

U.S.S. MULLINNIX



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VISITS

RECIFE

TASK FORCE EIGHTY-SIX

Port Briefing - BRAZIL

1. General. The United States of Brazil is the world's fourth largest country, exceeded only by the Soviet Union, China and Canada. It occupies nearly half of the South American continent and is large enough to hold the United States plus an additional Texas. It has slightly less than half of the population of the continent, approximately 65,000,000. While the national language of the other South American countries is Spanish, that of Brazil is Portuguese.

Brazil borders on every country in South America except Ecuador and Chile. It has the world's longest river, the Amazon and two waterfalls higher than Niagara, Iguazu and Paulo Alfonso. It boasts an island, Marajo, at the mouth of the Amazon that is larger than Belgium.

The bulk of Brazil's population lives in the eastern region of the country, generally within 300 miles of the coast. Efforts are now underway, however, to extend the nation towards the interior, and the creation of a brand new inland capital, Brasilia, is symbolic of this westward push.

2. Economy. Agriculture is the mainstay of the Brazilian economy, particularly coffee, which is its largest cash crop and main source of foreign income. Other important local crops are corn, rice and cotton, which together with coffee account for about 90% of the cultivated land.

In recent years industry and manufacturing have grown at a rapid pace, particularly in the area around Sao Paulo. The food processing and textile industries are by far the most important, but the automotive and electrical industries are beginning to expand.

Mining employs only about 3% of the Brazilian work force, but its importance is great, nevertheless, because of the strategic value of such Brazilian products as quartz and manganese. Gold, silver and diamonds are also mined and some oil deposits have recently been discovered.

3. Political organization. Like the United States, Brazil is a federation. It comprises 21 states, one federal district and four territories. The constitution provides for the separation of the Executive, Legislative and Judicial branches of the government.

At present there is a parliamentary form of government, with a president and prime minister responsible to Parliament, which consists of the Senate and House of Representatives. The President is Joao ("Jango") Goulart. The Prime Minister is Dr. Brochado Rocha. President Goulart recently completed an official visit to the United States as a guest of President Kennedy.

4. Local Customs: Dinner hours are from 2000 to 2200, with cocktails at 1800. There are innumerable cafes for between meal snacks, or a "cafezinho," a demi-tasse of Brazilian coffee.

5. Food. The most characteristic Brazilian dish is "feijoada" made of meat, black beans and rice, cooked separately and spiced with herbs. If you like hot food, try "vatapa," a fish porridge made of several varieties of fish and shrimp mixed with vegetable oil, pepper and paprika and served very hot. Also try "camaroes a la grec" (shrimp on a spit) in Copacabana. Local beef dishes are described as "superb," especially "churrasco," grilled beef with onion and peppers.

6. Liquor. Native wines are quite good, especially white Reisling types. Imported liquors are expensive. Local beer is good, especially "Pilsen Extra" and "Brahma Extra."

7. Water. Drink bottled water ONLY. "Agua Lindoya" is non-carbonated and quite easy to obtain.

8. Taxis & Tipping. Taxis cruise the city in both Recife and Rio de Janeiro, our two Brazilian ports of call. Carry small denomination bills, as drivers generally cannot make change. A 10% service charge is added to the bill in hotels and restaurants. It is customary to add another 10% tip. In taxis, tip 10% of the fare.

9. What to buy. The best buys in Brazil are precious and semi-precious stones. Topazes, amethysts and tourmalines are the most popular. Alligator bags and other leather goods are cheaper than at home. French perfumes, wood carvings, antique silver and hand-made blouses are also good buys.

10. Climate. September is the last month of the Brazilian winter. The nights, especially in Rio, are quite cool, but temperatures below 50° are almost unheard of.

11. Currency. The Brazilian currency is the cruzeiro, worth about 1/3 of a cent. The rate of exchange fluctuates daily because of inflationary conditions. Money can be safely exchanged at a "CAMBIO". Banknotes are in denominations of 1,2,5,20,50,100,200,500 and 1,000 Cruzeiros.

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RECIFE

1. General. Recife, on Brazil's eastern bulge, attained world-wide fame in early 1961 when it witnessed the end of the dramatic chase of the Portuguese luxury liner SANTA MARIA after it had been captured by Capt. Henrique Galvao.

Founded in 1548, Recife is Brazil's third largest city, with a population of more than half a million. It is a major seaport with an amazingly fresh and modern look despite its long history. It is the capital of the state of Pernambuco. The city, sometimes called the "Venice of America," is divided into three sections criss-crossed by canals but joined by bridges. The three areas are Recife proper, on a peninsula; the island of San Antonio, between the peninsula and the mainland; and the mainland itself, known as Boa Vista.

2. Visit. Task Force 86 will visit Recife from 30 August to 1 September. Details of the visit will be promulgated separately.

3. History. The history of Recife is the most colorful of all Brazilian cities. Invaded by both the French and the English, and captured by the Dutch, the Pernambucans have always managed to regain their independence. Sixty-six years before the United States Declaration of Independence, an attempt was made to establish Pernambuco as an independent republic. The movement failed, but successive revolutions brought independence to the region almost a full year before the rest of Brazil became independent in 1822.

4. Climate. There are two seasons, dry and wet. The wet season begins in March and ends around the beginning of September. There are few destructive storms but the ground swells are heavy. The average annual temperature is 79° and the average annual rainfall is 52 inches.

5. Industries. The population is mainly engaged in trade dealing with coffee, sugar and cotton. The northeast is Brazil's main sugar-producing area.

6. Transportation. Buses, streetcars and taxis are available. Streetcar transportation is inexpensive, but comparatively slow and uncomfortable. Taxis charge by the zone system, and it is advisable to agree on a price before leaving.

7. Mail. Arrangements have been made for handling of U.S. mail during our visit. Five to 14 days are required for transit of air mail to the United States. Surface mail can take up to two months to reach the States.

8. Tours and Points of Interest. The best way to see Recife is on a tour. Specific tours available during our visit will be announced upon arrival. Olinda, a sea-side resort and the area's old capital, is five miles to the north and is served by buses. It contains many old Dutch churches, some of which have become convents and monasteries. Of particular interest are the Prefeitura, once the palace of the viceroys, the monastery of Sao Bento (paintings, sculpture, furniture), the monastery of Sao Francisco (splendid woodcarvings and paintings) and the colonial public fountains, the Bica de Sao Pedro. There are also some splendid 17th Century houses with latticed balconies, heavy doors and pink stucco walls.

9. Beaches. There are two beaches which afford good sea bathing, both about five miles from town. One is at Boa Viagem, a residential area south of the city. The other at Olinda. The latter has bath houses with facilities for changing clothes and showering.

10. Restaurants. If meals are taken ashore--which is not recommended -- it is preferable to patronize the restaurants of the Hotels Grande or Guararapes. The Casimiro, the Leite and the 31 also may be patronized.

RIO DE JANEIRO

1. General. Rio de Janeiro, the largest city of Brazil, and its former capital, is considered by many to be one of the most beautiful and cosmopolitan cities in the world. It has a population of just over 3,000,000, larger than Philadelphia. The city is on the southern shore of a land-locked harbor 15 miles long and two to 10 miles wide. The city's beauty is enhanced by the aquamarine sea and the rolling green mountains which surround it.

2. What to see. The best known of the mountains in Rio are Sugar Loaf (1,230 ft.) and Corcovado, (2,300 ft.), which is topped by a gigantic figure of Christ the Redeemer. Both afford spectacular views and can be reached by cable car and funicular respectively. The Copacabana beach and residential district is also a "must" for the visitor. It is characterized by a serpentine mosaic sidewalk along the waterfront. There are several museums worthy of note, including the National Museum in the Quinta de Boa Vista, a huge park. A list of available tours will be promulgated upon arrival.

3. Restaurants. Most of the hotel restaurants are good. The Copacabana Palace, Bife de Ouro and Excelsior restaurants are considered to be Rio's finest. For French cuisine, try La Cremaillere and Le Bec Fin. For Italian food, Al Pappagallo and Cantina Sorrento are recommended. For barbecued meats, visit the Churrascaria Gaucha and Recreo. The Restaurante Meshia serves fine food and has a magnificent view of Sugar Loaf and the Rio Harbor. Albatroz has wonderful seafood, Brazilian style.

4. Night Life. Socha's is the swankiest Copacabana club. Au Bon Gourmet is a good first-class night club. Hotel clubs include: The Stadium at Excelsior, Midnight Room at Copacabana, Beguin at La Gloria, Night and Day at Serrador. The latter has an excellent Brazilian floor show. There is usually a cover charge. Better known small clubs include: Scotch Bar, Club 36, Michel's and Maxim's.

5. Hotels. At Copacabana the Copacabana Palace, Trocadero, Excelsior, Miremar and California all enjoy a magnificent ocean view. The Gloria, closer to town, is the best of the older hotels and has been thoroughly modernized. The view of the harbor from the Gloria is magnificent. Rates are from about \$8.00.

6. Where to buy. H. Stern (several stores), for set and un-set precious stones. Casa Anglo-Americana (Rua da Assembleia 73), antiques and Portuguese silver. Imperial (Rua Goncalves Dias 56), hand made blouses and lingerie. Henrique Liberal & Cia., excellent antiques and wood carvings. Casa Hugo (Rua Buenos Aires), curios and souvenirs. Perfumarias Carneiro (Ouvidor 103), for French perfumes. Beware of sidewalk perfume peddlers.

7. Visit. Task Force 86 will visit Rio de Janeiro from 6 September through 9 September. It should be noted that Brazil's Independence Day falls on 7 September and will be appropriately observed by Task Force 86. A detailed schedule of events will be promulgated later.

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