

Gunmen Kidnap U.S. Envoy in Brazil

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Elbrick Taken From His Car on Street in Rio by Two Guerrilla Bands

By JOSEPH NOVITSKI
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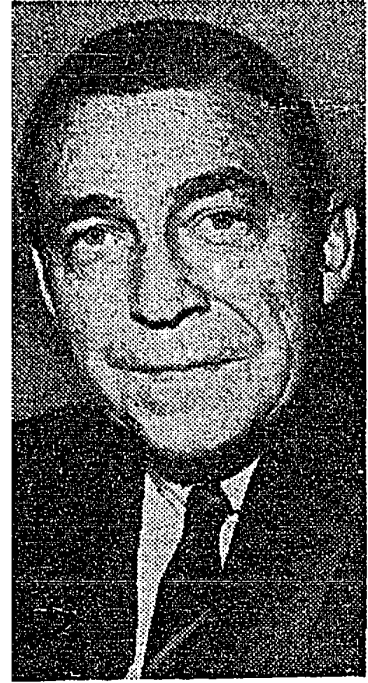
RIO DE JANEIRO, Friday, Sept. 5—The United States Ambassador, C. Burke Elbrick, was kidnapped yesterday at gunpoint on a street in Rio de Janeiro.

Mr. Elbrick, a 61-year-old career diplomat, was forced out of his limousine on a residential street several blocks from the embassy residence shortly before 2 P.M.

The kidnapers, four men armed with pistols, according to official accounts, left behind a three-page manifesto containing two demands. They threatened to kill the Ambassador if the demands were not met within 48 hours.

The manifesto was signed by two of the clandestine urban guerrilla groups that have been running a well-planned terrorist campaign in Brazil's two leading cities, São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro.

The kidnapers' first demand was for 15 unnamed political prisoners to be released and flown by special plane to po-



Associated Press
C. Burke Elbrick

litical exile in Chile, Algeria or Mexico. The second demand was that the full text of the anti-Government manifesto that accompanied the demands be made public for printing and transmission in censored Brazilian newspapers and through the country's radio and television stations.

After a meeting late into the night, the Brazilian National Security Council headed by the

Note Threatens His Life Unless Brazil Frees 15 Political Prisoners

three military ministers governing the country authorized newspapers to print the text. The ministers are acting for the stricken President, Arthur da Costa e Silva. It was not known whether the Government had agreed to release 15 prisoners.

"The life and death of Mr. Ambassador are in the hands of the dictatorship," the manifesto said. "If it answers two demands Mr. Burke Elbrick will be freed. In the opposite case, we will be obliged to carry out revolutionary justice."

The manifesto was signed by two groups: the Ação Libertadora Nacional, or National Liberating Action, and the Movimento Revolucionario 8 de Outubro, or the Revolutionary Movement of the 8th of October. The first group has been identified by Brazilian authorities as being led by Carlos Marighella, a 58-year-old veteran Communist who was expelled from the peaceful Brazilian Communist party last year when his plans for violent revolution became known.

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Gunmen in Brazil Kidnap U.S. Envoy; Death Warning Is Left

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The Brazilian Navy announced in July that it had broken up the second group and had arrested at least 31 of its predominantly youthful members.

The two groups have similar tactics and aims within the framework of the new urban guerrilla campaigns that have been springing up recently in Uruguay, Chile, Argentina and Brazil. The groups took credit in the manifesto, read in full late last night over Rio de Janeiro's television and radio stations, for having robbed banks to fill the revolutionary war chest for having attacked army installations and police stations for arms, and for bombings.

"In fact, the kidnapping of the Ambassador is only one more act of the revolutionary war which develops every day and which this year will start its phase of rural guerrilla warfare," the manifesto said. The document ended with the phrase: "Now it is an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth."

The Brazilian Government, through Foreign Minister José de Magalhães Pinto, called the kidnapping "an act of pure and simple terrorism."

A spokesman for the embassy said the Ambassador, who arrived in Brazil on July 8 and presented his credentials on the 14th, had been taken away in a Volkswagen panel truck by his kidnapers. It was believed that the tall, dark-haired career diplomat had been anesthetized, perhaps with chloroform, before he was placed in the truck.

An embassy spokesman gave this account of the incident:

At 1:50 P.M., as the ambassador was being driven back to his office by his Brazilian chauffeur, Custodio Abel da Silva, a long-time embassy employe, the gunmen got out of a small car, believed to be a Volkswagen, ahead of the ambassador's Cadillac.

They climbed into the limousine, disabled its radio-telephone and forced the chauffeur to drive up a side street leading to one of Rio's numerous quiet hillside residential districts. There, men carried the Ambassador to the waiting Volkswagen truck and drove off.

They left the driver unharmed. Embassy sources said the driver had been interrogated by security personnel. They said that Mrs. Elbrick was still in the residence on Rua São Clemente.

Kidnappers' Cars Found

Late in the afternoon, Brazilian authorities said the two cars used by the kidnapers had been found. They said the Volkswagen truck had no license plates and that they were tracing those on the Volkswagen sedan, although they believe them to be counterfeit.

According to Brazilian authorities, at least 10 terrorist groups have been engaged in urban guerrilla operations in Brazil since the beginning of this year.

According to the accounts given by the Brazilian authorities, the M.R.8 group was founded last year in Niteroi, Rio de Janeiro's sister city across Guanabara Bay. The Brazilian Navy announced on July 25 that it had arrested 27 members of the group and effectively broken it up.

Since then, according to intelligence sources, 11 other members have been arrested and one youth committed suicide by leaping from an apartment window. Twenty-three known members of the M.R.8 group, according to these sources, are still believed to be at large.

The tactic of political kidnapping has been used before by urban terrorists in Venezuela and, more recently, in Uruguay, but not within recent memory in Brazil.

Brazilian intelligence sources consider the group led by Mr. Marighella as the most dangerous of the urban guerrilla bands. The M.R. 8 group, financed by three bank robberies this year and the embezzlement by a middle-aged member who was on the staff of the Bank of Brazil, had not

been rated as highly competent.

Its long-range plan, as disclosed by the prisoners being held here pending trial by military courts, was to finance a rural guerrilla operation beginning perhaps in the southern state of Paraná. The arrest of some members of the group in Cascavel, in that state, led Brazilian Navy intelligence to the others.

Terrorist activity in Rio de Janeiro has been on the wane since the arrests of the M.R. 8 members and the breakup of another group made up largely of former military men expelled from the armed forces for political activity. Terrorism has continued, however, in São Paulo.