

## Who is Frank C. Carlucci?

A man's life can never be accurately told by a third party, for we know not the thoughts and dreams that, that person had thus we rely solely in facts and accounts.

To write about a prominent historical figure makes it even harder, for we can only try to capture a fragment of the total magnitude of what he or she did in their lives. My task is to try and effectively succeed in writing an account on who was Frank C. Carlucci.

The work was not a simple one, I had a vague idea of who Frank Carlucci was, mainly due to his renowned reputation in Portugal's political history. So, when the opportunity arose to discover and research more on who he was, I seized it at once. Being Portuguese, I immediately asked my family members if they knew of Frank Carlucci and to my surprise all recognized him as not only a key factor in the post years of the "25 de Abril" but a man who truly understood and greatly helped Portugal. Due to this incentive in finding out about a man who greatly helped my nation, I plunged into research and due to this, I was able to write a detailed account on who he was and how he affected my country.

Frank C. Carlucci was born in Scranton, Pennsylvania on the 18<sup>th</sup> of October 1930. He attended the University of Princeton from which he graduated in 1952. Post University he served two years as a lieutenant in the U.S Navy. He then went on to attend in 1956 the Harvard Graduate School of Business. He spent a brief time in private business after which he joined the Department of State as a foreign service officer.

During his 12 year spell in the State Department (1957 to 1969), he served the United States in various assignments abroad, cases of South Africa, the Congo, Zanzibar and Brazil and in the latter case, he learnt to speak Portuguese fluently. He then left the State Department in 1969 to become Assistant Director of the Office of Economic Opportunities of which he became director in the late 1970's. Following this he became Director and Deputy Director of the Office of Management from 1971 to 1972 as well as Under Secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, from 1972 to 1974.

He returned to the State Department in 1975 where he was allocated the post of Ambassador to Portugal.

We must examine Portugal's political situation when Carlucci arrived. In 1974 Portugal suffered tremendous changes due to the "25 de Abril" coup d'état, where 38 years of dictatorship were overthrown. Portugal was a disorganized and chaotic nation, due the many power struggles which were occurring. The world was foreseeing a radical change in Portugal's political status. Many believed it would become a communist nation, another Soviet puppet and satellite country. The Americans were deeply concerned that Portugal would turn into another Cuba and predicted a form of "Cubanization" would occur. The American government was determined to avoid this state of events, yet many believed the battle was already lost. The most prominent individual being Henry Kissinger who was the Secretary of State at the time and knew that the 1974 revolution changed this country's status quo. A famous incident which reflected Kissinger's pessimism occurred on the 18<sup>th</sup> of October 1974, during a meeting in Washington with Portugal's president Costa Gomes and foreign minister Mario Soares. Kissinger stated that Soares would be "Portugal's Kerensky" to which he

replied that he had “no intention of becoming Portugal’s Kerensky”. Following Soares’ response, Kissinger replied that “Nor would Kerensky”

Kissinger’s main fear lay in the fact that since 1949, no country with a communist government had belonged to NATO and that due to this, Moscow might gain vital information on NATO’s future procedures.

Kissinger decided to act at once regarding the situation in Portugal and in 1975 he replaced the then U.S ambassador Nash Scott, with a team led by Frank Carlucci alongside with Herbert Okun and Robert Schuler. All three spoke Portuguese fluently, due to their stay in Brazil in which they helped overthrow the Brazilian dictator, João Goulart. Carlucci’s mission in Lisbon was clear; he had to dissipate the communist movement in Portugal.

Carlucci’s first major action whilst ambassador to Portugal was his intervention in the Azores crisis in the summer of 1975. The Azores’ geographical location was the main cause for a possible American intervention. The crisis arose mainly due to the alarming reports that Portugal was already lost to Moscow and to back the worries of “Cubanization” were the treaties signed between Portugal and communist nations, namely the USSR, Poland and Bulgaria. These reports alarmed the Portuguese immigrants which lived in the U.S and led them to form a separatist movement which wanted the Azores to become independent. Carlucci’s role in this was vital, for he analyzed the situation carefully and informed and recommended to the American National Security Council that the U.S should not get involved nor back this separatist movement which originated in Fall River, Massachusetts by the Azorian immigrants. This recommendation was backed and supported by Brent Scowcroft, Gerald Ford’s advisor.. Thus Carlucci’s stopped a possible separatist movement in the archipelago.

Carlucci was to play another key role in Portuguese history regarding the Azores, for it was also his involvement in supporting Azorian autonomy that would later lead to its creation

Carlucci’s second most important act occurred in 1976, where he helped the reorganization of the Portuguese military. They had never participated in any of NATO’s military actions, because of the war being fought in the African colonies. In 1976, Portugal’s military was technologically out of date and only the navy participated in NATO’s programme, thus with agreements between Carlucci and General Eanes, the American government agreed to fund this side of the Portuguese army.

The main reason for the American involvement was political. The Portuguese navy which participated in NATO exercises had a strong communist movement in its ranks and thus was a threat. Carlucci’s astute assessment of the situation, foresaw that if Portugal had a strong army, it would act as a counterweight so there would be a lesser possibility of a communist overtaking. Thus Carlucci’s action was a critical blow to any form of communist aspiration within the army’s framework.

Carlucci’s third major intervention came in the form of an economic plan to stabilize the weak and unpredictable Portuguese economy. He created a financial plan in which American loans would be transferred to this country in three phases to give a much needed economic boost. This plan was created in 1977 and was put into practice in 1978, where 300 million dollars were sent to Portugal.

Carlucci is mostly remembered by his confidence and trust in the Portuguese people, for he was the first to defend that Portugal would never fall to communism, even when all around him believed otherwise. His astute and realistic perception of the true Portuguese political situation at the time, was a driving force for his backing of Mario Soares whom he believed was Portugal’s strongest ‘bet’ at obtaining some form of democracy. This support for Soares, caused many conflicts between Carlucci and

Kissinger who believed Portugal was lost. It was Carlucci's involvement that prevented American support in the right wing political movement of this country, for Kissinger thought that this was the only way to save Portugal. Because of Kissinger beliefs, Carlucci had to contour the diplomatic protocol and inform the then President Gerald Ford of Portugal's true situation, bypassing Kissinger. Carlucci managed to do this with the help of Donald Rumsfeld, an old colleague friend who was the White House's Chief of Staff.

During my research I came across an interview which was held on October 4<sup>th</sup> 1977 to the magazine "Visão" which clearly reflects Carlucci's position to Portugal. When asked why he believed in Portugal, he answered that he arrived at the conclusion that communism would not be successfully implemented here because it lacked the adequate conditions, because the Portuguese people are too religious and conservative and also an adverse geographical location. Portugal was too distant from the Soviet Union, he believed any communist movement could only be transitional. This was a moderate man who believed in the Portuguese.

In 1978, he left Portugal to become Deputy Director to the Central Intelligence Agency (C.I.A) in which he stayed until 1981 when he left to become Deputy Secretary of the Department of Defense. During his time as Deputy Secretary, he supervised the daily activities of the Pentagon and analyzed the defense budget and procurements. He founded the defense resource board and proposed the "Carlucci Initiatives" which would bring more stability and control into the defense procurement process.

He ended his spell as Deputy Secretary in 1983 to become President and later Chairmen and Chief Executive Officer of "Sears World Trade, Inc" in Washington. He worked at Sears until 1985 when he was appointed as Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs on the 21<sup>st</sup> of November 1987. He took office as Secretary of Defense and served for 14 months. As Secretary of Defense he promoted many foreign and military plans. His trips to China, Japan, Middle East, Europe and being the first incumbent Secretary of Defense to visit the USSR, reflect this clearly. He was also deeply involved in the reorganization of the military budget which had suffered massive losses and reductions. He was involved with the missile program SDI ( Strategic Defensive Initiative, most commonly known as the 'Star Wars' Missile Defense), for he believed that the SDI would strengthen the U.S as a deterrent to hostile foreign actions.

Carlucci, left office on the 20<sup>th</sup> January, 1989 when the Bush administration came to power and went on to join the Carlisle Group, a Washington investment partnership as the Vice President and Managing Director and later became Chairmen. In recent years, Carlucci has been involved in his company EuroAmer which invested around 33 billion escudos in the creation of residential buildings in Portugal. EuroAmer is managed currently by renowned Portuguese journalist Artur Albarran.

After researching who Frank Carlucci was I have arrived at the conclusion that I, as a student, feel deeply honored and proud that I attend a school whose name is a homage to a great man whom I have no doubt affected me directly with his actions whilst ambassador in Portugal. Frank Carlucci is and will continue to be in the future a reference to all the Portuguese who are thankful that Portugal is a democracy. To me, what pleased me the most about Frank Carlucci was his overwhelming faith and confidence in the Portuguese people for he knew that we would overcome the chaos and agitation of the post revolutionary years.

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