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TO : Amembassy RIO DE JANEIRO

USA MAR 18 1964
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INFO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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FROM : AmConGen RECIFE

DATE: March 11, 1964

SUBJECT: Djalma Maranhão Extends His Popular Education Program to Interior Towns

REF :

On March 4, Djalma MARANHÃO, leftist-nationalist Mayor of Natal, formally launched his popular education program into the interior of the state of Rio Grande do Norte. Maranhão has had an education program in Natal for several years called "Com Pe No Chão Tambem Se Aprende Ler" which has been responsible for building schoolhouses, teaching primary and adult literacy classes, and initiating teacher training courses as well. Although partially successful in bringing a degree of literacy to Natal's uneducated, "Com Pe No Chão" has also been somewhat successful as an instrument of politicizing the masses and orienting them in Maranhão's favor.

Last week, over a dozen mayors met in Natal at the urging of Raimundo Ferreira de ALMEIDA, Mayor of the municipality of São Vicente, and organized the Frente Municipalista da Educação Popular. The Frente will incorporate over forty mayors of interior towns who have signed agreements with "Com Pe No Chão" for assistance and guidance to set up popular education programs. Minister of Education, Julio SAMBAQUI, was approached for financial support by the Frente during his visit to Natal last week and showed interest in the project, although he is not known to have granted funds. In the future, the Frente hopes to gain more adherents from the interior area and expand its program.

Enclosure: Partial list of Mayors belonging to Frente Municipalista

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In Out

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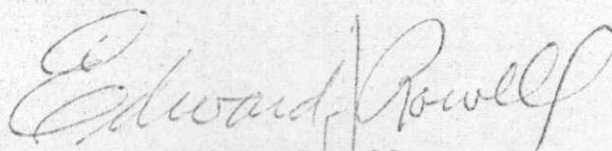
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COMMENT -

Djalma Maranhão's educational program has been a great success, politically speaking, in Natal and has enhanced the Mayor's popularity noticeably. With an eye on the governorship in 1965, Maranhão is attempting to spread his image throughout the state and the Frente offers an excellent opportunity.

Attached is a partial listing of mayors belonging to the Frente.



Edward J. Rowell
Minister Consul General

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