

AIRGRAM

50c 12-1 Braz
FOR RM USE ONLY

RM/R	REP	AF
1		
ARA	EUR	FE
NEA	CU	INR
		5
E	P	IO
L	FBO	AID
AGR	COM	FRB
	3	
INT	LAB	TAR
TR	XMB	AIR
ARMY	CIA	NAVY
	20	
OSD	USIA	NSA
34	10	3

A-285 UNCLASSIFIED AIR POUCH *BR*
NO. HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department of State
 INFO : BELEM, PORTO ALEGRE; RECIFE, RIO DE JANEIRO, SAO PAULO
 FROM : AmEmbassy Office BRASILIA
 SUBJECT : Statistics on Church Organization and Composition
 REF :

RECEIVED
 JUN 2 3 14 PM 1968
 DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 BUREAU OF INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
 DATE: JUN 4 - 1968
 ANALYSIS BRANCH

- Several recent articles have analyzed the organization and composition of the Catholic Church in Brazil. A summary of these articles follows.
- The Church Compared to the Army. An article entitled "The Power of the Church" appeared in the May 13 edition of BC/Semanal, a weekly magazine oriented toward the business community. The author compared Church organization with that of the military, labelling the 31 Metropolitan Provinces as regional armies and their respective metropolitan Archbishops as Generals of the Army. Below this top-level structure are 119 dioceses and 40 prelacies, headed by 159 Bishops and 70 Auxiliary Bishops. These "generals" command 4,947 "regiments"--parochial districts--headed by "colonels"--vicars (padres vigarios). According to the article, the rest of the Church's "officer corps" is made up of 12,293 priests and 41,384 nuns, sisters and other clergywomen. Thus, the total Church command structure is composed of 57,624 "officers." A map, included in the article, which shows the regional organization of the Church, is attached.
- The Priesthood. Recent articles in Jornal do Brasil and Correio da Manha cited statistics regarding the composition of the Brazilian priesthood from the Center for Religious Statistics and Social Information. These statistics differ slightly from the figures given by BC/Semanal. According to the articles, there are 4,764 parochial districts, of which 2,715 are headed

Enclosure: As stated. (Dept Only)

FORM 4-62 DS-323 UNCLASSIFIED FOR DEPT. USE ONLY
 In Out

Drafted by: P/E:MLevitsky:drw:5/23/68 Contents and Classification Approved by: POL: Robert H. Shields *RS*

Clearances:

Action: ARA / BR - NAN File

1968 JUN 2 PM 3 25
 COPY FLO-PBR

act
2/2/68

by secular clergy (those who do not belong to a religious order), 1,583 by religious clergy (belonging to an order, e.g. the Jesuits), 28 undeclared and 438 vacant. There are a reported 12,181 priests of which 4,872 are in the secular clergy and 7,309 in the religious clergy. Regarding the secular clergy, 78.7% are native Brazilians, 1% naturalized Brazilians, 15.7% foreigners and 4.6% undeclared as to nationality. Of the religious clergy, 44.3% are native Brazilians, 1.4% naturalized Brazilians, 53.0% foreigners and 1.3% undeclared.

4. The articles also contained statistics on Catholic seminaries and seminary students. There are reported to be 77 seminaries for adults and 420 for minors. Adult seminary students number 2,875, of whom 1,184 are from the secular clergy and 1,691 from the religious clergy. There were said to be 16,078 minors in seminaries--5,233 belonging to secular clergy seminaries and 10,845 to religious clergy seminaries. It was also reported that 16 seminaries have closed their doors in the past few years for lack of students.

5. Correio da Manhã pointed out that there are also great regional differences in the proportion of priests to Church members. For example, in the diocese of Caxias do Sul (Rio Grande do Sul) there is one priest for every 1,810 persons, while in the diocese of Viana (Maranhão) the proportion is one to 58,335. Attempting to show that priests are attracted to the richest states, the paper reported that in Santa Catarina (population of about 2.6 million) there are 593 priests, but only 195 in Paraíba (population of 2.2 million). In Rio Grande do Sul 1,525 priests serve approximately 6.3 million people, while in Bahia, which has a population of about 6.7 million, there are only 421 priests.

TUTHILL

RAB

UNCLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 969000

Ecclesiastical Boundaries - From BC/Semanal - May 13, 1968

