guarantee of "free honest and direct" election in 1970. Said was "impossible" accept permanence of indirect election system.

4. Lacerda claimed only way out for Brazil was through broad opposition front (Frente Ampla) which he said combined Kubitschek's ideas of development and

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democratic continuity with Vargas's principles of social progress and national affirmation. Ended by saying he could guarantee that, with support of great popular leadership, "an authentic revolutionary," would win election in 1970.

5. Lacerda articles come in midst of increasing activity by Frente Ampla advocates. Press Aug 30 reported Lacerda and Kubitschek met day earlier in order formalize movement soonest. According these reports, names were chosen for Consultative Committee and Deputy Renato Archer (MDB-Maranhão and Kubitschek spokesman) chosen SecGen, Frente supporter and Goulart spokesman, Deputy Oswaldo Lima Filho quoted as saying Lacerda's initial hesitations now overcome and that latter would now turn movement into "instrument of fight for redemocratization." Archer reportedly attempting drum up support ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ among members of MDB, with whom Lacerda had met earlier in month. Lacerdistas in Congress are telling colleagues Frente's formal structure will be announced within few days.

6. Administration continues refuse comment publicly on Lacerda articles. Civil Household Chief Rondon Pacheco

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quoted as saying government did not have least intention of responding to attacks. General Moniz de Aragão reportedly may be punished for answering Lacerda in O Globo, since administration does not want add fuel to fire. Most of press, however, considered Deputy Amaral Neto as Costa e Silva's unofficial spokesman, and he reportedly was given anti-Lacerda information in order counter attack in Chamber. This confirmed by Emboffice contacts in Congress.

7. Lacerda articles major conversation piece in Congress. João Herculino (MDB-Minas Gerais) told Emboff much talk on subject, but saw little effect on MDB. Thought status of Frente Ampla would not be boosted much. Called controversy typical Lacerda "noise-making." Paulo Macarini (MDB-Santa Catarina) felt Lacerda's articles well planned in advance and that this beginning of long-term campaign by Lacerda attempt topple Costa e Silva. Macarini did not see much chance for success. Ezequias Costa (ARENA-Piaui) said both MDB and ARENA interested and reading Lacerda articles and press comment thereon. Felt administration had made mistake in Helio Fernandes case and had given

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Lacerda opening. Costa, however, felt Lacerda doing service to Brazil by pushing government toward "re-democratization."

8. Comment: (A) Latest Lacerda harangue significant for its direct attack on military role in politics. With this "civilista" ploy, perennial stormy petrel seeking capitalize on amorphous desire for eventual return to normal civilian rule, which he undoubtedly feels will increase with time. Also apparently aiming at "back to barracks" sentiment in military, which he, at least, must believe exists. Although general feeling here is that Lacerda no longer has much military backing, his supporters feeding line to press that articles favorably received by military circles. (B) Reactivation, or formalization, of Frente Ampla apparently coming about but without much support from Lacerda's traditional ex-UDN base, most of whose members now comfortably ensconced in administration camp. More moderate members of MDB, including its President Oscar Passos, have condemned Frente, and Lacerda may be forced into courting radical fringes of two parties, both left and right. Salient

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questions now are how much Lacerda can shake up  
political scene and, in view of indicated movement  
toward extremes, how much agitation administration  
will tolerate without taking measures against him.

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