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P 232000Z MAY 89
FM AMCONSUL RECIFE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7761
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMCONSUL PORTO ALEGRE POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 06 RECIFE 00146

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PINR, PREL, BR
SUBJECT: FERNANDO COLLOR DE MELO ON THE HOME FRONT

REF: BRASILIA 5203

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: CONSUL VISITED ALAGOAS, THE HOME STATE OF PRESIDENTIAL FRONT-RUNNER FERNANDO COLLOR DE MELO AND MET WITH POLITICAL, BUSINESS AND CHURCH LEADERS AS WELL AS PERSONAL FRIENDS OF THE FORMER GOVERNOR. THE PICTURE OF COLLOR WHICH EMERGED FROM MOST OF THESE MEETINGS IS OF AN AMBITIOUS, INTELLIGENT, UNCOOPERATIVE, POLITICAL LONER WHO ALL BUT DESTROYED THE STATE IN HIS DRIVE TO BE PRESIDENT OF BRAZIL. IN CONTRAST TO THIS PORTRAIT PAINTED BY STATE LEADERS, ALL INDICATIONS ARE THAT MANY OF THE ORDINARY CITIZENS OF ALAGOAS SEE COLLOR AS A ROBIN HOOD, FIGHTING AGAINST UNPOPULAR PRESIDENT SARNEY AND THE RICH RAND POWERFUL LOCAL ELITES. AND THEY ARE GOING TO VOTE FOR
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HIM FOR PRESIDENT. END SUMMARY.

2. COLLOR'S SUPPORTERS: FOUR DAYS AFTER COLLOR RESIGNED AS GOVERNOR AND LEFT ALAGOAS FOR BRASILIA, THERE WAS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: NORMAN M BOUTON
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(D)
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 22 MAY 2014
DATE/CASE ID: 22 DEC 2008 200503114

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LITTLE VISIBLE EVIDENCE OF MACEIO, THE STATE CAPITAL, OF WIDESPREAD POPULAR SUPPORT FOR COLLOR AS A PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE. ONE "FERNANDO COLLOR DE MELO FOR PRESIDENT" BANNER HUNG IN THE CENTRAL PLAZA AND ONLY ONE "COLLOR" STICKER WAS VISIBLE IN THE BACK WINDOW OF A TAXI. HOWEVER, OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE FORMER GOVERNOR STILL HUNG PROMINENTLY IN THE GOVERNOR'S PALACE. CONSUL MET WITH [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] NOTED THAT IN THE LAST TWO YEARS, COLLOR HAS VISITED ALMOST ALL UNIVERSITIES IN BRAZIL AS WELL AS NUMEROUS HIGH SCHOOLS, AND DEPICTED HIM AS POPULAR WITH YOUNG PEOPLE.

3. CAMPAIGN FINANCING: CONSUL SPECULATED THAT IT MUST BE QUITE EXPENSIVE TO RUN FOR PRESIDENT. [REDACTED] AGREED AND SAID THAT LUCKILY COLLOR HAS A NUMBER OF INDUSTRIALIST FRIENDS IN RIO DE JANEIRO AND SAO PAULO WHO SUPPORTED HIM. HE ACKNOWLEDGED COLLOR'S CONNECTION TO ROBERTO MARINHO OF "GLOBO" COMMUNICATIONS. HE WAS VAGUE ABOUT OTHER SUPPORT BUT SAID THAT ALAGOAS SENATOR JOAO LYRA (A WEALTHY SUGAR PRODUCER) LENT COLLOR HIS PRIVATE PLANE FOR CAMPAIGN TRAVEL. IN ANOTHER MEETING LATER IN THE DAY WITH [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] ALSO SAID THAT LYRA BACKED COLLOR FINANCIALLY. HE STATED THAT COLLOR HAD CONFIDED TO HIM THAT LYRA HAD CONTRIBUTED US DOLLARS 2 MILLION TO COLLOR'S 1982 CAMPAIGN FOR FEDERAL DEPUTY. HE SPECULATED THAT COLLOR'S CAMPAIGN FOR GOVERNOR IN 1985 PROBABLY COST CONFIDENTIAL

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US DOLLARS 15 MILLION. CONTRARY TO COLLOR'S IMAGE AS AN "HONEST" POLITICIAN, TWO OTHER OPPOSITION POLITICIANS AND ONE INDUSTRIALIST ALSO ACCUSED HIM OF USING STATE FUNDS TO FINANCE HIS AND OTHER POLITICIAN'S CAMPAIGNS. (SEE PARA. 14 & 18).

4. COLLOR'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS: [REDACTED] SAID THAT COLLOR HAD COMPLETED A NUMBER OF PROJECTS IN THE STATE DESPITE HIS STORMY RELATIONSHIP WITH SARNEY. SARNEY REPORTEDLY STOPPED SENDING ALL BUT THE MOST ESSENTIAL STATE FUNDS TO ALAGOAS, WHICH CRIPPLED COLLOR'S ABILITY TO COMPLETE PUBLIC WORKS. [REDACTED] GAVE CONSUL A COPY OF A SPEECH BY CURRENT GOVERNOR MOACYR LOPES DE ANDRADE (PRN) DELIVERED AT COLLOR'S SEND-OFF TO BRASILIA ON 5/14/89, WHICH FEATURED A LIST OF COLLOR'S

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ACCOMPLISHMENTS AS GOVERNOR. ONLY TWO SPECIFIC PROJECTS WERE MENTIONED - DIQUE-ESTRADA, A PROJECT WHICH PROVIDED FREE HOUSING TO 2600 POOR FAMILIES AND A THREE AND ONE HALF KILOMETER UNDERWATER SECTION OF THE SEWAGE SYSTEM IN MACEIO. THE REST OF THE LIST WAS VERY GENERAL: 1) "THE CONSTRUCTION OF VARIOUS HOSPITALS AND HEALTH POSTS IN THE

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INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 06 RECIFE 00146

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INTERIOR, 2) NEW CLASSROOMS IN ALREADY EXISTING SCHOOLS,
3) NEW WATER SYSTEMS IN DIVERSE TOWNS, 4) HUNDREDS OF
KILOMETERS OF NEW ELECTRIC LINES, 5) THE ELECTRIFICATION
OF DOZENS OF TOWNS ALL OVER THE STATE ... 6) THE
CONSTRUCTION OF CISTERNS ...IN THE DRY AREA OF THE STATE".

5. CONSUL DROVE OUT TO DIQUE-ESTRADA, THE PUBLIC HOUSING
PROJECT. THE SIMPLE, CONCRETE-BLOCK, ATTACHED HOUSES
ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE LAGOON WHICH DOMINATES MACEIO
WERE COMPLETED IN 1988. THE GOVERNMENT THEN TORE DOWN THE
CARDBOARD SHACKS WHICH THE FAMILIES HAD BUILT ON THE EDGE
OF THE LAGOON AND CREATED AN ATTRACTIVE LEISURE AREA. THE
LAGOON REPORTEDLY HAD BEEN VERY POLLUTED FROM THE REFUSE AND
SEWAGE DUMPED BY THE INHABITANTS BUT HAS SINCE BEEN
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CLEANED. THERE WERE ALSO SEVERAL BILLBOARDS AROUND THE
NEW HOUSES, PROCLAIMING DIQUE-ESTRADA A PROJECT OF
GOVERNOR COLLOR DE MELO, CONSTRUCTED WITHOUT ONE NICKEL
FROM SARNEY ("SEM UN TOSTAO DE SARNEY").

6. ENVIRONMENT: [REDACTED] ALSO CHARACTERIZED
COLLOR AS STRONG ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES, CITING THE
CLEANING UP OF THE LAGOON IN MACEIO AND THE TOUGH
ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS IMPOSED ON THE CHEMICAL INDUSTRY.
ALAGOAS REPORTEDLY HAS AN ACTIVE ECOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION,
THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION (CMA) BUT IT WAS NOT CLEAR
WHETHER THE COMMISSION OR COLLOR IS DUE MOST OF THE
CREDIT FOR THE STATE'S ENVIRONMENTAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS.
(SEE PARA. 19).

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7. THE CHURCH: [REDACTED]
TOLD CONSUL THAT IT WAS A VERY DIFFICULT TIME FOR THE POOR
IN ALAGOAS BECAUSE OF THE SLUGGISH ECONOMY AND HIGH RATE
OF UNEMPLOYMENT DUE PRIMARILY TO THE CURRENT INACTIVITY

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OF THE SUGAR INDUSTRY. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE CHURCH'S CURRENT POLICY WAS NOT TO INVOLVE ITSELF IN POLITICS BUT DID CHARACTERIZE COLLOR AS HAVING BEEN VERY COURAGEOUS IN STANDING UP TO THE "MARAJAS" (OVERPAID STATE OFFICIALS).

8. COLLOR'S OPPOSITION -- POLITICIANS: [REDACTED] CHARACTERIZED COLLOR'S TERM AS GOVERNOR AS A DISASTER FOR THE STATE, WHICH HE SAID COLLOR USED ONLY TO FURTHER HIS OWN PRESIDENTIAL AMBITIONS.

[REDACTED]

HE SELECTED COLLOR TO BE MAYOR OF MACEIO. AT THAT TIME BOTH WERE IN THE SAME POLITICAL PARTY (PDS) AND HE HAD SEEN COLLOR AS A CONFIDENTIAL

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PROMISING YOUNG POLITICIAN. HE STATED THAT THEIR GRANDFATHERS HAD BEEN FRIENDS AND THAT [REDACTED] HAD KNOWN AND RESPECTED COLLOR'S FATHER, SENATOR ARNON DE MELO. HE DESCRIBED COLLOR AS HIGHLY AMBITIOUS, INTELLIGENT AND ADEPT AT MANIPULATING THE MEDIA TO HIS ADVANTAGE. [REDACTED] THAT COLLOR'S FAMILY'S VIRTUAL CONTROL OF THE STATE MEDIA (AND TV GLOBO CONCESSION) HAS HELPED COLLOR RISE QUICKLY FROM STATE TO NATIONAL PROMINENCE. (THE FAMILY OWNS A TELEVISION STATION, THREE RADIO STATIONS AND THE MAJOR NEWSPAPER, THE GAZETA DE ALAGOAS).

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P 232000Z MAY 89
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INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY
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AMCONSUL PORTO ALEGRE POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 06 RECIFE 00146

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9. [REDACTED] THAT CONTRARY TO COLLOR'S IMAGE AS A
DESTROYER OF "MARAJAS," COLLOR IN HIS LAST FIFTEEN DAYS
AS MAYOR OF MACEIO APPOINTED 6000 WORKERS TO THE
MUNICIPAL PAYROLL. HE SAID THIS WAS A POLITICAL MOVE TO

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ASSURE VOTES IN COLLOR'S CAMPAIGN FOR FEDERAL DEPUTY.

[REDACTED]

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10. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] IN THE POLLS WITH A 58 PERCENT APPROVAL RATING. HE SAID THAT COLLOR'S POPULARITY HAS DROPPED IN THE STATE AS EVIDENCED BY A RECENT POLL WHICH SHOWED ONLY A 40 PERCENT APPROVAL RATING IN ALAGOAS. ALSO, CONFIDENTIAL

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COLLOR COULD NOT GET HIS CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR OF MACEIO (RENAN CALHEIROS - PSDB) ELECTED, AND PALMEIRA WON THE ELECTION IN NOVEMBER, 1988. [REDACTED]

COLLOR DOES NOT WORK WITH OTHER POLITICIANS AND MERELY DOES WHAT HE WANTS. HE CITED THE FACT THAT HE HAS NOT SPOKEN OR MET WITH COLLOR [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

11. [REDACTED] SPECULATED THAT COLLOR'S POPULARITY WILL DROP ONCE OTHER POLITICAL CANDDIATES START CAMPAIGNING IN EARNEST. HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH COLLOR PRESENTS HIMSELF WELL ON TELEVISION IN A MONOLOGUE FORMAT, HE WILL NOT STAND UP UNDER THE PRESSURE OF SPIRITED POLITICAL DEBATE. IN ALAGOAS, [REDACTED] ACKNOWLEDGED THAT COLLOR MIGHT WIN IN MACIEO BUT WOULD HAVE GREATER DIFFICULTY IN THE INTERIOR WHERE HE HAS NOT BEEN AN ACTIVE PRESENCE.

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12. "THE MARAJAS": AT THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, CONSUL SPOKE WITH LUIS DE GONZAGA MENDES DE BARROS, (PFL) LEGAL CONSULTANT OF THE BODY AND REPORTEDLY "THE" MAJARJA IN ALAGOAS. MENDES WAS FEATURED IN JORNAL DO BRASIL ARTICLES ON COLLOR (MAY 2 AND MAY 14). MENDES TOLD CONSUL COLLOR USED THE "MARAJAS" ONLY TO FURTHER HIS OWN PRESIDENTIAL AMBITIONS. HE SAID THAT WHILE COLLOR WAS GOVERNOR, HE HAD ACTUALLY SANCTIONED AN INCREASE IN MENDES' MONTHLY SALARY FROM APPROXIMATEY 4000 NEW CRUZADOS (US DOLLARS 1400) TO 12,000 NEW CRUZADOS (US DOLLARS 4200). IN OCTOBER 1987, COLLOR APPROVED LAW #4929, (PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY) WHICH RAISED SALARIES OF STATE EMPLOYEES WITH MORE THAN 35 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE BY 70 PERCENT. MENDES SAID THAT COLLOR HAS USED THE GREATLY INFLATED SALARIES AS A MEDIA EVENT TO REDUCE THE CONFIDENTIAL

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COMPENSATION OF THE "OVERPAID" STATE OFFICIALS. HE OFFERED TO SHOW CONSUL HIS SALARY DOCUMENTATION TO PROVE HIS CHARGES. (NOTE: THE STATE ASSEMBLY DID NOT SUPPORT COLLOR'S BATTLE AGAINST THE MARAJAS AND THEY CONTINUE TO RECEIVE INFLATED SALARIES).

13. ALSO PRESENT AT THE MEETING WAS [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] WHO SARCASTICALLY CHARACTERIZED COLLOR AS AN "EMPEROR, WHO WORKED WITH NO ONE, AN EXCELLENT LIAR AND A TERRIBLE GOVERNOR". HE NOTED THAT THE PFL HAS A MAJORITY IN THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AND THAT THE MAYOR IS ALSO PFL. HE SAID THAT IF COLLOR WERE ELECTED PRESIDENT, IT WOULD BE A

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 04 OF 06 RECIFE 00146

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 14)

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PINR, PREL, BR
SUBJECT: FERNANDO COLLOR DE MELO ON THE HOME FUONT

DISASTER FOR BRAZIL. MENDES COUNTERED AT THAT POINT THAT HE DID NOT AGREE WITH HIS COLLEAGUE. HE CITED THE CASE OF HITLER'S RISE IN GERMANY AND MUSSOLINI'S RISE IN ITALY AND NOTED THAT AFTER THEIR DISASTROUS TERMS OF LEADERSHIP, BOTH COUNTRIES HAD EVENTUALLY EMERGED WITH STRONG ECONOMIES. HE SPECULATED IRONICALLY THAT AS PRESIDENT COLLOR MIGHT HAVE A SIMILAR EFFECT ON BRAZIL, AND THAT IN ABOUT FORTY YEARS BRAZIL MIGHT ALSO EMERGE AS AN ECONOMIC POWER.

14. CONSUL ASKED WHAT SPECIFICALLY COLLOR HAD DONE AS GOVERNOR TO DESTROY THE STATE. MENDES [] CITED
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THE BANKRUPTCY OF PRODUBAN, THE STATE BANK OF ALAGOAS, THE FIRING OF THOUSANDS OF STATE WORKERS, AND COLLOR'S USE OF STATE FUNDS FOR POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS. THEY STATED THAT ALMOST ALL OF THE STATE OFFICIALS THAT COLLOR HAS DISMISSED IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS ARE STILL ON THE PAYROLL INCLUDING WORKERS AT PRODUBAN. (BANK WORKERS ARE STILL BEING PAID WHILE WAITING FOR A DECISION FROM THE CENTRAL BANK AS TO WHETHER PRODUBAN WILL GET NEW FINANCING AND RE-OPEN). THEY ALSO CITED THE TERRIBLE DETERIORATION OF THE HIGHWAY SYSTEM. THEY JOKED THAT HAD CONSUL DRIVEN FROM RECIFE TO MACEIO, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN EASY TO TELL WHEN ONE CROSSED THE STATE LINE BY THE LARGE NUMBER OF POTHoles IN THE ROADS.

15. COLLOR'S BUSINESS OPPOSITION: SUGAR MILL OWNERS: CONSUL CALLED ON [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THE DOMINANT INDUSTRY IN ALAGOAS. AS EXPECTED, [REDACTED] VERY NEGATIVE ABOUT COLLOR, REPEATING THAT COLLOR HAD ALL BUT DESTROYED THE STATE AS EVIDENCED BY THE COLLAPSE OF THE STATE BANK, WHOLESale FIRING OF STATE WORKERS AT ALL LEVELS AND LACK OF TANGIBLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS. HE ALSO STATED THAT COLLOR OPERATED AS A SORT OF LONE RANGER, MAKING NO EFFORTS TO COOPERATE OR DISCUSS ISSUES WITH SUGAR PRODUCERS. [REDACTED] ALSO FELT THAT COLLOR HAD USED HIS POSITION TO FURTHER HIS NATIONAL CAMPAIGN AND AS A RESULT THE STATE HAD SUFFERED.

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16. PRODUBAN: THE STATE BANK OF ALAGOAS WENT BANKRUPT IN 1988 AND IS STILL CLOSED. FIRED BANK EMPLOYEES HAVE COVERED THE EXTERIOR OF THE PRODUBAN HIGH RISE BUILDING DOWNTOWN WITH GRAFITTI AND HAVE HANDPAINTED A LONG LIST OF SUGAR PRODUCERS WHO HAVE OUTSTANDING DEBTS AT THE CONFIDENTIAL

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BANK. IN JANUARY, 1989, COLLOR DISMISSED 6500 OTHER LOWER LEVEL STATE WORKERS AND ON 1/31/89, DEMONSTRATORS (INCLUDING FIRED BANK EMPLOYEES) THREW MOLOTOV COCKTAILS AT THE MAIN OFFICE OF THE TERRA NOVA SUGAR MILL IN MACEIO. THE GOVERNOR WAS FORCED TO USE MILITARY POLICE TO CONTROL THE CROWD OF APPROXIMATELY 800. THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DID NOT SUPPORT THE FIRINGS AND REPORTEDLY 25 OF 27 DEPUTIES CALLED FOR COLLOR'S IMPEACHMENT.

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17. CHEMICAL INDUSTRY: CONSUL ALSO VISITED SALGEMA, A
LARGE CHEMICAL COMPANY IN ALAGOAS. AT SALGEMA, DIRECTOR
JOSE ACIOLI STATED THAT COLLOR HAD BEEN A "DISASTER" AND
WOULD BE WORSE ON THE NATIONAL LEVEL. HE SAID THAT COLLOR
IS HIGHLY INTELLIGENT, HAS AN EXCELLENT MEMORY AND HAS
BEEN EDUCATED AT THE BEST SCHOOLS IN RIO AND BRASILIA.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 05 OF 06 RECIFE 00146

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PINR, PREL, BR
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COLLOR WAS NOT SATISFIED TO BE TREATED AS "HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR", BUT EXPECTED TO BE DEFERRED TO AS AN "EMPEROR". [REDACTED] SAID THAT COLLOR HAD BEEN INVITED DOZENS OF TIMES TO VISIT SALGEMA BUT HAD NOT ONCE DEIGNED TO COME. THE COMMUNICATION HAD BEEN ONE-WAY, WITH COLLOR MAKING DEMANDS ON THE COMPANY. AS AN EXAMPLE HE SAID THAT COLLOR HAD REQUESTED PAYMENT OF STATE TAXES TWO WEEKS IN ADVANCE OF THE NORMAL DUE DATE WHICH HAD COST THE COMPANY A LARGE AMOUNT OF MONEY IN LOST INTEREST. AFTER COMPLYING WITH THE REQUEST, THE COMPANY WAS FRUSTRATED WHEN COLLOR LATER BLOCKED A PROJECT THE COMPANY HAD PROPOSED.

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18. IN 1988, COLLOR ALSO REPORTEDLY DEMANDED THAT SALGEMA PAY STATE TAXES TEN MONTHS IN ADVANCE. [REDACTED]
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COLLOR NEEDED MONEY AT THE TIME TO FINANCE THE CAMPAIGN OF HIS MAYORAL CANDIDATE, RENAN CALHEIROS AS WELL AS PAY STATE SALARIES. WHEN SALGEMA REFUSED, COLLOR THEN REPORTEDLY SUGGESTED THAT THE COMPANY FORWARD THE FUNDS, AND THE NEXT DAY REPORT THAT AN ERROR HAD BEEN MADE IN THE CHECK (BY AN INADVERTENT ADDITION OF AN EXTRA ZERO IN THE FIGURE TO BE PAID). THE GOVERNMENT WOULD THEN REFUND THE MONEY. [REDACTED] THE COMPANY DID NOT ACCEPT THIS SCHEME, KNOWING THAT IT WOULD TAKE MONTHS TO RECOVER THE FUNDS AND PROBABLY ONLY BY COURT ACTION.

19. [REDACTED] SPOKE ABOUT THE STATE'S (IN HIS VIEW) OVERLY STRINGENT ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS AND SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION (CMA) AS HAVING

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BECOME MORE POWERFUL THAN THE STATE GOVERNMENT. HE DID NOT MENTION COLLOR AS A STRONG PLAYER IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL SCENE AND CLEARLY VIEWED THE CMA AS THE CHIEF POWER.

20. COLLOR'S FRIENDS: CONSUL WAS INVITED TO DINNER AT THE HOME OF [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] WAS AT FIRST VERY LIGHT IN TALKING ABOUT COLLOR, SAYING THAT AS A FRIEND HE COULD NOT BE VERY OBJECTIVE ABOUT COLLOR. [REDACTED] SAID THAT COLLOR HAD NOT ACCOMPLISHED MUCH IN ALAGOAS BECAUSE OF HIS FIGHT WITH SARNEY. [REDACTED] JOKED THAT SHE WOULD VOTE FOR COLLOR, BECAUSE IF HE COULD BE ELECTED PRESIDENT OF BRAZIL, SHE COULD CERTAINLY BE A MINISTER. SHE SAID THAT COLLOR WAS CRAZY ("DOIDO") AND HAD BEEN A TERRIBLE GOVERNOR OF ALAGOAS WHO HAD FOUGHT WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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EVERYONE. SHE SAID THAT COLLOR, WHO WAS BORN IN RIO, HAD LIVED MOST OF HIS LIFE OUT OF ALAGOAS AND HAD ONLY RETURNED TO GET INTO POLITICS.

21. [REDACTED] COLLOR AS A DEMOGOGUE, "A HITLER" (SHE REMARKED THAT HE LIKES NAZI-LIKE THINGS - "COISAS NAZISTAS"). SHE SAID THAT HE IS AMBITIOUS, INTELLIGENT BUT VERY IRRESPONSIBLE. HE IS REPORTEDLY VERY CHARMING AND MAKES FRIENDS EASILY BUT IS ALSO SUPERFICIAL WITH PEOPLE. [REDACTED] WONDERED IF ONCE COLLOR BECAME PRESIDENT HE WOULD EVER HAVE ANY CONTACT WITH THEM AGAIN.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 06 OF 06 RECIFE 00146

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WHEN CONSUL REMARKED THAT COLLOR'S ACADEMIC BACKGROUND IN ECONOMICS COULD BE USEFUL IN MANAGING BRAZIL'S ECONOMY, [REDACTED] LAUGHED SAYING THAT COLLOR COULD NOT EVEN MANAGE HIS OWN PERSONAL LIFE. AS AN EXAMPLE, SHE SAID THAT DURING HIS FIRST MARRIAGE, COLLOR OWNED NO PROPERTY AND ALWAYS RENTED A HOUSE. COLLOR REPORTEDLY DISCUSSED LITTLE OF THEIR AFFAIRS WITH HIS WIFE AND ON AT LEAST ONE OCCASION RENTED THEIR HOME TO OTHER PEOPLE. SHE APPARENTLY ONLY FOUND OUT WHEN THEY ARRIVED TO OCCUPY IT. [REDACTED] HIS FIRST WIFE BECAME DISGUSTED WITH THIS BEHAVIOR AND ALSO WITH COLLOR'S EXTRA-MARITAL SOCIAL LIFE AND FINALLY DIVORCED HIM.

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22. THE PEOPLE OF ALAGOAS: DURING THE DAY CONSUL RANDOMLY CONFIDENTIAL

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ASKED SEVERAL INDIVIDUALS (A DRIVER, A MAID AND A MILITARY ESCORT) IF THEY PLANNED TO VOTE FOR COLLOR. THEY ALL SAID YES AND THAT THEIR FRIENDS AND FAMILY WOULD ALSO VOTE FOR HIM. THEIR IMAGE OF HIM WAS THAT OF A YOUNG FIGHTER WHO WOULD DEFEND THEIR INTERESTS AGAINST THE RICH. HE MIGHT NOT HAVE ACCOMPLISHED MUCH IN ALAGOAS, BUT THAT WAS BECAUSE OF HIS FIGHT AGAINST UNPOPULAR PRESIDENT SARNEY. THEY ALSO THOUGHT THAT ONCE COLLOR WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT, HE WOULD SEND LONG OVERDUE FEDERAL FUNDS TO THE STATE. (COLLOR REPORTEDLY MADE THIS PROMISE PUBLICLY SEVERAL TIMES BEFORE LEAVING TO CAMPAIGN FOR PRESIDENT).

23. COMMENT: DESPITE SUPPORT FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC, COLLOR'S POLITICAL ENEMIES (AND EVEN SOME PERSONAL FRIENDS) WERE CRITICAL OF HIS IMAGE OF ADVOCATING "MORALITY, AUSTERITY AND EFFICIENCY", WHICH THEY MAINTAIN HE HAS NEVER PRACTICED AS A STATE POLITICIAN. IT IS INTERESTING TO SPECULATE HOW COLLOR'S REPORTED ROLE AS A LONER, UNINTERESTED IN WORKING WITH POLITICAL AND BUSINESS LEADERS, MIGHT TRANSLATE TO THE NATIONAL LEVEL. IF COLLOR DID NOT ACCOMPLISH MUCH IN ALAGOAS, IT IS NOT CLEAR HOW MUCH HE MIGHT ACHIEVE AS PRESIDENT OF BRAZIL. ROWE

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