

CONTINUATION SHEET

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ORIGINATOR OAIRA, Brazil

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Authority NND 53094

Governor Alacid Nunes (State of Para)
 Arch Bishop Don Alberto Ramos (Belem)
 Maj. Gen. Dirceu Arajao NOGUEIRA (8th Military Region)
 Brig. JOLEO da Veiga Cabral (1st Air Zone)
 Admiral Jose LEITE SOARES (4th Navy District) (Former Attache
 in Washington, D.C.)
 Colonel Pedro FRAZAO de Medeiros Lima (Base Commander)
 Colonel PROTASIO Lopes de Oliveira (Deputy Commander, 1st Air
 Zone)
 Captain Labarto (New Deputy, 4th Navy District)
 Senator of Para (name unknown), prominent businessmen, and other
 military officials.

3. (U) Activity: On the night of 12 September we were invited to a dinner at Mr. Whited's (Cultural Attache and former Navy Attache in Rio) with Brazilian Air Force officials in attendance, including Brig. JOLEO (Commander, 1st Air Zone). All officers were friendly and appeared to be pro-American. Aside from "party" conversation, considerable time was spent discussing Amazon River (Catalina flying boat) operation. It was also reported that the first (of 12) Canadian Buffalo aircraft will be delivered in September 1968.

(U) a. On the morning of 13 September, official calls were made on the 3 military commanders (listed earlier). At the Army headquarters we were introduced to several members of General NOGUEIRA's cabinet. The same procedure was followed by the Air Force and Navy commanders, except less staff members were present. All of the command headquarters were near the city, and most of them were in need of repairs. In fact, the Admiral gave many details of the plans for major repair work, explaining the difficulty of obtaining money. Of all headquarters, the Air Force appeared to be in the best shape. Admiral LEITE SOARES, according to the Consular, Mr. Goetz, is the most politically active of the three commanders, and seems to take the lead in most civic actions, though General NOGUEIRA is relatively new in the area.

(U) b. In the afternoon Colonel FRAZAO, Belem Base Commander, invited us to lunch and a tour of the base. The base, which has a commercial aviation side, as well as military, is very large and old, with many buildings needing repairs. The 2nd Aviation Group is assigned 8 Catalina flying boats, 4 C-47 aircraft (1 belongs to the nearby maintenance depot) and 2 C-45 aircraft. One Catalina was undergoing an engine change, and the remaining apparently were in commission. No aircraft maintenance problem areas were mentioned. Though, as a related issue, the base commander expressed a minor (future) problem of lack of adequate fuel logistical support along the Amazon river for the Buffalo aircraft. The Deputy Base Commander, a Lt. Col. AGUIAR, expressed an opinion, that really the best aircraft for Amazon support would be the large helicopter types. The housing area, PX, commissary, and clubs were also inspected. Though not a significant point, but nevertheless interesting, the base commander spent considerable time showing the "farm area." This area contained cows, pigs, chickens, rabbits, a garden, and a small pottery/brick factory. He indicated that these were important for personnel morale, and that the "milk was for the children of the sergeants." Apparently the pottery/brick factory (BAF operated) sells their products to customers in the city. The base had approximately 50 officers. The tour was concluded with a boat ride around the port (where 2 Brazilian Navy Corvettes were observed).

(C)(NFD) c. After the base tour, a Pan American cocktail party was attended, celebrating the opening of a new office in Belem. Speeches were made by a representative of Pan American, the Governor of Para, and the Mayor of Belem. At the cocktail party, as well as at the Consular's home the night before, we met a Mr. Palmer, American business man married to a Brazilian, involved in an "extremely large land deal" Northeast of Belem. Apparently this deal is causing some Brazilian "suspicion." In fact, Mr. Goetz reports that Admiral LEITE SOARES has been asked to "look into" this operation. After the Pan American party, the base commander, Major BACELLAR, and their wives were guests of the AIRA for dinner.

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