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SUBJ: Congressional Reaction to Lacerda-Kubitschek Alliance

1. Congressmen returning to Brasilia for reopening of Congress November 23, like everyone else, fascinated by issuance of Lacerda-Kubitschek manifesto in Lisbon. General congressional reaction noted by Emboffs over past couple days is: (a) perplexity and belief that Lacerda and Kubitschek have formed misalliance with dim prospects for future; (b) widespread feeling that Lacerda lost more than Kubitschek did by joining hands with former political enemy.

2. Perplexity stems mainly from wonderment over means by which Lacerda and Kubitschek plan or hope to carry out goals enunciated in their manifesto. Congressmen of all stripes point out that political parties thrive on elections, and therefore they doubt there would be any rush into "popular party of democratic reform" called for in manifesto -- particularly with next Brazilian elections at least four years in future. Lack of clearly visible short-term goal for Lisbon alliance has led to some theorizing about "true" motives (aside from political expediency, on which all agree) which moved Lacerda and Kubitschek. Able political columnist Carlos Castello Branco

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supports thesis that Lacerda-Kubitschek alliance can only have agitation and subversion as action goal, given distance to next elections. Some lacerdista congressmen think Kubitschek sucked Lacerda into alliance, in hope that such open defiance of GOB would result in cancellation Lacerda's political rights, followed by inevitable campaign to amnesty Lacerda during Costa e Silva's term, amnesty which would hopefully include Kubitschek. Deputy Carlos Murilo, ardent Kubitschek supporter, told Emboff Nov. 24 he had not been consulted in advance on pact with Lacerda, but that if he had been, he would have advised against it.

3. Most congressmen feel that both Lacerda and Kubitschek lost standing with followers by forming alliance, but that Lacerda lost more. Lacerda-leaning congressmen (Laerte Vieira, Oscar Correa, Tourinho ~~Emboff~~ Dantas et al) quite outspoken in their denunciations of Lacerda, while Kubitschek supporters with traditional PSD permissiveness tend be less critical of former President. Correa, just back from Minas Gerais, reports widespread disenchantment there over Lisbon alliance in lacerdista ranks. Many congressmen from both camps drew Emboffs' attention to fact that it was Lacerda who went to Kubitschek, and not vice versa. This going to Canossa has further reduced Lacerda's claim to political machismo.

4. Although Lisbon manifesto called for "immediate initiation" of measures looking toward formation of new party, congressional

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adherents of both Lacerda and Kubitschek quite cautious thus far on this score. One factor their thinking undoubtedly is possibility of GOB action against Lacerda. On question of possible action depriving Lacerda of political rights, most congressmen believe regime would be wiser leave Lacerda alone since he always thrives on polemics.

5. Comment: Worth bearing in mind that these views on Lacerda-Kubitschek alliance are chiefly views of professional politicians. Public at large might feel differently, but, even so, would still have problem ^{of} ~~in~~ translating feelings into political action.

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