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1. COUNTRY: BRAZIL

2. SUBJECT: Brazilian Air Force Terminates P2V's

3. ISC NUMBER:

4. DATE OF INFORMATION: 10 Aug 76

5. PLACE AND DATE OF ACQ: Salvador, 10 Aug 76
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6. EVALUATION: SOURCE INFORMATION 1

7. SOURCE: 19/7th GAV Commander

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12. ORIGINATOR: USDAO BRAZIL

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14. APPROVING AUTHORITY:

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15. SUMMARY:

(C) In a bitterly contested fight among Brazilian Air Force personnel, the aging P2V has been deleted from the inventory. This leaves the BAF without any patrol aircraft and the replacement aircraft "BANDEIRANTE" will not be available until December 1977.

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1. (C) During a visit to Salvador Air Base, I had a long talk with 19/7th GAV Commander, whom I had served with in this same group during 1962-1964. He told me that the previous coastal commander, Major Brigadeiro Oswaldo TERRA de Faria, a past CO of this group, had worked very hard in getting the life of the P2V's extended until the replacement aircraft became available around the end of 1977. Brigadeiro TERRA and Lt. Col. LOTTI 1/7 GAV, had presented briefings to the high command on the necessity of keeping these aircraft active, not only for operational reasons but also for the morale of the group. He said the greatest obstacle they had encountered during the briefings had been Major Brigadeiro Ismael da MOTTA PAES, Deputy Chief of Staff, Plans, and later the Vice Chief of the Air Force. MOTTA PAES, he said, was a fighter pilot, not at all interested in ASW, and when he was assigned as the commander of the Coastal Command, he knew the time was

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REPLACES DA FORM 1048 1 AUG 60, OPNAV FORM 3820 (Rev 4-64), AF FORM 112 JUL 61 WHICH MAY BE USED UNTIL 1 JAN 63.

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ending for the P2V's. He said he fought long and hard to continue flying these aircraft and when it became hopeless, took a thirty day leave and visited the U.S. When he returned the decision had been made and now he is beginning to clear out the supply and maintenance shelves so they can prepare for the new aircraft.

2. (C) The new aircraft will be configured for five crew members: pilot, copilot, navigator, radar/radio and ordnance. As Lt. Col. LOTT said, "this is not an ASW aircraft, but only a means of detecting and tracking surface ships within the 200 mile coastal area. In other words, we will be a coast guard force."

COMMENT: (U) These aircraft have had a history of logistic and, due to the age and location, corrosion problems. The Brazilians will scrap all the aircraft except one, which is to be mounted at the Salvador Air Base. Herein closes an era of some twenty years of "NEPTUNE" flying by the Brazilian Air Force.

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