

Mr. B.

U. S. Military Missions -
Visit of Brigadier General George C. Marshall, U. S. Deputy
Chief of Staff, to Brazil, and return visit of General Goes
Monteiro, Chief of Staff of the Brazilian Army to the U.S.A.

M. A., WASHINGTON

255

May 18th,

39.

D.M.O. & I., (M.I.S.C.)

Following the receipt by the United States Government of an invitation from the Government of Brazil for Brigadier General George C. Marshall, Deputy Chief of Staff and Chief of Staff designate, to visit that Republic during the latter part of May and early June, General Marshall duly sailed from New York on May 10th in the U. S. S. "Nashville" accompanied by the following Staff:-

- Colonel James E. Chaney, Air Corps.
- Lieut.-Colonel Lehman W. Miller, Corps of Engineers.
- Major Matthew B. Ridgway, (Infantry) General Staff Corps.
- Major Louis J. Compton, (Field Artillery) General Staff Corps.
- Captain Thomas North, Field Artillery.

After brief stops at San Juan, Puerto Rico, and Port of Spain, Trinidad, the party will arrive in Rio de Janeiro on May 25th; a stay of approximately two weeks will be made in Brazil.

2. The United States Government has invited General Goes Monteiro, Chief of Staff of the Brazilian Army, to visit the United States and he and his staff will accompany General Marshall and staff on their return voyage to the United States in the U.S.S. "Nashville", arriving at Annapolis, Maryland, on or about June 23rd.

3. The visits will be primarily of symbolical significance; they are, however, considered particularly important since General Monteiro had been invited not long ago to visit Germany as a special guest where he was to be offered the honorary command of a division in a ceremonial parade, an invitation which he declined.

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- 2 -

4. At a Department of State press conference a few days ago a correspondent stated that the inference had been made that General Marshall's visit to Brazil indicated that the U. S. Government may be considering a general military understanding with Brazil for the defence of the Western Hemisphere in the event of a world war. Mr. Cordell Hull, Secretary of State, replied that General Marshall's visit and the return visit of General Goes Monteiro to this country are purely visits of courtesy. He added that naturally, as in the case of exchanges of visits between high civilian officials and prominent business and professional men of the American Republics, it is hoped that this exchange of visits between the highest ranking military officials of the two nations will form another and a valuable channel for the development of mutual comprehension and understanding of their common problems.

5. In this connection it will be remembered that a U. S. Military Mission has been in Brazil for sometime for the purpose of cooperating with the Brazilian Army in the development and functioning of the Brazilian Coast Artillery Instruction Centre. The life of this Mission was recently extended for two years from November, 1938 (vide my No. 109 of March 9th, 1938.)

*Chambers: for information, reference
conversation with
Mr. Bramwell.*

W. H. Wood.
Colonel,
Military Attache.

16/5 *W.H.W.*