

Portuguese president meets with Lula despite Bolsonaro's snub

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President Rebelo received Lula at the Portuguese consulate in Sao Paulo. Jul. 3, 2022. | Photo: @LulaOficial

Sao Paulo, July 4 (RHC)-- The president of Portugal, Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, held a meeting with former Brazilian president Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva in Sao Paulo, and thus ignored the anger generated by the mere announcement of the meeting by far-right leader Jair Bolsonaro.

After the announcement of the exchange with Lula, Bolsonaro canceled an official audience he was to have with De Sousa on Monday in Brasilia, the Brazilian capital.

Despite this decision, the Portuguese president continued with his agenda and received Lula at the Portuguese consulate in Sao Paulo, where the former head of state went with his former foreign minister, Celso Amorin, one of those who drafted the chapter on foreign relations to be presented by the current

candidate with the highest percentage of voting intentions in the polls, in view of next October's elections.

After their meeting, De Sousa will make another visit to the Sao Paulo Book Biennial, whose inauguration he attended on Saturday night and which this year is dedicated to Portugal, for the bicentennial of Brazil's independence from the Portuguese metropolis, to be celebrated on September 7th.

Later, he will hold a meeting with another former Brazilian president, Michel Temer, and will attend a reception at the Portuguese Consulate for members of the Portuguese community living in Sao Paulo, according to his agenda.

The Presidency has not yet announced whether or not the president will return to Lisbon after Rabelo's commitments, since the schedule of his visit before arriving in the South American country included a trip to Brasilia on Monday, which finally did not materialize.

Rabelo de Sousa arrived in Brazil on Saturday and made a stopover in Rio de Janeiro, where he attended a ceremony to commemorate the centenary of the first air crossing over the Atlantic Ocean, which took place in 1922 by two Portuguese pilots.

He also dived into the waters of the Atlantic Ocean at Copacabana Beach, where he was able to take a stroll prior to the development of the official agenda.

There he talked to the press and gave little importance to Bolsonaro's decision to cancel Monday's meeting. He said that this fact does not affect the bilateral relationship, since it transcends the governments themselves, when in fact it belongs to the peoples, he said.

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