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TO : Department of State

INFO: Belem, Recife, Rio

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FROM : AmEmbassy Office Brasilia

DATE: June 7, 1968

SUBJECT: The Church and the Students in the Northeast

REF :

1. Attached is a memorandum from the Consulate General in Recife which reports growing evidence that the Catholic Church in the Northeast is moving toward closer identification with student activists.

2. Comment. The progressive wing of the Church and student activist groups hold a number of views in common, particularly with respect to education and social reform. In some sections of Brazil the Church's attempts to align itself with the students have not always been successful. A case in point is the almost total rejection by Guanabara and other urban student groups of the Church's efforts to establish a student-administration dialogue. It will, therefore, be significant to watch the development of what appears to be a nascent Church-student alliance in the Northeast.

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FORM 4-62 DS-323

Drafted by: POL/E: MLevitsky Id: 6/7/68

Contents and Classification Approved by: POL: Herbert S. Okun

Clearances: Attached memorandum drafted by RHMelton-Recife: 5/29/68

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