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CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES
OF BRAZIL

Department of State

RIO DE JANEIRO, BRASILIA, RECIFE, SAO PAULO,
PORTO ALEGRE, BELEM AND HELO HORIZONTE

AUG 28 1970

BELEM, PARA, BRAZIL

American Consulate SALVADOR

July 15, 1970

Establishment of Centro de Operações de Defesa
Interna (CODI) in Salvador

The various security agencies represented in Salvador after months of delay have established a Centro de Operações de Defesa Interna to coordinate their intelligence and security activities. Meetings of the CODI are held once a week (generally Tuesday mornings) at the headquarters of the Army's Sixth Military Region and are presided over by regional army commander Brigadier General Abdon Senna or in his absence his Chief of Staff Colonel Murilo Rodrigues de Sousa.

The participants in the meetings are the chiefs of the Intelligence Sections of the Comando Costeiro, the Second Naval District, the Sixth Military Region, and the Bahia Military Police, the Chief of the National Information Service (SNI) "nucleus" in Salvador, the Chief of the Political and Social Order Section of the Federal Police (SOPS) and the Chief of Information of the State Police. The first meeting was held in early June and there have been five or six meetings to date.

At present the Salvador CODI serves only as an information exchange and a discussion group. It has organized no joint operations thus far. The various agencies strive to put together informally a combined picture of the security situation in the state. Sometimes intelligence reports are circulated to all the member agencies in advance so that they can check their own sources and files and thus be prepared to comment intelligently on the circularised information. Coordination with groups in other states or at the national level is done through SNI,

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2

but, of course, the Federal Police and the military services have their own national communications channels, in addition.

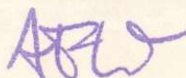
Although the CODI concentrates on allegedly subversive activities, it also devotes some attention to the conduct of state governmental affairs especially where alleged corruption has occurred. Corruption is often viewed by CODI members as tantamount to subversion. Nevertheless, it seems that rather than press at the national level for solutions to local problems involving alleged corruption the CODI in Salvador prefers to furnish the Governor or other relevant supervisor of the allegedly corrupt individual with any really hard evidence of corruption it may have collected and leave the disposition of the matter up to the supervisor.

The consensus of the CODI in Salvador is that the security picture in Bahia is tranquil at present. The University is quiet, the important subversive groups based in Rio and São Paulo have had scant success in establishing cells or operations in Bahia and there are no strictly local subversive groups of any consequence.

Comment: When the reporting officer arrived in Salvador in February of this year, the various security agencies were talking about the imminent formation of the CODI. The delay in its realization probably can be ascribed to the arrival of a new Chief of Staff of the Sixth Military Region who needed time to get his feet on the ground and the vacation for the entire month of May taken by General Senna. The CODI began operations shortly after the General's return to Bahia.

It is interesting to note that the CODI seems to be keeping its hands more or less out of the activities of the state government. This contrasts sharply with the active intervention practiced by General Senna and his former Chief of Staff in late 1969. The change in attitude may reflect orders which according to unconfirmed reports here President Medici issued in March or April to the effect that all regional military commanders (and possibly other officers as well) were to refrain to the extent possible from interfering with state governments which were to be the responsibility of the Governors. (ARMA, Rio has confirmed these reports from his own sources.)

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