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REF ID: A-67

Some 70 Northeastern students (25 from Pernambuco alone) recently participated in the second phase of this **LIMITED OFFICIAL USE** project by the Ministry of Interior with the aid of the **A-67** Department of State. The participating students are from various states where they took part in a summer program of work and observation in their respective states. **INFO : Ambassador RIO DE JANEIRO** Project Rondon, it will be recalled, brought **Ambassador Office BRASILIA** to the North and Northeast to participate in similar activities. All local arrangements for the program were in the hands of the Recife-based Fourth Army and transportation to the South was provided by the Brazilian Air Force.

Amconsul RECIFE

August 8, 1968

Following the pattern successfully employed in the South, the recently returned participants in the Northeast. **Federal and State Agencies in Northeast Move to Engage Students in Development Effort** for an intensive organizational campaign beginning in the latter half of August and featuring lectures and discussion groups led by former participants. The immediate objective of this organizational effort will be the creation of Regional Groups in each of the northeastern states, similar to those which now exist in Rio de Janeiro, Santa Catarina, and Rio Grande do Sul, Minas Gerais, and Rio. The remaining participants, according to the summary will serve as "penetrators" in support of the program.

SUMMARY

In the wake of recent student disorders, various Federal and State agencies operating in the Northeast have intensified their efforts to involve university students in the problems of regional development and national integration. Some 150 students, most of them from the Northeast, took part in programs of work and orientation during the mid-semester vacation period just ended. Despite some criticism from non-participating students, program sponsors are encouraged with the preliminary results of the various programs. **Various Federal and State agencies operating in the Northeast have intensified their efforts to engage university students in the problems of regional development and national integration. The mid-semester vacation period just ended witnessed no less than four separate student exchange programs operating in the Northeast. Some 150 students, most of them from the Northeast, participated in the following specific programs:**

PROJECT RONDON II Various Federal and State agencies operating in the Northeast have intensified their efforts to engage university students in the problems of regional development and national integration. The mid-semester vacation period just ended witnessed no less than four separate student exchange programs operating in the Northeast. Some 150 students, most of them from the Northeast, participated in the following specific programs:

PROJECT RONDON II Project Rondon, which was recently given permanent status by Presidential Decree Nº 62.928 of July 26, 1968, is easily the most significant of the various programs operating in the region.

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Some 70 Northeastern students (26 from Pernambuco alone) recently participated in the second phase of this project, which is sponsored by the Federal Ministry of Interior with the collaboration of the Armed Forces. The participating students traveled to various southern states where they took part in a prearranged program of work and observation in their respective fields of specialization. The first phase of Project Rondon, it will be recalled, brought students from the Center-South to the North and Northeast to participate in similar activities. All local arrangements for the program were in the hands of the Recife-based Fourth Army and transportation to the South was provided by the Brazilian Air Force.

Following the pattern successfully employed in the South, the recently-returned participants will form the nucleus for the expansion of the program in the Northeast. According to a Fourth Army source, present plans call for an intensive organizational campaign beginning in the latter half of August and featuring lectures and discussion groups led by former participants. The immediate objective of this organizational effort will be the creation of Regional Groups in each of the northeastern states, similar to those which now exist in São Paulo, Santa Catarina, Paraná, Rio Grande do Sul, Minas Gerais, and Rio. The returning participants, according to the source, will serve as the "spearhead" in their respective states to facilitate "penetration" in university circles with a "message of hope and mobilization in support of national integration."

Program sponsors are now analyzing the written reports of the recently-returned participants with a view to possible modification of the program. Special attention is being given to the selection process, which has been criticized by some student leaders because of its alleged "conservative bias." Toward the end of the year, as part of the planned expansion of the program, regional projects in each of the Northeastern states are planned. Returning participants will also be expected to play a key role in developing this phase of the program.

- OPERATION "MAUÁ"

A group of some 30 Northeastern students returned from Rio de Janeiro on August 1 following participation in a week-long program arranged by the Federal Ministry of Transportation and the Port of Rio de Janeiro. The program was coordinated locally by Ricardo Correa, National Editor of the Jornal do Comercio and consisted primarily of visits to public works projects in Rio. The Brazilian Air Force provided transportation.

- FUNDINOR PROGRAM

Some 20 students from the Engineering School of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro returned home on July 31 following a three-day program of

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visits to industrial establishments in the State of Pernambuco. The program was coordinated by FUNDINOR, the state development agency, with the collaboration of the Federal University of Pernambuco.

- PROJECT "ASA BRANCA"

A group of some 20 students from the states of Rio Grande do Norte, Paraíba, Alagoas and Sergipe returned to Recife on July 26 following five days of visits to various federally-financed development projects in the region. The tour is the second in a series of such visits being arranged by SUDENE. The first involved only Pernambuco university students, and in December another group composed of students from Bahia, Minas Gerais, Maranhão, Ceará and Piauí will take part in a similar program. Participants were accompanied by several professors as well as a representative of the Fourth Army.

Sponsors of the various programs are encouraged by their preliminary results. Student reaction thus far has been surprisingly mild; few statements, either pro or con, have been noted. It is, of course, still too early to evaluate the full impact of the various programs. The very existence of such initiatives and the official concern which they reflect, however, give concerned Northeasterners some cause for optimism in the face of the generally discouraging panorama of deteriorating student-government relations in the region.

FALZONE

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