

Pal 13 Lacerda

**SUBJECT**

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INFO : American Embassy Office - BRASILIA  
USUN

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AMERICAN EMBASSY  
BRASILIA, BRAZIL

American Embassy - Rio de Janeiro  
Brazilian Representation to the UN  
USUN A-1717

May 17, 1967

F: CBD

EMBOFFICE  
Brasilia

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1. In addition to the article in the local press mentioned in the reference which reported the possible appointment of Carlos Lacerda as Brazilian Representative to the United Nations, according to CAS various highly-placed members of the present Brazilian Government have hinted that Lacerda might at some stage be offered an important overseas diplomatic post, that of GCB representative to the UN having been one of such positions mentioned. Lacerda himself has said in public, when queried on this prospect (apparently as a result of the customary leaks from government sources), that he "might accept an opportunity to serve Brazil at the United Nations" under appropriate circumstances.

2. Though the possibility remains highly speculative, Lacerda's relative political quiescence during recent weeks may perhaps indicate that he feels such an opportunity could be imminent and is eschewing activity that might harm his prospects in this respect.

3. COMMENT: The Embassy agrees with the assessment of USUN regarding the probable negative effect on Brazil-United States cooperation within the UN in the event Lacerda were appointed permanent representative. However, the Embassy is inclined on balance to doubt that the appointment will materialize since it would help to restore Lacerda's badly eroded political prestige and to revive his chances for reaching the Presidency. Neither of these objectives is believed to have any appeal for President Costa e Silva. The idea of Lacerda in the UN would probably serve the short-term interests of Foreign Minister Jose de Magalhaes Pinto, since it would remove Lacerda from the local scene and would do so in the context of a position subordinate to Magalhaes Pinto. As for Lacerda, he himself would probably only accept such an assignment if he were able

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POL: MVR:rebs;lsa

POL - Max V. Krebs

POL/R - Mr. Gehagen

DCM - P. Raine

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to get the President and Foreign Minister to agree to allow him considerable voice and latitude in setting policies and this, too, is not likely to appeal to either Costa e Silva or Magalhães Pinto.

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