

ORIGIN/ACTION

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

# AIRGRAM

POL 15 7 BR 12  
XK POL 15 3 R 12  
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ARMY	REP	AF
1		
ARA	EUR	FE
NEA	CU	INR
		5
E	P	IO
	2	5
C	FBO	AID
		SIP
AGR	COM	FRO
INT	LAB	TAR
TR	KMB	AIR
		5
ARMY	CIA	NAVY
3	20	5
OSD	USIA	NSA
24	10	3
		NSA

A-288  
NO.

CONFIDENTIAL

XK 508 121 BR 12  
AIR FORCE  
HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department of State

INFO: Belem, Porto Alegre, Recife, Rio, São Paulo

FROM : AmEmbassy Office BRASILIA

DATE: May 31, 1968

SUBJECT: Current Views of Dom Helder Camara

REF :

1. Attached are two memoranda from the Consulate General in Recife concerning the current views and activities of the Archbishop of Olinda and Recife, Dom HELDER CAMARA. One memorandum reports the Archbishop's intention to lead a national campaign of non-violence aimed at bringing about basic reforms. The other reports his harsh criticism of the Northeast Development Agency, SUDENE, and SUDENE's response to his attack.

2. Comment. The views of the controversial Archbishop are always of interest, since he is the acknowledged leader of the Church's progressive wing. Relations with this sector of the Church continue to be a major problem for the administration. As the Consulate General points out, part of the problem can be ascribed to a considerable communications gap between reform-minded figures in both the Church and the administration. More basic, however, are the differences in approach to the question of reform--Church progressives call for immediate structural reform, with little regard for practical problems of implementation, while administration reformers find themselves bound by other commitments, such as the anti-inflationary policy, and by budgetary limitations. The criticisms of the administration by Church progressives like Dom Helder often intensify Church-state tensions and in this respect may actually impair the ability of those in the administration committed to basic reform to influence policy decisions.

TUTHILL

Enclosure 1. Memo No. 40  
2. Memo No. 41

Group 4 - Downgraded at 3-yr intervals  
Declassified 12 years after date  
of origin

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In  Out

Classified by: POL/E:MLEV:td:ld:5/31/68

Contents and Classification Approved by  
POL: Herbert S. Okun

Clearances: Enclosed memoranda drafted by HMelton: Recife: 5/22/68