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Department of State

INFO : BRASILIA, RIO DE JANEIRO

Amconsul SAO PAULO

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Possibility That Many São Paulo Bombings May Have Been  
Work of Right-Wing Groups  
São Paulo's 2724, December 17, 1968; 2726, December 18,  
1968; Rio's 14644, December 26, 1968

SUMMARY

There are good grounds to believe that many acts of terrorism in São Paulo during 1968 were done by right-wing groups, one of which (Sabado Dinotos) has admitted fourteen bombings. Despite Marighella pamphlets left at scene of two latest bombings, it may also be suspected these could have been done by rightists. Most São Paulo bombings do not seem in keeping with Chinese-line Communist doctrine, according to a document linked to Marighellistas, which favors sabotage but disparages indiscriminate terrorism. Sao Paulo Political Police (DOPS) and other informants therefore continue to allege right-wing groups responsible for most bombings here.

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Thirty-one bombings have taken place in the city of São Paulo since March 1968, when the USIS library in the Consulate General building was blasted. These explosions varied considerably in power, from one or two sticks of dynamite to several hundred pounds of high explosives--such as extensively damaged the Second Army Headquarters and killed one soldier. Three Brazilian passers-by were injured (one seriously) by the explosion outside the USIS library--otherwise, none of the twenty-nine other bombings resulted in personal injuries. The explosions all took place in the early morning hours, making it appear that the bombers hoped to avoid killing or injuring people.

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When police arrested the erratic spiritualist Sabado Dinotos, and his gang composed largely of former or active members of the São Paulo police (Força Publica), he took credit for 14 of the 29 bombings which had occurred up to that time. Dinotos' group claimed to be supporting the GOB, and to be seeking to force the GOB to take stronger action against the subversives of the left.

The official investigation and prosecution of Dinotos' gang rapidly ground to a halt, amid reports that high officials (active or retired) in the military and/or police were providing backing for Dinotos. It was logically to be suspected, therefore, that high officials indeed had knowledge of Dinotos' actions, and that hard-liners were involved. This suspicion was strengthened when, three days after the issuance of Institutional Act No. 5 (IA-5), Dinotos was freed from jail and mysteriously disappeared. Some informants claim he has been killed or kidnapped to prevent him from talking.

Despite the Marighella Pronouncement leaflets (which are considered genuine) scattered about, it may be suspected that the two latest bombings in São Paulo (an Anderson-Clayton building and a Brazilian Air Force monument of a World War II airplane mounted on a cement pedestal) were the work of right-wing groups, for the following reasons:

1. Coming only four days after IA-5, the bombing of a national monument would naturally infuriate "hard-liners" in all Services and particularly the Air Force and would strengthen the hand of radicals over moderates in the current play for influence and power;
2. The Anderson-Clayton installation is located in the suburbs and has no strategic value and "Brazilianized" as it is would tend to bring more discredit on the apparent leftist perpetrators than a more "blatant" U.S. enterprise like, say, General Motors;
3. Neither target would appear a likely one for sabotage or urban guerrilla purposes;
4. Thus distribution of Marighella pamphlets at two sites appeared too-obviously designed to make the Marighella group seem the perpetrators;
5. The timing, right after IA-5, would not seem propitious for Marighella or Communist radicals, who would presumably seek to remain as inconspicuous as possible at that moment.

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Comment: In the light of how IA-5 was decreed, the story reported in the ConGen's 2412 to Rio regarding the backing of Sabado Dinotos by right-wing groups begins to look more plausible. Also as reported in the ConGen's 2720 to Rio, the Brazilian Armed Forces may have been given erroneous reports on the security situation in São Paulo. The DOPS (State Political Police) in São Paulo seemed to think that the Federal military over-reacted at the time of IA-5. Various DOPS officials have implied and even alleged that right-wing groups were responsible for most of the bombings here-- as have other ConGen informants.

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