

POL 15-1 Quadros

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

Date: April 22, 1971

POST ROUTING			
TR	INFO	INIT	
AMB		1	
DCM			
POL	2		
ECON			
CONS			
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FILE		3	
ACTION TAKEN:			
BY:		DATE:	

AMB
DCM
MINECON
ECON
USIS
POL-2
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SCI
DAO-3
MILGP-2
PSO
CF

PARTICIPANTS: Janio Quadros, former President of Brazil
 Eloá Quadros, wife of the former President
 Rui Códot, State Deputy (MDB)
 Arlete Códot, wife of the State Deputy
 George E. Brown and wife, Political Officer, Consulate General
 Manuel Bezerra and wife, Political Assistant, Consulate General

BELEM PLACE: Home of Rui Códot **DATE:** April 20, 1971

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SPAULO Introduction and Summary

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The meeting with the former President was suggested and arranged by State Deputy Rui Codot. In recent years, it is understood Dr. Quadros had been reluctant to meet with American officials. An exception was in early 1970 when he wanted advice in connection with a permanent visa for his daughter. Governor Rockefeller's office intervened with the Consul General and the latter saw Janio at that time. Janio told the Consul General he admired Medici (who had recently become President) as high-principled and a man of democratic convictions. He considered him an improvement over Costa e Silva. He had personally picked Medici's name for promotion to general officer rank, but he did so strictly on merit. Therefore, Medici owed him nothing.

In the long (nine hours!) meeting reported here, Dr. Quadros spoke favorably of the Revolution's achievements in the economic field and gave high praise to Delfim Neto and Jarbas Passarinho. He said that the latter, if he survived his term in the present administration, could well be the next president with or without direct elections. Dr. Quadros expressed shock over the Boilesen murder and said it had caused many prominent persons, including himself, to fear for their safety. As for his personal plans, his desire and intention was to move to Nassau to be close to his daughter in Texas, but he found it difficult to break away from his friends who wanted to keep him involved in politics here. In the past year he came to know the United States better and was impressed by what he had seen and learned.

Janio Quadros is easily the best known political figure in São Paulo and at fifty-four years of age could still attempt a political comeback. But it seems unlikely that he will be given this chance in the foreseeable future.

POL:GEBrown:pmm 4/30/71

EXEC:FXLambert

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Background: Janio's political activities since quitting the Presidency in 1961

In 1962, Janio Quadros was narrowly defeated by Adhemar de Barros in a three way race for Governor. In early 1964 he entered the race for mayor of São Paulo as a stepping stone back to the Governorship and at the time the Consulate General reported that he appeared virtually certain to win. However, his return to elected office was blocked by the Revolution, which put Janio on its first list of cassations. But he then launched his close collaborator, Brigadeiro Jose Faria Lima, as a candidate for mayor under the slogan "O que Janio faria Faria fará" (What Janio would do, Faria will do). Faria Lima's overwhelming victory in the 1965 elections was considered a victory for Janio too. In following years Janio continued active in politics and very much in the news. In November 1967 the Consulate General reported that the ex-President was still one of the best loved politicians in the state and had had remarkable success in keeping the steadfast loyalty of at least half of the MDB state deputies and of a large segment of São Paulo's population. The Consulate General noted that many observers wondered why the Government permitted him to carry on open political activity in violation of his cassated status. In 1968 this, in fact, did lead to his being taken by the Government to Corumbá, Mato Grosso and confined there for four months. Since then his political activities have been much more subdued. A recent interview published in the national weekly Manchete was his first reappearance as a public figure since his return from Corumbá.

Views on Current Political Situation

Dr. Quadros said the Revolution had brought inflation under control and at the same time had dramatically increased the country's economic growth rate. These achievements were fundamental to Brazil's progress and could not have been accomplished under the old system. The Revolution, or something like it, was absolutely essential to give the Government the authority it needed to impose unpopular economic measures on the country. His own followers, such as Rui Codot, were very much opposed to the Government and the Revolution and for this reason he had to be careful not to be too favorable in his comments when around them or in public interviews.

Dr. Quadros said he was especially impressed by Delfim Neto and Jarbas Passarinho. The former had proved to be exceptionally well qualified and was largely responsible for the spectacular economic

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progress that Brazil had achieved in recent years. He approved Delfim's tight control over wages and observed that England's lax wage policies under the Labour Government lay at the root of that country's problems. He lamented that he himself had not discovered Delfim Neto in 1961. But the only "popular figure" produced by the Revolution was Jarbas Passarinho. Passarinho had many enemies in the military but if he survived his present term as Minister of Education he could well be the next President of Brazil, with or without direct elections. (This point Dr. Quadros repeated several times, calling attention to his own informal contact with Passarinho through his brother with whom he was having dinner that evening. The impression was that Janio had found the horse he was betting on for the next race.)

Murder of Boilesen

Dr. Quadros said he had been shocked deeply by the cold-blooded brutality of the terrorists who killed Henning Boilesen. This opened a new phase of violence, and fear was widespread throughout São Paulo. Now when he went into his yard at night he first searched the grounds and carried a loaded revolver. He and Juscelino Kubitschek could well be targets for either leftists or rightists. In Rio, he understood the British Ambassador would not leave his house. The Government was not entirely free of blame for the violence since its security forces had been guilty of terrible brutality as well. The disappearance in Rio of ex-deputy Paiva and his almost certain murder by the police was impossible to justify and yet the Government did nothing to punish or even expose those responsible.

Views on the United States

Dr. Quadros' daughter married an American citizen in 1970 and now lives in Houston. As a result, Dr. Quadros visited in the last year many parts of the United States that he had never seen before. Also he has just completed a book, The Three Worlds of the Two Americas, which contains a lengthy review of US history. He was clearly fascinated and impressed by the United States, and the conversation gave him an opportunity to display his truly wide knowledge of America. He was even well informed on the details of the latest political scandal in Texas, which he delighted in discussing with the reporting officer, who also considered himself well versed on this subject. That Quadros could hold forth on this rather esoteric matter duly impressed Rui Codot and others in the group.

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Dr. Quadros said he was really very favorably impressed with the United States, which was surprising since at heart he was an anglophile who had looked down on American society and culture. (His wife said he was actually a snob in this regard.) He had not expected to like his "cowboy" son-in-law but had developed a real affection for him. His son-in-law had even made him a supporter of President Nixon but his first preference was still Nelson Rockefeller. He had long been an admirer and personal friend of the New York Governor. Last year Rockefeller advanced him thirty thousand dollars so he could buy a home in Houston for his daughter. He had called one of Rockefeller's top aids from Europe and asked for twenty eight thousand dollars to make the down payment, and was told that "we'll just round it off at thirty". When he got to Texas the credit was waiting for him. He had since paid back a thousand dollars but it would be some time before he could pay off the entire debt.

Future Plans Dr. Quadros said his personal desire and firm intention was to live in Nassau so that he could visit his daughter more frequently. (He made this comment nine times during the course of the conversation). But his friends here wanted to keep him involved in politics and it was difficult to break away. Nevertheless, he had an offer from the University of Houston to teach for six months beginning in July at a "very handsome salary" which he intended to accept. Also he had offers to publish his new book in the United States and Mexico with some hope for financial success.

He observed several times that he had only three more years remaining on his period of cassation and that he had only just turned fifty-four; but he gave no other hint of any intention eventually to attempt a political comeback. He had at one time hoped the Revolution might revoke his cassation, but saw little chance for this in the present circumstances. Now he could not even get permission to leave the country without appealing directly to the Minister of Justice, an old friend and law school colleague. His interview in Manchete had been cut in half by the censors. In short there was little indication of a relaxation of the strict limits imposed on his political activities.

Mrs. Quadros In understanding Janio's past success and any future prospects Dona Elou must be taken into account. She is a formidable, political person. During lunch she was Janio's only rival in dominating the conversation. And following one of his discourses

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on Lincoln she observed that Lincoln would never have been President but for Mary Todd. The implication was plain that if Janio identified with Abraham Lincoln she was his Mary Todd. After lunch, she told Janio that he could talk away the rest of the afternoon but she had two hospitals to visit and then to entertain his political cronies until he returned home. She told the reporting officer's wife that she still went through her paces as a politician's wife but had lost most of her enthusiasm for politics after Janio's resignation.

Comment Dr. Quadros now looks upon himself as an elder statesman and may well be sincere in not wanting to give up this role to return to public office. Still it is felt by those close to Quadros that if given the chance to return to politics as a candidate for elected office he would happily seize it. Janio Quadros is still São Paulo's best known political name and he continues to have a reservoir of popular support here. The other popular leaders of the past, his rival Adhemar de Barros and friend Brigadero Faria Lima, are dead. So with the possible exception of Governor Laudo Natel, Janio Quadros is the only proven vote getter who remains on the scene in São Paulo. For that reason alone, and certainly there are others, it appears unlikely that he will be given a chance to stage a comeback in the foreseeable future.

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