

BRAZIL PROMISES BREAK WITH CUBA

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Military Commander Says
Public Demands Early
Severance of Ties

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Brazil's supreme revolutionary command indicated today that a break in diplomatic relations with Cuba were imminent.

Gen. Artur do Costa e Silva, War Minister, declared that a break with Cuba was demanded by public opinion. He expressed the conviction of the revolutionary command that the new Government would "seek to carry out this aspiration of the people."

Representatives of state legislatures, in a meeting at São Paulo, urged the new Government to break off relations with Cuba.

The new Foreign Minister, Vasco Leitao da Cunha, has already announced: "Brazil will not permit Communism in its territory, and will not make deals with Communism in the Americas."

Brazil's new President, Gen. Humberto Castelo Branco, has given assurances that the government will be turned over to a freely elected successor on Jan. 31, 1966.

General Castelo Branco, a strictly nonpolitical career soldier, was chosen by Congress in Brasilia yesterday to finish out the term of the ousted President, João Goulart.

The revolutionary command, acting to consolidate Brazil's new regime, announced that 122 officers, including 16 army and air force generals and five admirals, had been taken off the active duty lists. Officially they were transferred to the reserve. This is part of a housecleaning to dispose of the forces that rallied to President Goulart before his overthrow and flight to Uruguay.

General Castelo Branco, Army

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Chief of Staff, was the chief coordinator of the revolution when the military reluctantly decided that Mr. Goulart had to go. Backed by the supreme revolutionary command and seven powerful state governors, he was the obvious choice for Congress to elect. He will probably be sworn in Wednesday.

General Gets Unusual Power

He has been given extraordinary executive powers to effect the de-Communization of the Government, restore financial stability and clean out corruption in public administration.

In an interview published in the Rio newspaper O Jornal today, General Castelo Branco replied to critics who have charged that Brazil's military was trampling on the Constitution.

He declared that the Constitution specifically charged the armed forces with guaranteeing constitutional powers, law and order. He cited an article of the Constitution charging the armed forces with "preserving the nation from the danger of Civil war."

General Castelo Branco said the armed forces had to act against the Goulart Government or run the risk of an outbreak of bloody revolution in Brazil because of massive pro-Communist infiltration.

Although the victorious military leaders have decreed a drastic Institutional Act to permit a nationwide purge, they insist that their motives are simply to restore democracy and confidence.

44 Purged from Congress

Brazil has no history of military politicians comparable to

those of many Spanish American republics.

The supreme revolutionary command has expelled 44 members of Congress. Their voting rights and eligibility for office were also suspended for 10 years.

Originally 40 were named; four have been added. About half are members of Mr. Goulart's Labor party.

Similar purges are being undertaken in state legislatures and municipal bodies.

However, arrests of persons accused of being pro-Communist have about ceased. Several thousand were seized in the first days after the revolution. The police in Rio, for instance, reported 3,000 arrests. Now they say 500 have been released. Orders have gone out not to pick up anyone without a specific charge, according to the latest announcements.

To those who complain of massive arrests in the first days after the fall of President Goulart, revolutionary sources reply that Brazil was on the brink of civil war and that drastic measures were needed.

On the list of officers transferred to the reserve list today are 77 from the army, 14 from the navy and 31 from the air force.

Among them were Generals Assis Brasil, Ladario Pereira Teles and Oromar Osorio e Cunha Melo; Admirals Aravjo Svano, Candido de Arago and José Luiz Araujo Goiano, and Air Force Brigadiers Francisco Teixeira and Ricardo Nicoll.

Cabinet to Add Generals

General Castelo Branco's new regime is expected to include military men in one or two cabinet posts in addition to the War, Navy and Air Force Ministries.

The revolutionary command has revoked President Goulart's controversial agrarian reform plan announced March 13 at a rally of his supporters in Rio. That plan called for trans-

ferring poorly used tracts along highways, railways and waterways to peasants. The Goulart decree contained no definite provision for compensating the owners who lost the land. The military leaders have declared the plan was unjust and designed to stir up trouble in the countryside. They promise a new land-reform program quickly.

University Heads Dismissed

The military command dismissed two university presidents and installed new appointees. The Higher Institute of Brazilian Studies, sponsored by the Education Ministry, was dissolved on the ground that it was a hotbed of Communist activity.

The supreme revolutionary command is made up of the chiefs of the three armed services. In addition to the powers conferred on the new President by the Institutional Act, the revolutionary command is empowered to expel Congressmen and legislative officials at any time, and to declare the political rights of those considered security risks forfeited for 10 years.

Regime Widely Supported

General Castelo Branco begins with the backing of most leading newspapers and the two major weekly magazines. He is known for the statement that "duty must be carried out, whether one likes it or not."

He is regarded as one of the Army's top intellectuals. He studied military tactics in France and the United States and served as a lieutenant colonel with the Brazilian Expeditionary Forces in Italy during World War II. He has written several books on military subjects.

The general is on record with numerous statements that the role of the armed forces is to guarantee the government of popular representation envisioned by the Constitution.