

UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL
15 February 1985

BRASILIA, BRAZIL

A Roman Catholic bishops' report Friday accused the CIA of infiltrating Protestant religious sects in Brazil "to further the interests of the U.S." and "undercut the progressive Catholic Church."

The report, prepared by a committee of Brazil's Catholic Bishops Association, said the Central Intelligence Agency "has given its support to groups which are fundamentalist and which are violently anti-communist."

It said CIA infiltration was an effort "to further the interests of the U.S." and "undercut the progressive Catholic Church of Brazil," adding, "the problem is very serious and demands a close investigation by the Church."

A U.S. Embassy spokesman said, "The U.S. government has no interest in stimulating creation of religious sects, of any kind, in Latin America".

Brazil, with 130 million inhabitants, 90 percent of whom profess to being Catholic, is the largest predominantly Catholic nation in the world.