(C/O) This IR reflects source's skepticism over allegations that torture is commonplace within Brazil's security system. He gave a specific example of a propaganda gimmick currently being used by Minas Gerais terrorists.

I urged him to dedicate particular attention to the proliferation of torture reports abroad. He has discussed the subject frequently with me since then,
and has furnished seemingly candid reports on his findings. In general, he feels confident that security officials can face up to the allegations with a clear conscience. While recognizing the likely existence of an occasional case of police strong-arm tactics in dealing with deadly terrorists, he avows that most "torture" stories are pure fabrications. Moreover, he pointed out that many such exaggerations have been traced to the government's political enemies; to the associates and relatives of terrorists caught in the act of deadly or destructive violence, or to supporters of Sino-Soviet-Cuban objectives. He recognized that some individuals of noble purpose worried over the "torture" stories as a natural reaction to anything judged by them as even remotely offensive to human dignity.

3. (S/STR) Minas Gerais State ( ) was the source of a widely-circulated bogus "torture" tale. The terminology of the wild account of sexual abuse of "gentle ladies and mothers" betrays the ideological motivation of its authors. He cited such expressions as "imperialism", "anti-national", and "oligarchies" to illustrate his point. Moreover, he pointed out that the propaganda document also lists military officers by name as the alleged "torturers", but that a careful check of the Brazilian Army register shows that the first two officers listed do not exist. Finally, some of the females listed have in fact been placed in Minas Gerais police custody, but that they were far from "sweet young ladies". All had long records of active terrorism, murder, armed robbery, and involvement in sex orgies and drug addiction.

COMMENT: (S/STR) capable of addressing the "torture" issue with an open mind and a minimum of emotion. He is hard at work to promote direct dialogue on the matter between his chiefs and accredited foreign correspondents in Brazil. As a first step, he will receive journalists himself to discuss the allegations.