

MEMORANDUM

TO: Staff

FROM: Feodora Stancioff

RE: Brazil: Notes and Observations

I came back from Recife and Bahia where I had gone for ten days with Marina Bandeira, the head of MEB, Movimento de Educaçao de Base. When I got back on the 25th, I found about 52 letters from all over the place, including all the ones Kay sent that were stuck in Sao Paulo for such a long time. Thank you very much---it felt rather like Christmas and I spent half the night going through letters, papers, reports, and I feel quite close to home again. I really thank you all very much. I have a letter from Valentine announcing the "ruination" of my car. I heard about it lately from Monsignor Quinn. I didnot realize how grave it was, but I would much rather have the car completely finished and Valentine in one piece, than half a Valentine and half a car. I never liked the flat color of blue, anyway. I hope the next one is white and not quite as childish. Thank you, Kathleen, for all your nice, long letters. First, the ones that I received before when I was in Sao Paulo and now this whole batch. Your letters are always full of news and I can see the spirit of Cuernavaca behind them. I'm also very glad that you are going to be with us for a while. I look forward to seeing you all very soon. I'm sorry I have not written very much. Life in Rio, although I enjoy it very much, is not very interesting to write about. It's just simply one rat race from lawyer to contractor, to electrician to carpenter, then lobbying and missing people, waiting for other people, lobbying again and at Dom Helder's door so that he he can get me an interview with somebody. All this is very dull---takes hours of time, and wears the spirit down quite a bit.

My week in Sao Paulo was spent entirely sleeping. It was almost embarassing to spend so much time sleeping when one's brother has been waiting years to see you. The children are all very well and apart from sleeping, I went to a "fazenda" which is as big as the country of Luxembourg. It is run by IBEC with the government of Sao Paulo for experimental purposes. The Rockefeller, Ford Foundations and others give money to support this very badly run, beautiful place and they have very few experiments. The head of it is a Midwestern cowboy who doesn't know how to write and obviously enjoys having a little kingdom of his own. He does not trust Brazilians, and I don't think we can do anything about it.

Feo

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Back in Rio before I went to the Northeast, I went up and down to Petropolis, trying to get my visa straightened out which I could not do, so I am here illegally. I am going to have it straightened out today before Frei João arrives so that I can leave as soon as I can.

Dom Helder is very helpful, but also a very busy man, and I run back and forth to Petropolis to see what is going on--- I with the usual North American distrust that I am going to be gypped. I never do anything without consulting Nelson Motta. This is our lawyer. It took me a few days of pushing and pulling to get to see Amoroso Lima and get his final consent for CIF REPORTS. The other person suggested by Dom Helder and his staff was Manuel Diêgues Junior---junior is always spelled in full here. His address is the following:
Avenida Pasteur 431
Praia Vermelha
Telephone: 46-52-53.

Manuel Diêgues Junior is the director of the Centro Latino-americano de Pesquisas em Ciências Sociais. He has written a book called "Regiões Culturais do Brasil". That book came out in 1960 and it is published by the Centro Brasileiro de Pesquisas Educacionais, Centro de Ministério de Educação e Cultura, Rio de Janeiro. According to Dom Helder and his staff, he is a very active layman and a very good Catholic, and seemed very interested in our work as he asked me to go and see him while here. I don't know whether I will have the time, but I will put Frei João in touch with him.

I sent Betsy a telegram---it must have been on the 11th or 12th of April---telling her of the acceptance of Amoroso Lima and Diêgues Junior of CIF REPORTS, also giving her the number of a Post Office Box in Petropolis, which is "277".

All this seems to take so much time to get to one little thing. I still haven't got that touch of "serendipity", which Monsignor Illich and Frei João seem to have. I suppose you know that truly I have the intuition Frei João was at the airport to meet me the day I arrived in Brasília because the call only came through after he had left for Brasília. Some people just have the special touch. I have not done very much for the house---is clean, neat, and the couple living there, keeping it together, watching over it, seeing to the garden, which needed a rigorous cleaning, pulling down the old chicken houses which were on the front lawn, seem to be very good and reliable. And I think that since we have no money at the moment, Frei João can use the man to do things like white-washing,

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mending of windows, and just the minimum that we can do at the moment. There are several possibilities of making the Chapel quite nice, but it will cost a lot of money taking down a small wall, filling in two windows, and all sorts of things that seem to be rather expensive at the moment. Petropolis has human resources, on the other hand. Teachers will all know some French and English, I think, and there will be no problem of secretaries with the language. The only real sadness is that up to now, we have found no one to help Frei João in his work. I haven't found the wonderful Magdalena in Petropolis. I think that that also will just have to drop from Heaven, at least I hope so. I was not doing too much about it because Dom Helder said that he had people in mind, but in the end, it seems that he hasn't got anyone complete that he can think of, and we will just have to fight it out for ourselves. The staff problem of Petropolis really is a problem, but I really don't want to stay here, although I know I could be quite helpful to Frei João. I think the only place in Brasil I don't like is Petropolis. It gives me claustrophobia and reminds of certain, stuffy Swiss villages with huge, unattractive summer hotels.

I left for Recife on Friday, the 13th, with Marina Bandeira. I don't know how she got the free ticket for me to go up there, so I really enjoyed it even more than I would have. My trip to Recife and Salvador, Bahia was most interesting and I think that through it, I felt Brazil much better than I ever did before. Recife seems to be more or less the head of Brazilian life. It is usually what people think of when they think of Brazil. Brazil is not Sao Paulo or Copacabana. It is much more the Northeast where the tradition, the exaggeration, the contrasts---the very rich and the very poor, the beautiful Portuguese churches, the lovely houses, the old "slaves" of sugar cane plantations. In Recife, I saw mostly people from the Movimento de Educação de Base who work with Marina Bandeira and I stayed at the home of Lucinha Moreira Costa (Rua Belfica, Edificio Cristina, Apt. 2. I don't know her exact number, but it's very easy to find if ever one goes to Recife). Her business address is: Servico Social Rural

111 Avenida Fernando Vieyra
Bairro Boa Vista
Recife, Pernambuco

Lucinha has a history of 4-H clubs, Girl Scouts' training in Puerto Rico with Community Education, a trip to the United States for two months. In Brazil itself, she worked in Valle São Fernando development trying to help people come up to a higher level using electricity, developing also a type of electricity co-operative. Lucinha now works for the Servico Social Rural and while working with them, she started working with the MEB. They transmit classes in the whole of Pernambuco---that is, most of the state is now covered--- and they usually announce that this is the Movi-

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mento de Educação de Base, of federal help in conjunction with the Archdioces or Dioces they happen to be in, and the Servicio Social Rural. The Servicio Social Rural tries to give help to the country people, giving them community development and basic education at the same time. It's working fairly well in the state of Pernambuco. It is rather disorganized because it never seems to work with other existing groups. In this case, it is working with the Movimento de Educação de Base because Lucinha was working for them when she started sorking for the Radio School. The strongest personality, I would say, also working in the MEB group in Pernambuco, is Aida Bezerra. Aida Bezerra is a trained social worker and the daughter of a Communist in Recife. The father is a great idealist and a very well-known Communist. Aida is a very-practicing Catholic and one of the people with whom I was most impressed in Pernambuco. Lucinha Moreira Costa, who is the head of the group, is obviously a little bourgeoisie, married to a young, very bourgeois architect. They are intelligent people, especially she. They know the tricks, what should be thought and why, but my feeling was that Aida is a warmer person and understands the people better. She knows how people react on the poorest levels, and definitely is much closer to the poor than the others. Aida also knows a lot of folklore. She knows the state of Pernambuco inside out, with all its political, religious, and social problems. In the same group, working with MEB is Zelia Alves. She is a "diplomee" in all sorts of educational degrees, an intelligent girl, sensitive, and very helpful. Her address is:

Rua Antônio Gomes de Freita 65
Recife, Pernambuco

Also in this group is Elia Duleite, whose sister, Leda, works with a theater group called "O Teatro Popular do Nordeste".

O Teatro Popular do Nordeste is a Catholic group, very much to the left, but not as far left as most groups in Recife. This year, they are starting the season with a play called "A Bomba de Paz", (The Bomb of Peace) which is a way by which they can express their ideas. It is mostly a criticism of the different types of political groups in Pernambuco, beginning with the famous prefect (mayer) of Recife, Miguel Arraes. He is a very good organizer, although some people say he is kept into the already well-organized "Prefeitura". He is definitely Marxist, Fidelista. He has organized the Movimento de Cultura Popular, which was mentioned by Artur Rios at our meeting at Carnival, and at the moment, according to everybody in Recife, he is the man who will be elected governor because there is no one to run against him. He is criticized in the play of the Teatro

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Popular do Nordeste, as is also a group of young Catholic students who do mix Communism and Catholicism a bit too much. It is a fairly good play, lots of fun---I saw it--- and I think they do quite well. And it's interesting to see how much alive Recife is. The play "A Bomba da Paz" was written by Hermilo Borba Filho. He is professor of dramatic arts at the school of Fine Arts in Recife. Another very interesting man I met in Recife is Professor Newton Sucupira. He can also be looked up through Lucinha Moreira Costa. He is a professor of Philosophy at the University of Recife. He took part in the "seminário" on the Realidade Brasileira in Rio organized by Maria Amalia Arroço. He also is part of seminars and group work done with Dom Helder. He goes to Rio once a month, is a very young man, has nine children, a nice wife, and is very interested in politics. In many ways, he reminded me of Hector Estades, although in a more balanced way.

I also went to see Gilberto Freyre, taken there by Lucinha, and I found him most amiable, very open. I couldn't remember whether or not Frei João had gone to see him, so I didn't mention it. He didn't say a word about it. He was very impressed by my Portuguese. Also, the tone of my remarks on Sociology of the U.S. was very good, so I felt quite big that day. He was very interested in the Movimento de Educação de Base, which he had hardly heard of before. I have the feeling that at the moment his great interests are Africa and Brazil and their contacts. Dr. Gilberto was most amiable which was supposed to be quite unusual. He doesn't like to be visited, and has behaved a little peculiarly and strangely with a lot of people. The reason he was so amiable was because Lucinha took me there. She had been his secretary for two years and he still remembers her having left. So I suggest that if anyone goes to Recife who wants to see Dr. Gilberto Freyre, to get in touch with Lucinha. Worthwhile at Dr. Gilberto's is his house, which is quite charming---typical, old-style Brazilian, with beautiful Brazilian, baroque statues---probably stolen from churches. I'm not accusing Dr. Gilberto---I suppose somebody else stole them and sold them to him. In Recife again, taken by Leda Duleite, I went to see Ariano Suassuna. He is one of the best young playwrights, professor at the University of Recife (Faculdade de Belas Artes) and he also teaches Aesthetics at the Seminary---at the Diocian Seminary of Recife. He is a friend of the Bishop and is one of the most interesting people of Recife. He comes from a very old Portuguese family, of Paraíba---his father was governor of that state. And for some strange reason his family was Protestant. I couldn't figure how many generations had been Protestant, but Ariano is a convert. He became a convert to Catholicism about five or six years ago. He now writes plays for the Teatro Popular do Nordeste, which I've already mentioned. Most of them have a message---a Christian

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message---and they are all in the style of the Northeast type of traveling theater or puppet show that used to exist around Recife, and still does, in theory. He is very popular, very interesting, and very much alive. He must be in his early thirties, has a charming wife, also a very lovely house---very simple and of the old type.

All these people that I talked to from Gilberto Freyre down to Ariano Suassuna, are very worried about the situation in the state of Pernambuco, and Recife, particularly. The only candidate for governor, as I said, was Miguel Arraes, who is definitely Marxist-Fidelist. His opponent, Cliofas, chosen by the present governor, Cid Sampaio, is a member of the União Democrático Nacional. Cliofas already has lost two elections, which means he must be very old or getting on in age, because one must skip a few years in order to try again. Apparently, in the interior of the state, people say, "Our grandfathers didn't vote for Cliofas, so why should we?" Arraes, who is the prefect of Recife, is very popular, and through a lot of showy productions, has made himself known to everybody all over the state. The problem, therefore, is that everybody on the non-Communist side is divided and since Arraes is strong, he will probably get in. The more interesting people that I met in Recife seemed to be interested in a young man called Paulo Maciel, a Christian Democrat, brilliantly Communist, and who was given the Secretária de Fazenda of the Estado de Pernambuco by Cid Sampaio. He seems to be very popular, and if he can get backing and enough money for a political campaign, he might try to rammy everyone against Arraes. I met him. He seemed very "simpático", very nice man. Paulo Maciel has written a study on "As Imigrações Para o Recife: Aspectos Economicos". It is one of three studies on the migrations to Recife from the interior of the state in the last years and is put together by the Instituto Joaquim Nabuco de Pesquisas Sociais---Ministério de Educação e de Cultura de Recife. This is something organized mainly by Gilberto Freyre, who is now letting it take its own course. Although he keeps an eye on it, he doesn't go there as much as he used to. The address is: Instituto Joaquim Nabuco de Pesquisas Sociais
17 de agosto 2187
Recife, Pernambuco
Brasil

They have been publishing things since 1952. I have three of their books, and I shall send them on now. It's worthwhile keeping in touch with them because sometimes they put out interesting things. Very often, it's just questions of sugar and things like that, but it might be interesting to have some of them.

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Dr. Gilberto Freyre is now trying to put together another institute for Tropical Studies, which would include Spanish America, Asia, Africa, and Brazil. He will also have that in Recife.

I was really impressed by the city of Recife, and I think if Monsignor could come to Brazil in the summer, he should spend a few days there. Get in touch with Lucinha Moreira Costa and she will take him around. Also, I'm sure Dom Helder will give him some other names and interesting people to see.

I visited a Bishop, Dom Carlos Cuelho, of Recife and Olinda, who was the one accused by Artur Rios of "gomulkoism" because he says Mass for the people, invited by the prefect. He said Mass in public, in a public place, and it was all organized by the prefect of Recife, who is definitely Marxist. Dom Carlos impressed me as being a very practical man, a very good organizer, and a very good man, and quite modern. He used to be Bishop of Navare Gamarca which is a few miles away---he doesn't know Pernambuco well---and he has been to the States. He is organizing a Printing Press---quite an organizer. He had read the Time article on IDI in the States while he was there. He had also heard about us through Dom Helder. I think he is a very good man, and somebody one could work with quite well. Now, I'm sending his Christmas message which he gave at that Mass for which he was accused of "gomulkoism". It is certainly a very clear statement on the position of the Church and there is no mincing of words about our charming friends, the Fidelistas of Recife.

In Recife too, is a young priest called Pae Melo, who is now working with the Ligas Camponesas. He is very much beloved by the people. He also works with the factorys' workers in Recife. Everyone says that he is well under control, that he does his work well, and that the Bishop is very pleased with him. I could speak to the Bishop directly about him, but there seems to be no problem there.

As to Juliao, everyone in Brazil says he is finished, and that the only place that the people are still talking about him is in the United States. And even Juscelino Kubitschek, when he came back from the United States, said that everybody in the USA had asked him about Juliao, and were very surprised to hear that he had never met the man. Juliao is an opportunist and is definitely losing ground. Now, Arraes is the man who is dangerous in Pernambuco.