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OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

Robert H. Shields, Esq.
Political Section
Amembassy Office
Brasilia

Dear Mr. Shields:

I read with interest your recent airgram (A-285 of May 28, 1968) dealing with statistics on Church organization and composition.

I note that the statistics contained in the article on the priesthood appearing in the Jornal do Brasil and Correio da Manhã are taken directly from information contained in the 1965 edition (the latest available) of Anuário Católico do Brasil. The Anuário is a publication of the Conferencia dos Religiosos do Brasil and is based upon data compiled by the Center for Religious Statistics and Social Investigations. The map contained in the article also appears in this publication.

The statistics appearing in the May 13 bc/semanal article, comparing Church organization with that of the Military, are apparently an updating of the 1965 statistics mentioned above.

In this regard, you might also be interested in the comments on the bc/semanal article contained in Recife Report Nº 48.

Sincerely,

Richard H. Melton
Political Officer


POL:RHMelton:jbs