

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Page 3 of 7  
Rio A-90

treatment, according to persons who have either undergone the series or have talked with persons who have, is as follows:

- 1) The suspect is picked up, usually at gunpoint, and ordered to come with two plainclothes policemen;
- 2) A hood is placed over the detainee's head and he (or she) is forced to lie down in the back of the police vehicle which transports him to the interrogation center;
- 3) The suspect is stripped nude and is made to sit alone in either a completely darkened cell or a refrigerated cell for a period of several hours. This cell is wired with loudspeakers which emit sounds of screaming, sirens, and whistles at high decib~~el~~ levels;
- 4) The detainee is then interrogated by one or more agents who let it be known what crime the police believe the person has committed and what measures might be used against the person if he is uncooperative;
- 5) At this point, if the suspect does not confess, and if it is believed that he is withholding valuable information, he is subjected to increasingly painful physical and mental duress until he confesses. He is placed nude in a small dark room with a metal floor through which electrical current is pulsated. The shock felt by the individual, though reportedly light in intensity, is constant and eventually becomes almost impossible to withstand. The suspect is usually kept in this room for several hours. He may then be transferred to several other "special effects" rooms in which devices are used to instill fear and physical discomfort. Extreme mental and physical fatigue sometimes results, especially if the person undergoes such treatment for two or three days. All during this time, he is not allowed food or water;

KEPT AT INTERROGATION CENTER, ITS APPROXIMATE CAPACITY, DURING MOST OF HIS TIME THERE. MANY WERE PLAINLY INVOLVED IN SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES BUT OTHERS APPEARED TO BE ONLY POLITICAL IDEALISTS OPPOSED TO THE REGIME. ALL WERE SUBJECTED TO SOME FORM OF TORTURE. HE HIMSELF WAS NOT ABUSED SINCE AS A LEGITIMATE POLITICIAN AND MAN OF MEANS HE WAS NOT "TORTURABLE".

3. ANOTHER SOURCE, A PROFESSIONAL INFORMER AND INTERROGATOR WORKING FOR THE MILITARY INTELLIGENCE CENTER IN OSASCO (INDUSTRIAL SUBURB OF SAO PAULO,) TOLD US ON APRIL 24 OF HIS OWN "COUNTER- SUBVERSIVE" ACTIVITIES. HE EXPLAINED HOW HE HAD BROKEN A "COMMUNIST" RING INVOLVING A CIVIL POLICE OFFICER. THE OFFICER WAS PERSUADED TO TALK BY ATTACHING ELECTRICAL SHOCK DEVICES TO HIS EARS AND TOLD OF HIS CONNECTION WITH A GIRL FRIEND WHO WAS PROMPTLY PICKED UP. SHE WAS UNCOOPERATIVE, HOWEVER, SO SHE WAS PUT ON THE PARROT'S PERCH FOR 43 HOURS WITHOUT FOOD OR WATER. THIS BROKE HER, OUR SOURCE SAID. TORTURE IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER WAS COMMON PRACTICE IN INTERROGATION IN OSASCO. HE ALSO GAVE FIRST- HAND ACCOUNT OF KILLING A SUBERSIVE SUSPECT, WHICH HE CALLED "SEWING" THE SUSPECT UP, I. E. SHOOTING HIM FROM HEAD TO TOES WITH AUTOMATIC WEAPON. (FOR DETAILS SEE MEMORANDUM OF THIS CONVERSATION DATED APRIL 26). OVER THE PAST YEAR VARIOUS SECURITY OFFICIALS HAVE CONFIRMED TO US THAT SUSPECTED TERRORISTS ARE KILLED AS MATTER OF STANDARD PRACTICE. WE ESTIMATE PROBABLY AS MANY AS TWELVE HAVE BEEN KILLED IN PAST YEAR IN SAO PAULO AREA.



SAO PAULO

Department of State

TELEGRAM

PAGE 2 BRASILIA 2386

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Classification

INDICATIONS THAT MOST BRAZILIANS EXERCISING INFLUENCE UPON THE REGIME ARE PREPARED TO ACCEPT INTERNATIONAL CRITICISM SO LONG AS THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS THESE MEASURES TO BE NECESSARY.

3. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, EVENTS WITHIN US CONGRESS, SUCH AS CHURCH HEARINGS OF LAST YEAR AND TUNNEY AMENDMENT, ARE UNLIKELY TO HAVE APPRECIABLE EFFECT UPON POLICIES OF GOB. MOREOVER, GIVEN BRAZILIAN PRIDE AND SENSITIVITY ABOUT SOVEREIGNTY, EFFORTS BY ANY BRANCH OF US GOVERNMENT OR BY US POLITICAL FIGURES TO BRING PRESSURE ON BRAZIL WOULD NOT ONLY DAMAGE OUR GENERAL RELATIONS BUT, BY EQUATING REDUCTION IN ANTI-TERROR MEASURES WITH WEAKNESS UNDER PRESSURE, COULD PRODUCE OPPOSITE OF INTENDED RESULT. INDEED SOME BRAZILIAN OFFICIALS ALREADY HAVE EXPRESSED INDIGNATION AT SIZE OF VOTE SUPPORTING THE DEFEATED FIRST TUNNEY AMENDMENT (30 SENATORS) AND FACT THAT AMENDMENT WAS CO-SPONSORED BY PRESIDENTIAL CONTENDER. WHILE THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME EFFORT TO DOWNPLAY PUBLICITY REGARDING MATTER, AMENDMENT HAS BEEN STRONGLY DENOUNCED ON FLOOR OF BRAZILIAN CONGRESS AS INTERVENTION WHICH CONTRIBUTES TO EXACERBATION OF ANTI-US SENTIMENT.

4. I AM FULLY AWARE OF ESSENTIALITY OF MAKING CLEAR ON APPROPRIATE OCCASION AND IN APPROPRIATE MANNER THAT USG DOES NOT RPT NOT CONDONE EXCESSES IN THE FORM PRACTICED IN BRAZIL, AND I BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE THUS FAR SUCCEEDED IN DOING SO WITHOUT UNDULY JEOPARDIZING OUR RELATIONS WITH THIS COUNTRY OR CAUSING A COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE REACTION ON THE PART OF GOB. I THEREFORE

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### PRISON CONDITIONS

Mr. Horth said that conditions in the DEOPS prison are generally considered by the inmates to be far superior to those existing in the military jails or in the Tiradentes Prison. In the DEOPS prison the inmates are able to communicate among themselves with a great deal of facility and often pass notes, food, cigarettes, etc. via the guards. Prisoners are exercised twice weekly and may receive visitors. Mr. Horth said that there were six separate cells approximately the size of his own, and that one was filled with young girls, several of whom were pregnant. He could not vouch for the treatment of prisoners outside his cell, but had "heard" that upon their initial admittance terrible things had been done to them to make them talk. None of the prisoners had the vaguest idea how long he might be confined. However, Mr. Horth noted a continuing changeover as persons were released and new inmates admitted. Among the new arrivals, he noted several who were in a state of shock and affected by nervous twitching as a consequence of their torture session.

### CELLMATES ARE INNOCENT

In Mr. Horth's opinion, five of the six in his cell were absolutely innocent of subversive political activity. The sixth, a former student at the USP Faculty of Philosophy, "looked like he might easily throw a bomb" and, while friendly, carefully shied away from discussing political topics with the American. Two were students at the USP Faculty of Economics who appeared to be quite naive about present-day Brazilian politics or political