

CHRON

American Embassy, Rio de Janeiro

Info Brasilia

Participants: Jarbas Gonçalves Passarinho, ex-Governor of Para
Vincent Rotundo, French Public Affairs Officer

Place: AmConsul, Belem

April 19, 1966

Date: April 12, 1966

Drafting Officers: Vincent Rotundo

1. The attached Memorandum of Conversation contains comments of the ex-Governor of Para, Colonel JARBAS PASSARINHO, with regard to President Castelo Branco's feelings toward Minister Costa e Silva's candidacy for president. Castelo Branco's anger at Jarbas Passarinho has obviously just about broken all of Passarinho's political ambitions. In fact, at a reception hosted by the undersigned on April 13, in honor of Minister Van Dyke, Passarinho stated that he is now so disgusted and hurt by political filth that he has practically decided to shortly quit politics for good. Indeed, President Castelo Branco's attempt to control Passarinho has been "the straw that broke the camel's back." It was impossible for him to see Castelo Branco was not favorable to Costa e Silva's candidacy. Now, he has never given Passarinho the slightest hint as to whom the President intended to support. Colonel Passarinho went on to say that he was not a "yes man" to Castelo Branco and he did not intend to support the whatever candidate John R. Bartelt, American Consul in Belem. He was not sure whether the convention was necessary, but he would simply give the stamp of approval to Castelo Branco's candidate, if it would be a free convention where candidates would be normally proposed and voted upon. Colonel Passarinho said that if he were out to be the former, he will wash his hands of politics.

Colonel Passarinho also mentioned that it is possible that the ANTA convention will not be held in May, because there is a movement afoot to get Minister Costa e Silva resign in July in order to be eligible as a presidential candidate. Then the convention would be called in August to select a candidate, at which time Costa e Silva will have less prestige and power.

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

Participants: Jarbas Gonçalves Passarinho, ex-Governor of Para
Vincent Rotundo, Branch Public Affairs Officer

Place: USIS Office, Belen

Date: April 12, 1966

Drafting Officer: Vincent Rotundo

1. Ex-Governor Jarbas Passarinho visited the BPAO today to discuss his leader grant travel to the States. He stated that he may have to postpone the trip because of personal political difficulties he is presently having with President Castelo Branco. He stated that he wrote a letter to Minister Costa e Silva to support his candidacy for President. President Castelo Branco immediately sent an emissary to Jarbas Passarinho to inform him of his violent displeasure at Passarinho's action.

2. Colonel Passarinho went on to say that it was impossible for him to know that Castelo Branco was not favorable to Costa e Silva's candidacy. Up until now, he has never given Passarinho the slightest hint as to whom the President intended to support. Colonel Passarinho went on to say that he felt he was not a "yes man" to Castelo Branco and he did not intend to give his support to whatever candidate the President chose. He informed the BPAO that he was now awaiting word as to when the ARENA national convention would be held. He was not sure whether the convention was merely to be a showpiece and simply give the stamp of approval to Castelo Branco's candidate, or whether it would be a free convention where candidates would be democratically proposed and voted upon. Colonel Passarinho said that if it turns out to be the former, he will wash his hands of politics.

3. Colonel Passarinho also mentioned that it is possible that the ARENA convention will not be held in May, because there is a movement afoot to wait until Minister Costa e Silva resigns in July in order to be eligible as a presidential candidate. Then the convention would be called in August to select a candidate, at which time Costa e Silva will have less prestige and power.

DAY FOLLOWING... ARENA SPOKESMAN STRESS HOWEVER THAT NAMES OF CANDIDATES MAY BE RAISED AT CONVENTION EITHER BY INDIVIDUALS OR "MINORITY GROUPS." PARTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE (GABINETE) TO MEET APRIL 26 TO EXAMINE POLL RESULTS AND DECIDE ON MAJORITY CHOICE.

3. MINISTER CORDEIRO DE FARIAS DEMANDED HIS NAME BE TAKEN OFF ARENA LIST OF SIX, IN LETTER SENT APRIL 16 TO SENATOR KRIEGER, AFTER REPORTEDLY TALKING MATTER OVER WITH PRESIDENT CASTELLO

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