This is an INFO REPORT and not finally evaluated intel.

1. (U) CTRY: BRAZIL (BR)
2. (U) TITLE: Amnesty, Torture, and Institutional Threats
3. (U) DATE OF INFO: 810223-810325
4. (U) ORIG:
5. (U) RED REF:
6. (U) SOURCE: A large number of middle grade and senior field grade officers, reporting accurately reflects their views.

7. (U) SUMMARY: Discussions with a wide range of field grade officers show a residual anger over the Feb call for an accounting against military and police personnel who perpetrated torture during the 1970's.

8. (U) DETAILS: The call for an accounting of those accused of committing torture during the 1970's brought a swift, bitter and predictable response by Brazilian Army officers, in Minas Gerais, a number of full colonels lectured at length and in very heated terms, one officer said, "We really brought this on ourselves, the people wanted amnesty so we gave them amnesty and now the communists and leftists are back and the goes have started again," some officers blamed the press saying "It's the press, they are deliberately trying to blacken the army's image, to put us on the defensive, to assassinate our honor and character, that way our courses of action will be reduced in the future," another said that the attitude of those who called for amnesty and then defined it in their own terms after accepting the ground rules, he noted "... Amnesty covers everyone and everything that went on then, but now the communists say it only applies to their side and we have to face the music," another was incredulous, he said, "... We saved Brazil, it was a war, a damn war, how do these people think you win a war, by being nice?" one senior officer shook his finger in ro's face and turned red as he explained, "... The communists never gave in, they only play by their rules and every concession is asking for trouble," one officer was can do and admitted there was real cause for concern "... If this thing continued since many high ranking personnel would be on the spot," another field grade said, when discussing Luis Carlos Prestes' comment about political torture, "... Prestes, that's all, let him explain away Russia's political torture first and then he can ask questions in Brazil," the officer then went on to ask, "Do you know what they call residents of Siberia? Dissidents?"