

Centro de Estudos Bahianos

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UM DEPOIMENTO DIPLOMÁTICO

(Correspondência de Consul Americano
1821 — 1825)

Publicação

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SALVADOR - BAHIA

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CORRESPONDENCIA DO CONSUL AMERICANO NA BAHIA - 1821-1825

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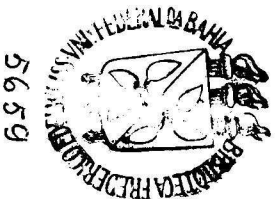
A série de documentos que, nesta coleção, vem editando o "Centro de Estudos Baianos", acrescentam-se os que adiante vão transcritos, relativos, todos, à história da Independência do Brasil, principalmente às lutas na Bahia.

Em rigor, não merecem o qualificativo de inéditos, tanto quanto, em outra oportunidade já tenham sido postos em letra de fôrma. As circunstâncias, todavia, da primeira publicação autorizam a que a eles nos refiramos, senão como a desconhecidos, pelo menos como de restrito conhecimento entre os que se dedicam ao estudo da nossa história.

Em 1925, a "Division of International Law", da "Carnegie Endowment for International Peace" (Washington), editorou, em seleção organizada por William R. Manning Ph. D. diplomata e, na época, ligado à Divisão de Assuntos Latino-Americanos do Departamento de Estado, uma série de documentos que recebeu a denominação de *Diplomatic correspondence of the United States concerning the independence of Latin American Nations*. Trata-se de uma coletânea que a sistemática dos editores consagrou ao Direito Internacional mas que, na realidade, lá se encontra deslocada, constituindo um precioso repositório de documentação coeva dos movimentos libertários, de muito maior utilidade seja para os estudiosos de história que, nela, vão encontrar elementos para julgar e aquilatar da participação da interferência e do ponto de vista dos Estados Unidos no emancipacionismo latino-americano.

No que respeita ao Brasil, a coletânea de Manning compõe-se de cento e oito documentos; correspondência do "State Department" que, de Washington, fiel às razões doutrinárias de que Monroe seria o arauto e ainda, antevendo as possibilidades de liderança econômico-política, em benefício desses mesmos princípios, vigilante, acompanhava o desenrolar dos acontecimentos.

E' uma correspondência que abrange largo período. Vai dos primeiros anos de fixação da Córte Portuguesa na sua nova sede, que a beligerância do Grande Corso obrigara a procurar, até 1829, pleno reinado de D. Pedro I. A primeira carta datada de 23—7—1810 da série que comentamos, é dum velho soldado da Guerra



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de Secção, Thomas Sumter Junior, que interrompera sua carreira parlamentar nas casas do legislativo *yankee* para ocupar o posto de Ministro dos Estados Unidos junto à Corte Portuguesa no Brasil. A última, dando ao Secretário de Estado, Henry Clay, notícias foi escrita em 18 de abril de 1829 e firmada pelo "Chargé d'Affaires", William Tudor.

Como vemos, um largo período da nossa história política e dos mais fecundos em episódios marcantes e de repercussão. O Brasil — Reino; a volta de D. João para Portugal; a fermentação do separatismo e suas consequências; atividades dos que sondavam as possibilidades do reconhecimento diplomático do Brasil independente por parte nas nações estrangeiras; o Sete de Setembro; o Fico; a luta na Bahia; os primeiros e politicamente instáveis anos do Brasil-Nação, enfim toda a nossa vida política durante cerca de 20 anos lá está contada e analisada.

Do ponto de vista objetivo — adições de novos fatos e nomes ligados à emancipação política, pouco acrescenta a coleção Manning ao que, à farta, já está consignado pelos autores e pesquisadores patricios. Em verdade, é a fase da Independência daquelas cuja documentação tem sido mais largamente divulgada. Os períodos especializados e os historiadores que se ocuparam do assunto — e não vai mal uma lembrança do saudoso mestre Braz do Amaral — e revolveram e trouxeram a lume uma grande cópia de textos que, se ainda não encontraram um tratamento crítico digno do assunto a que se referem, deram margem a que fatos e episódios, às vezes de secundária importância, fôsem narrados e conhecidos até a minúcia.

Outro é o mérito da documentação a que nos referimos e da qual escolhemos as peças que adiante vão transcritas. Possibilita, a nós brasileiros, a análise do ponto de vista de quem, encarando o assunto de um prisma absolutamente diverso do que o vimos nos dias de 1822-23 e, ainda hoje, o fazemos, por um sentimento patriótico, aliás muito razoável, enseja-nos observar como refletem na atitude política da pátria de Lincoln, em relação ao Brasil, o seu movimento libertário e as acomodações políticas que se seguiram à emancipação.

Vale ressaltar os juízos interpretativos curiosos dos que, daqui observando, mantinham o "State Department" em permanente ciência dos acontecimentos. Interpretações, às vezes, não muito ao gosto do nosso orgulho, todavia sempre feitas por aqueles que, embora patricios do Jefferson que, ainda no século XVIII entreteve nas românticas ruínas de Nîmes uma entrevistista com José Joaquim da Maia, objetivam sempre o assunto, vendo-o do ângulo das

suas conveniências e interesses. Informações e comentários que os autores jamais pensaram que a história documental, como hoje a entendemos, viesse a ter por eles, interesse que os desentranhasse dos maços de assuntos findos, revertem-se de uma deliciosa sinceridade, sobremodo valiosa ao pesquisador moderno.

A correspondência diplomática sempre foi dos maiores auxílios que teria o historiador, na sua tarefa.

Assim pois, reputamos de maior valia a coletânea de documentos que a Carnegie Endowment publicou, já vai um quarto de século. Hesitamos mesmo na escolha dos que deveriam ser trazidos ao estudo e debate deste Centro. São documentos de maior ou menor interesse; todos, porém trazendo a sua contribuição para a nossa história. Recomendável, seria a republicação do texto inglês e da tradução de toda a série num livro de Hildebrando Acioli e Alberto Rangel enriqueceram a nossa história. Não está, todavia, ainda e esperamos que logo esteja — nas possibilidades do Centro, uma publicação dessa natureza. Assim, pois acreditando que, na escolha fomos fiéis aos objetivos e principais propósitos do C. E. B., selecionamos as cartas que foram expedidas, ou tiveram como destinatário os representantes consulares dos Estados Unidos na Bahia, principalmente Woodbridge Odlin, que por largo tempo aqui exercem funções diplomáticas.

DOCUMENTÁRIO

Charles G. Weiss, Acting Consul of the United States at Bahia, to John Quincy Adams, Secretary of State of the United States.

Bahia, January 12, 1821.

Your Excellency will be no doubt acquainted with the late occurrences in Portugal, which cannot fail to have great influence on the tranquillity of this Country. The decision of the King respecting the proposals made as to a Constitution &c. is not yet precisely known, but it is rumoured and pretty generally credited, that he is not in favour of any alteration. Whatever this decision may be, some alteration must & will take place here and this perhaps may lead to some disturbances, but I have great pleasure in adding that there is no doubt that the person as well as the property of foreigners will under all circumstances be protected.

Mr. Graham having as I understand left Rio de Janeiro some time ago, & being quite ignorant of his present Residence I beg leave to enclose two letters I received some time ago for that Gentleman.

I have the honour (etc.).

Manning, William R.
Diplomatic Correspondence
Vol. II Doc. 342 pag. 708

Woodbridge Odlin, United States Consul at San Salvador (Bahia) to John Quincy Adams, Secretary of State Of the United States.

San Salvador, February 18, 1821.

For some time past there have been Suppositions that there Existed a disposition in the inhabitants of these Sections of Brazils-to bring about a Change in the former Government, which event took place on the morning of Saturday the 11th Inst. mounted Cavalry was discovered in many parts of the City proclaiming-live the Constitution-they were joined by a large concourse of the inhabitants who joined the Same Cause-the day was in some respects tumultuous but order was restored before night and the new Constitution Proclaimed generally-the Patriots. It seems had Possessed themselves of many strong posts before the Constitution was proclaimed-the Governor it is reported ordered General Felisburtis who was highest in Command and the first Marshal to the King to dispossess the Patriots of one of their post he accordingly advanced at the head of a Considerable Force but was obliged to retreat with the Loss of a Field Officer and 15 or 20 Privates more or Less I Cannot Find out Correctly-the Governor and Marshal has Since Sailed for Rio de Janeiro in a British Sloop of War, order, tranquillity and Confidence appears to be restored — The Portuguese in an event of this Importance have Certainly Set an example for other Nations by Avoiding discord & Injury-preparations are making to defend the place they have taken sundry fast Sailing Merchant's Vessels they also have a frigate and Sloop of War on the Stocks which could be in service in 4 weeks-the government is offered money sufficient for their expense it Said by the inhabitants this Constitution is Considered to be on the Same principle as at Portugal now they wait Impatiently to know the result of the Decision of the King which cannot be expected until about 30 to 40 days from this in the event

of his being ready to give It. Many times the Portuguese vessels have a Passage from Rio to this City 20 to 30 days —

I am (etc.).

Manning, William R.
Diplomatic Correspondence
Vol. II, Doc. 344 pag. 709

Woodbridge Odlin, United States Consul at San Salvador (Bahia), to John Quincy Adams, Secretary of State of the United States.

San Salvador, March 14, 1821.

I also informed you of a Change which took place Respecting this government The 11th Ultimo-all is quiet Since merchants are liberal in Supporting the new government with money and they appear to be determined to defend themselves If the King does not Sign the new Constitution which is the prevailing opinion he will — It is expected they will obtain the decision of the King Very Soon on the Subject —

We have information from Pernambuco Stating they have brought about the Same Change There in the government.

With High respect I am (etc.).

Woodbridge Odlin, United States Consul at San Salvador (Bahia), to John Quincy Adams, Secretary of State of the United States.

San Salvador, March 31, 1821.

Sir: This day arrived an English Vessel From Pernambuco which brings dispatches—it is reported-to this government taken from a frigate which had arrived there from Rio de Janeiro with the Official information That the King had agreed to sign the New Constitution. This news appears to be Confirmed by a rejoicing which has taken Place this day by fire of Cannon from forts and Vessel in the Harbour.

Woodbridge Odlin, United States Consul at San Salvador (Bahia), to John Quincy Adams, Secretary of State of the United States.

San Salvador, April 14, 1821.

Sir: Late confirmation has been received here from Rio de Janeiro that the King had consented to Swear to Support the new Constitution they are daily in Celebration by Illuminations and firing of Cannon here —

Manning, William R.
Diplomatic Correspondence
Vol. II, Doc. 345, pages. 710 e 711

Woodbridge Odlin, United States Consul at San Salvador (Bahia), to John Quincy Adams, Secretary of State of the United States.

San Salvador, October 6, 1821.

Sir: I have the honour to inform you that I have received a letter dated the 24 Ultimo from James H. Bessett the American Consul at Pernambuco, in which he observes that the patriots, have made an attempt, and who are still continuing their operations, in order to effect an entrance into this City, there is not any business doing Our Supply of flour is about 2000 barrels but none Selling on the 21st there was an engagement between the Patriots and Royalists near Olindo in which many of the Patriots were killed, wounded, and taken prisoners—the Royalists sustained but little injury, only 4 killed, the force of the Patriots is not precisely Known—they are all armed except with Artillery—and appear determined, Mr. Bennett thinks, they cannot Succeed in taking the City—I have also received a letter from Mr. Joseph Roy dated Pernambuco 26 ultimo, in said letter he observes—there is only one American vessel in port, the Brig Edward of Salem Capt Whitterage—I have he States Sold his Flour—which averages it \$500 pr barrel, sales are difficult to effect owing to the disturbed State of the Country—for some time past a force has been Collecting at Guiana about 16 Leagues to the Northward composed of People of that Country, and deserters from this Place, said to amount to 6 or 8,000 men and have been within 4 leagues of this City—Several Skirmishes have taken place already, with The Advanced guards—these revolvers say They are not hostile, to their King or Constitution, they require the present governor and his Battalion Sent out of the Country, the Governor has ordered Martial

Law, and every Portuguese Able to bear arms Called into the Service—many families have embarked on Board Vessels in the harbour, with money and other Valuable effects for safety—Information has also been received, that an english and french Frigate are in the harbour Pernambuco, 3 to 400 troops have been Sent from here Since this Information in a frigate to assist the Royalists—It is reported that about 1200 troops, are expected from Lisbon to their assistance, all is very Quiet in this Province Sailed for Lisbon, in an armed vessel—I have made Inquiry of masters of many American vessels from Rio de Janeiro, Some of which having taken dispatches from you, they inform me, to Mr. Appleton they say he has been absent some time from Rio.

Ob. cit. pag. 123

Woodbridge Odlin, United States Consul at San Salvador (Bahia), to John Quincy Adams, Secretary of State of the United States.

San Salvador, December 8, 1822.

Sir: My last report of the II Ultimo I had the Honour of forwarding you, was by the Brig Curlew Capt Willis via Boston, Since then the army continue skirmishing and the Brazilians approach nearer the City—we have it not in our power to ascertain the number lives lost there being no official Statement made known—the Hospitals have very considerable number of the wounded in them—there being so many different Reports any statement would probably be Erroneous. I enclose you a Copy of two Communications—one from the Heads of the Brazilian Government of this province and the other from their General who commands Brazilian Army out Side This City—a Negro man left at my office at different times—when he came with a letter from General he left one at my office for the British Consul—I immediately made known to the Americans in this port the contents of Such part as was Interesting to them in the General Letter—the English Consul—Very soon after receiving his Communication called on General Madeira as I understood and made known to him the contents of said communication—which I considered improper for me to do without being requested by General Madeira. The British Consul also Called a meeting of the English Merchants in this port they are now embarking their Property on board Vessels to remain until the result is known between the contending Armies—I did not receive the General Communication until 4 days after it was dated. Since then I have understood the french Consul

has Rec'd a Similar one from the General—the British have a frigate in port under command of Commodore Hardy the same Gentleman who commanded on our Coast the late war, & he has also a Sloop of War a Waiting to know the result The french have also a frigate—the portuguese have a 74 Gun Ship a new frigate & Sloop of War & some armed merchant vessels in Government Service, flour has been Very abundant here & the price about 8 to 9 milreis a barrel—a Vessel has been brought in under the new Flag—bound to Pernambuco—I have not understood what the Government intend to do with her. It is reported that she will be condemned—It is the first under the Brazilian flag which has made its appearance here that I have heard of—

Very respectfully (etc.).

Ob. cit. pag. 153

Condy Rague, United States Consul at Rio de Janeiro, to Wood-bridge Odlin, United States Consul at San Salvador (Bahia).

Rio de Janeiro, May 20, 1825.

Dear Sir: An Embargo was laid on 17th Inst at this Port, on all vessels bound to the Southward, in consequence of intelligence on that day received from Monte Video as late as the 10th Inst, announcing that a body of Troops under the command of Marshall Fructoso Rebelro, had taken up arms against the Imperial Government, and had driven General Lecor, within the walls of that Town. We are without any particulars, but I give you this notice for the government of American vessels which may be bound to the River Plate.

I am very Respectfully (etc.).

Manning, William R.
Diplomatic Correspondence
Vol. II, Doc. 407 pag. 818