

# AIRGRAM

*Pol 15 Brazil*  
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AGR	COM	FRB	INT
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LAB	TAR	TR	XMB
AIR	ARMY	NAVY	OSD
5	4	5	34
ISIA	NSA	CIA	
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BUREAU OF  
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS  
JAN 31 1969  
RS/AN  
ANALYSIS BRANCH

FROM : Amconsulate SALVADOR

DATE: January 24, 1969

SUBJECT : Investigating Commissions Underway in Bahia

REF :

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On January 22, 1969 Governor Luiz Viana Filho designated the following as members of the summary investigating commission for the State of Bahia: Dr. José Luiz de Carvalho Filho, Procurador Geral da Justiça; Dr. Roberto Casali, Procurador da República; Col. Álvaro Alfredo Alvarenga Ely, C.O. of the Military Police; Dr. Mário de Figueiredo Barbosa, Procurador do Estado; and Sandoval Leitão da Silva, Auditoria Geral do Estado.

The reporting officer made courtesy calls on the three service chiefs in Salvador January 21 and 22 to introduce BPAO Robert Sandin. It was learned that sub-commissions of investigation have been formed locally by the army, navy and air force, each one reporting to its respective ministry in Rio de Janeiro. No indications were given of the investigative priorities to be followed. In the case of the Sixth Military Region, Salvador newspapers have published two items of interest: 1) That 22 army men will collaborate with SUNAB in fiscalizing retail food outlets for maintenance of December 31 prices. 2) That the following individuals have been interrogated by the army: Luiz Fraga; Navarro de Britto, Secretary of Education; Flávio José Barbosa Costa, Municipal Superintendent of Tourism; Orlando Senna, Journalist; Arteniário Cardoso de Resende, Petrobrás geologist; and Marival Nogueira Caldas, ex-president of the trade union representing workers in the extraction of petroleum.

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The views of the three service chiefs on the current political situation are summarized:

Brigadier General Abdon Senna, Sixth Military Region, emphatically declared that there was a foreign based communist conspiracy at work in Brazil. He did not elaborate, but said anyone who has been following recent events in Brazil should have no doubts about this. He assured us that all Brazilian institutions are alert and functioning, furthermore, that they are united behind President Costa e Silva. He talked about Castelo Branco in respectful terms but then suggested that the former president had a certain weakness that did not permit him to rule the country as firmly as was required. The general stressed the calmness dominating the scene in Bahia today and compared this to the many sleepless nights he had spent during September, 1968. He dismissed the subject of foreign opinion regarding the institutional act with the remark that most Americans do not understand Brazil's problems.

Vice Admiral Mauro Ballousier, Second Naval District, gives the impression of an open-minded but determined officer who will carry out his duties conscientiously because he believes that what has happened is best for Brazil. He stated that he heads a sub-commission of investigation which is proceeding cautiously under instructions from the Navy Ministry. He also believes that both internal and external communism were making rapid inroads into Brazilian institutions. In regard to the temporary freeze of food prices, he is of the opinion that the effects will be lasting because the penalties are so severe. The admiral made it quite clear that the work of the investigating commissions will be extensive, reaching into all of the state's municipalities.

Col. Edilio Ramos de Figueredo, Commanding Officer of the Salvador Air Base, professed the greatest admiration for the United States and related highlights of his seven trips to the U.S. Unlike the army and navy chiefs, he does not believe that communism was an important factor in Brazil's political life preceding IA-5, stating simply that corruption was the principal factor. He seemed pessimistic that Brazil could estab-

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lish a true democratic base within twenty years and repeatedly mentioned that Castello Branco was handicapped in carrying out the intent of the 1964 revolution because of the judiciary branch of government. He said the armed forces are fully united and supporting Costa e Silva. In discussing manpower requirements for the investigating commissions, the colonel said this was indeed a problem, that the normal activity of the air base was disrupted because many of his men had to be used in this capacity. He confirmed that all of Bahia's municipalities were to be investigated and said this could be done in some instances through trusted mayors. He also remarked that travelling commissions might be sent out from Rio de Janeiro. The colonel favors a course of gradualism in returning the country to the democratic system. He expressed the interesting theory that Brazil will soon experience happier days as the revolution cleans out the older generation of demagogic politicians and makes way for many young men who will devote themselves to politics once the profession becomes respectable.

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