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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INFO: BELEM, SAO PAULO, BRASILIA, RECIFE, SALVADOR

Ambassy RIO DE JANEIRO

July 29, 1968

Anti-American Attitude Increasing Among Clergy

KUBISCH

The Consulate in Belem forwards the attached memorandum of conversation with the Auxiliary Bishop of Belem, Dom Tadeu Prost, who is concerned about the unprecedented amount of anti-Americanism among Northern clergy. Dom Tadeu, an American citizen with twenty-five years of service in the Amazon area, claims that other foreign missionaries are the key instigators of the campaign.

POST ROUTING

To:	Actn	Inf	Init
PO			✓
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AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL

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RECIFE, BRAZIL

Action taken:

Initials:

Enclosure:  
Belem Memorandum of Conversation  
dated July 3, 1968

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CONFIDENTIAL - INFORMATION

Date of Conversation: July 3, 1968

Subject Discussed: Anti-American Attitude Increasing among Clergy

Place: Consular Office, Belém

Participants: Dom Tadeu Frost, Auxiliary Bishop of Belém  
Louis J. Goetz, American Consul

During the course of a farewell call at the Consulate prior to his leaving for a month visit to the United States, Dom Tadeu, an American citizen, commented briefly on his feelings about anti-Americanism among the clergy in this area.

Dom Tadeu who has just recently completed his twenty-fifth year of service in the Amazon area said that in all of that time he has never experienced as strong anti-American feeling among the local clergy as he has noted in the past six months. This feeling, according to Dom Tadeu, is nothing specific and does not appear to be directed against any particular person but to be more a general sentiment against the United States and American missionaries as a group. He has considered this situation to be so serious a divisive force that he has on two separate occasions offered his resignation to Dom Alberto Ramos, the Archbishop of Belém. Dom Alberto, however, who is very pro-American has refused both times to even consider it.

According to Dom Tadeu the amazing part of this general anti-American feeling is that it is being fostered not by the Brazilian clergy but by the other foreign clergy working in north Brazil. Dom Tadeu was reluctant to name names but did confirm that prominent in this movement were Padre Carlos Coimbra, a Brazilian and professor at the University of Para and Padre Tiago Boets, a Dutchman who is also the Secretary of the Northern Region of the National Conference of Bishops of Brazil. He considers the latter the more dangerous and has taken steps to see that he is removed from his present position with the Conference of Bishops. He feels that it is Boets and other foreign missionaries who are taking the lead with Coimbra and other Brazilian priests following along.

L. Goetz

7/12/68

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