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~~CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP~~  
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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COUNTRY Brazil

DATE: 25X1A6a

SUBJECT Friction within the Communist Party of Brazil

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Notwithstanding allegations that the Communist Party of Brazil (PCB) is a solidly united organization, considerable friction exists among its members. The struggle most closely watched by the Communists themselves is that between Otavio Brandao and Luiz Carlos Prestes. The latter has the backing of the top echelon of the PCB. A dispute flared up recently over Brandao's forced withdrawal from the Municipal Chamber on the appointment of Prestes' sister as substitute for Pedro de Carvalho Braga.

1. Brandao has been unable, thus far, to corroborate his claim that he was chosen by the Soviet leaders to take over the command of the PCB and to act as liaison between it and the USSR as soon as he has established himself with the masses. Nevertheless, the top echelon of the PCB is aware of the fact that the USSR favors Brandao because of his penchant for direct and violent action, and source reports that every effort is being made to decrease Brandao's prestige with the Russians.
2. After his return from Russia over a year ago, Brandao refused to join any of the factions within the Party, but campaigned alone to overcome the antagonism of the masses and to gain a following. In this he has been quite successful through the modification of his abrupt manner. Although his recent popularity has aroused intense opposition from members high in the PCB, Brandao has, however, been supported by his colleagues in the Municipal Chamber since the Communists attempt to conceal their internal dissension.

3. When Eloiza Prestes, sister of Luiz Carlos Prestes and sister-in-law of Brandao, was appointed to the Municipal Chamber as substitute for Pedro de Carvalho Braga, Brandao was compelled to resign as Councilman, in view of the law of the Federal District prohibiting relatives to occupy seats on the Council at the same time. This move was forced upon Brandao by Prestes, backed by the other directors of the PCB.

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[REDACTED], as another example of the opposition accorded Brandao, the disagreement over a speech which the latter was scheduled to deliver on 16 September entitled "The Battle of 1941." PCB leaders cancelled the speech, ostensibly to spare the Party embarrassment, but actually to keep Brandao from reaching the public and enhancing his position. Through the intervention of Ivan Ramos Ribeiro, now head of the Communist MALP [REDACTED], Brandao succeeded in obtaining permission to speak on another subject. This concession carried with it two conditions: that the lecture would be censored in advance by the PCB leaders, and that all arrangements would be made by persons designated by them.

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