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SEP 12 2 18 PM 1968

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ANALYSIS BRANCH

DATE: September 6, 1968

FROM : Amconsulate SALVADOR

SUBJECT: Bahia Governor Renews Pacification Theme

REF : SLV-7, Feb. 16, 1968; A-24, July 24, 1968

During the past month Governor Luiz Viana Filho took two more dramatic steps in his campaign to bring about political harmony in Brazil.

Speaking at the Political Reporters's Club in Rio de Janeiro on September 2, Viana said it is of vital importance to create a climate of understanding which will isolate radicalism and permit a marshalling of forces for the solution of national problems. He said an erroneous impression exists in Brazil that the country is standing still, accomplishing nothing, whereas the Federal and State Governments are making steady progress. Viana commented that the economic situation is good and the fight against inflation has brought appreciable results, but wide-spread discontent continues to exist because the political machine is out of kilter. Political crisis is in the atmosphere, he continued, and an effort must be made towards establishing national unity, i.e., pacification. National discussion of the Strategic Development Plan for Brazil would help towards a better public understanding of what the government is doing, he concluded.

The Consulate has been informed that Governor Viana recently sent a letter to President Costa e Silva in which he attempts to revive his pacification program. Though given only in broad outline, the Governor's proposal is nevertheless better articulated than heretofore. His main theme involves the formation of a National Governors Front which would launch a massive publicity campaign to distract the attention of the Bra-

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FORM 4-62 DS-323

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Contents and Classification Approved by:

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zilian people from political crises. He believes that Brazilians are not fully cognizant of the progress being made in the country in public works, industrial development, administrative reforms, education etc. and the Federal Government should capitalize on these achievements, bringing them to the attention of the entire nation. Each State Governor would appear on television and radio, promote conferences and discussions to inform the people of the good works carried on by the federal and regional administrations. He sees the greatest need for this in the large population centers of Rio and São Paulo where political agitation and intrigue is most rampant.

Though there is little doubt that Governor Luiz Viana wishes to project himself as a possible civilian candidate for the presidential succession, the Consulate is convinced of his genuine concern for Brazil's political future. Luiz Viana was one of the chief architects of the Castelo Branco government following the 1964 revolution and he considers it his patriotic duty to help prevent the government from slipping backwards to pre-revolution conditions. As laudable as this may be, it seems highly improbable that his revival of the pacification movement will attract any more support than it did previously. For the Governor lacks a viable power base on the national scene; his tactics have not only failed to inspire the federal government, but they are viewed with outright suspicion by President Costa e Silva. It is not beyond the realm of possibility that Luiz Viana's intrusion on the national scene (implying as it does, criticism of the administration) will eventually have the opposite effect of isolating him even more from the seat of power. His public utterances of disapproval of government handling of various problems, such as the arrest of student Vladimir Palmeiras, have certainly not made him more acceptable to Costa e Silva.

Moreover, Luiz Viana is not invulnerable to criticism in his own state. At this very moment a group of "Lomantistas" within ARENA are forming a break-away movement tantamount to a vote of non-confidence in the Governor. They are particularly unhappy about the lack of political patronage for Lomanto men in the interior and resent the Governor's efforts to keep them and the ex-Governor in the background. Luiz Viana's indecision in calling on the Sixth Military Region to establish order during the recent student demonstrations has also added fuel to the fire. Considerable indignation has arisen over the "brutality" of the Military Police and a drive to oust the Commanding Officer is underway. The Governor has thus far supported the MP commander,

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while deploring the casualties that have occurred, but this has not appeased the hard-liners. If he is forced into the change of command, he could well be in serious trouble with the federal administration. The dissident element in the Legislative Assembly is also displeased with the performance of the Secretariat of Education, where a funds shortage has been discovered, and with the aloofness of Secretary Navarro de Brito who consistently ignores the requests of the deputies. The Lomanto supporters have already acquired twelve signatures to a petition calling for "independence" of action and they hope to get several more. The self designated independents are making it clear that they are not in opposition to ARENA national policy and claim they are not responsible for the present crisis in the state organization. The ARENA leadership, spearheaded by Vice Governor Jutahy Magalhães and government leader Orlando Spinola, is meanwhile attempting to counteract these moves through a motion of confidence in Luiz Viana. It remains to be seen whether the Governor will again be able to contain the Lomanto group and reestablish party unity. Regardless of the outcome, his control of the ARENA state party has been substantially weakened.

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