

CONFIDENTIAL

Re BRAZIL

SUBJECT

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

August 16, 1967

AMB
 DCM
 MINECO
 POL
 POL/R
 USIS
 BRAS
 ARA/BR-2
 RAR/INR-2
 FILES

RECEIVED
 AUG 21 9 54 AM '67
 AMERICAN EMBASSY
 BRASILIA, BRAZIL

Foreign Minister and the Brazilian Press

Luis Alberto Bahia, Chief of Civil Household, Guanabara State Government; Editor of Visão Magazine

G
 FT
 MM
 C
 Ept

During the course of a luncheon conversation today, Luis Alberto Bahia began to talk about the relations of Foreign Minister Magalhães Pinto with the Brazilian press. He said that one of the principal reasons for President Costa e Silva's exceptionally favorable treatment in the Brazilian press results from the Foreign Minister's successful efforts to influence the press. According to Bahia, the President is very aware of the Foreign Minister's role and his ties with the President are closer than might ordinarily be expected given the character of the two men, because the President understands the Minister's role.

Bahia then went on to describe what he called the press department in the Banco Nacional de Minas Gerais which is owned by the Foreign Minister. The Minister's nephew, José Luis Magalhães Lins, is in charge of the operation which consists of making indefinitely lengthy loans to individual journalists and to newspapers when appropriate. He said that Ultima Hora has been taken over virtually lock, stock and barrel by the Foreign Minister's apparatus. Janio Freitas, the new Managing Editor of the paper, is said to have been installed by the Foreign Minister. He is a well known leftist and anti-United States oriented journalist who has worked in most of the principal Rio papers where he left his mark.

DECLASSIFIED
 Authority NND53155

DCM:PRaine:am:gmh

CONFIDENTIAL