



DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

WEEKLY SUMMARY

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BRAZIL FEARS NEW KIDNAPINGS OF DIPLOMATS

Government and military officials fear that terrorists' successes in obtaining the freedom of comrades by kidnaping foreign diplomats may stimulate similar operations. The abduction last week of the Japanese consul general in Sao Paulo and his exchange for five Brazilian prisoners come only six months after 15 prisoners were released to secure the safe return of US Ambassador Elbrick.

The kidnapers of the Japanese official identified themselves as members of the Popular Revolutionary Vanguard (VPR),

On 13 March the government accepted the terrorists' terms, and the next day it flew the designated prisoners to Mexico. The Justice Ministry issued a decree banishing the five from Brazil, following a precedent established in the Elbrick incident. The consul general was released in good condition on 15 March.

Three of the prisoners admitted to reporters in Mexico that they had worked with terrorist groups in Sao Paulo; all had received training in Cuba. Of the two who claimed to be activists with the VPR, one reportedly was involved in three major operations in Sao Paulo during 1968, including the assassination of a US Army captain. He was also implicated in numerous bank

robberies, as was the other VPR prisoner, a second generation Japanese-Brazilian. A third terrorist was formerly a bodyguard of Carlos Marighella, who led the National Liberating Action until he was killed by police last November. A fourth prisoner released was a Franciscan nun, who last October, while at her orphanage in Sao Paulo state, was arrested for assisting a National Liberation Armed Forces group. The local police chief was subsequently excommunicated as a result of accusations that the nun and other prisoners had been tortured while in jail. She denied any knowledge of subversive activities, and protested against being put on the plane to Mexico. The other prisoner, also a female, who described herself as a "Marxist-Communist," was the widow of a VPR militant killed last month. She was accompanied by three children; a fourth child, who reportedly was involved with his father in terrorist activities, remains at large in Brazil.

There was substantial dissatisfaction among lower ranking military officers about the government's exchange of 15 prisoners for US Ambassador Elbrick last September, and the new episode is likely to provoke similar unhappiness. The fact that four of the new group have claimed that they had been tortured after arrest may increase security officials' resentment

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of the government's release of
the prisoners.

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