Potential Sources

0) Didn’t mention this to Allison at first because it was so plain that I didn’t even consider it, but my father. Former Diplomat, well versed in Brazilian international affairs, a great mind and well connected. Like, really. Most of the people on this list I got to know thanks to him.

1) An Army Major General currently the head of a department at the Superior War School, ESG. He’s pretty high in rank and importance, and has showed himself open to being contacted for anything; he is a former coworker and a current friend of my father. He could give us info on military policy.

2) A professor of strategic studies at ESG, civilian. Also a friend and former coworker of my father. Pretty conservative and reactionary; hates the PT and the left, so take that with a grain of salt. Could also give us views on military and general Brazilian policy pertaining to strategic subjects (stuff like Brazilian resources, criminality, etc) but from a civilian point of view. Pretty good timeliness (about a day and a half, or so it seems with previous courteous messages I sent him) and showed himself open and amicable to me, going to far as to introduce me to several people he knew.

3) A retired Admiral, former head of the Brazilian Marine Forces. I attended a lecture he gave along with guy number 2 in a University. A lot of what he said what interesting, but I recognized a lot of Stratfor discourse in his presentation. He gave an outline of the Kenya/RSS/China/Japan dynamic that was lifted from our piece on the matter and he basically parroted our views on Iran’s ability to mine/missle the strait of Hormuz. In short, he’s a Stratfor fan and that was confirmed when I gave him my card and he showed approval. He’s the only one I had a chance to test in terms of content and timeliness, since I asked him a China-related question on something he said.

4) International Relations course coordinator for IBMEC, my Alma matter. He’s bombastic, temperamental and adulating. He’s also quite fond and proud of me (so he says, gauging the sincerity of a man like him is a wild guess) as a “success case” student of his. He could give me insight into Brazilian International Affairs concerns or Brazilian politics. Another thing about him: he confided to me that he affiliated himself with the PMDB and has political pretentions in the city council. If that ever takes off he’s becomes a lot more interesting, but his involvement in politics thus far could give us a good source for Brazilian political matters. Also, he could give me better access to professors in IBMEC that we might want to consult in terms of expertise. IBMEC is primarily a Business Admin/Economy/Finance institution with a lot of Law under its belt as well.

Other Potentials –

i) The Head of the GSI, a sort of “mini-Stratfor” for the government under the Secretary of Strategic Affairs. Someone my father knows and could get me in contact with.

ii) Another source my father could maybe hook me up with: the President (I think) of ABIMDE, the Brazilian military/defense industries association.

iii) A guy I train with on Tuesdays and Thursdays works for Petrobras, I believe. We’re good compatriots and amicable, though not exactly close. I’m not sure where in Petrobras he works for or how or if he still is, will hit him up on that. If so, could be a way into the oil sector.

iv) A friend of mine is studying medicine with a focus in parasitology. Could hit her up for any medical or Brazilian public health info we might need, especially if we ever want to talk about Malaria, which is her big thing.

v) Another, good, friend of mine is graduating law. Her mother is a law professor who is one of the biggest legal minds in Brazil when it comes to International Private Law (ie: people in universities read books written by her). Good for legal advice, both. Also, she (the friend) is dating a former Brazilian turned US Airforce soldier who is stationed in Qatar. Not LATAM related, but there’s that.

vi) I know a woman who was a year above me in Highschool. She got full marks on her SATs and is currently studying robotics in…..oh bugger…MIT? CalTech? One of the big names. Anyhow, if we need some kind of science-y info on that spectrum, I could hit her up. We don’t really talk much but I think she’d be open to be contacted, I used to donate a lot of platelets to her mom.

vii) A friend of my bro’s lives in Vidigal. If we wanted to follow up on how the UPP process is going in favelas, I could ask him.

viii) The head of CEBRI, an Brazilian International Relations think-tank. He’s a pretty influential former diplomat, though I’m pretty sure he’s already listed as a source for Stratfor. Contact of my dad’s.

ix) My Krav Maga instructor for several reasons. First, though he’s Brazilian born and resident, he is an Israeli patriot through and through. If we ever want the “Israeli-eye” view on something I could ask him. Second, he trained (that is to say, gave training to) members of BOPE and I heard him referring to them as “people he knew in BOPE”. Not sure how I could work this last angle, our relationship is fond, but not friendly; strictly master-student.

x) Guy number 2, the ESG professor, introduced me to someone in the ENEE conference I went to. This fellow in particular is a former catholic-conservative PP politician (both Rio de Janeiro state and Federal Congressman) who talked to me about stuff. He’s currently running a business that, from what I understood, help foreign businesses navigate around Brazil’s tricky legal/financial/political red-tape. He didn’t give me his contact info, but I could try and find him again, even if it’s through Guy number 2.

xi) Former Defense and Security professor in IBMEC. We had a pretty good relationship and he coordinated my dissertation. He’s currently working at UFRJ, an influential and quite famous university here in Rio.

xii) Former bosses. I worked about 6 months part time in EMGEPRON, the Navy’s public company that managed and marketed deals of the Brazilian Naval Industry. Also worked for quite a while (9 months? Not sure) in Santos Lab, a micro-company that fabricates UAVs. The company is kind of a dead-end, I think, but if it’s still up, it’s owners had contacts in the Brazilian marines, our only major client, and came from pretty influential families.

Ok, I’m stopping here. I bet I could think up of a whole lot more, but timeliness, timeliness, timeliness.