

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

Pol 23-7 ARAZ
 XR SOC 12-1 BRAZ
 XR Pol 15-7 BRAZ
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ACTION		
ARMY	NAVY	AF
1		
ARA	EUR	FE
	5	
NEA	CU	INR
	3	5
E	P	IO
	2	5
L	FBO	AID
3		9
AGR	COM	FRB
	3	
INT	LAB	TAR
TR	KUB	AIR
		5
ARMY	CIA	NAVY
3	90	5
OSD	USIA	NSA
34	10	3
	NIC	NSC
	1	6

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A-262
NO.

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AIR POUCH
HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department of State RECEIVED
 INFO : RIO DE JANEIRO, PARIS
 FROM : AmEmbassy Office BRASILIA DATE: May 10, 1968
 SUBJECT : Volta Redonda Inquiry Continues
 REF : Brasilia A-99 of December 4, 1967

1. An Air Force Special Court of Inquiry continues to examine the case of three Brazilian youths and a young French deacon who are accused of subversive activities for distributing anti-government pamphlets in Volta Redonda, State of Rio last November (Ref. Airgram). The four were charged with violating Article 33 of the National Security Law, which prohibits "inciting publicly" class violence, subversion of order and a variety of other subversive acts. After over a month of imprisonment, the three youths were freed in December, and at the same time, the French deacon, Guy Michel THIBAUT, was released to the custody of dom Valdir CALHEIROS, the Bishop of Volta Redonda. The Court began to take the testimony of the military men involved in the case in early February, but it has met only rarely since that time. Calheiros, who helped throw the case into the national spotlight by his numerous public condemnations of the military's actions, has not yet been allowed to testify, and the formal defense of the four accused is just now being presented.

2. In the meantime, Thibault was given permission to leave the country and traveled to France on April 29. Officials of the Ministry of Justice have stated that authorization for Thibault's voluntary departure was given by the Brazilian government in order to avoid the necessity of deporting him formally at a later date. Thibault will still be tried in absentia, but this appears to be a pro forma gesture.

Exempted from Automatic Decontrol.

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