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TO : DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF
INTER AMERICAN AFFAIRS
APR 30 1963

FROM : Amembassy RIO DE JANEIRO

DATE: April 25, 1963

SUBJECT : Luncheon Conversation with Evandro Lins e Silva

REF : ①

Title - no action
ARIA: LA/BR
RS Burton 4/30/63

On Wednesday, April 24, Evandro Lins e Silva, presently Head of the Casa Civil of the Presidency of the Republic, lunched alone with me in Brasilia. It would be impossible to describe the entire conversation, which lasted for three hours and ranged over a very wide field. Topics included political philosophy, the organization of the Civil Household, tax reform, internal divisions within the Labor Party, Government policy on legislation for wage increases for military and civil servants, the meaning of "economic colonialism" and of the much used and abused term "Brazilian economic emancipation," the role of foreign private enterprise in Brazilian development, the terms of trade on Brazilian exports and imports, and our respective professional autobiographies. Evandro was extremely affable throughout this conversation, which ended at four p.m. only because of my appointment with Diogo Gaspar, the recently appointed Head of the Technical Advisory Group in the Presidency. Evandro expressed a desire for further informal exchanges of views at a convenient opportunity.

As the Department knows, Evandro Lins has had a long record of association with Communist Party causes and has been the outstanding criminal lawyer defending Communist Party members in various cases during the last twenty years. I mentioned at one point in our conversation that he had a reputation as a Marxist. He acknowledged the reputation, but said that it was unfounded and classified himself as a "progressive liberal." Whether or not he was candid in this

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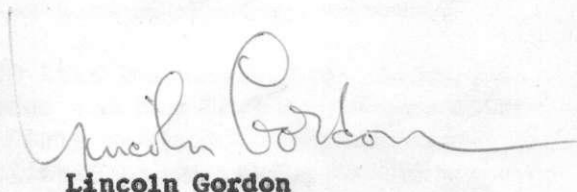
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classification remains to be seen, but his declared positions on various specific issues raised in the conversation were indeed far from the Communist Party line and far from the line taken by extreme nationalists in Brazil. Evandro repeatedly expressed strong support for the anti-inflationary program being led by San Tiago Dantas, stating that he had dropped out of the Presidential party now in Chile mainly because of the need to stay in Brasilia to lobby against efforts in Congress to break the line on public servant wage increase limits proposed by the Government. He strongly endorsed the importance of foreign business participation in Brazilian economic development as being essential to the technical progress of Brazilian industry and to further economic development on a sound basis. He decried the extremism of the nationalist parliamentary front groups in Congress and their allies outside.

He stated that his association with Goulart was of relatively recent origin, and that he felt somewhat misplaced as a central figure in the national political scene. He had been invited to accompany Goulart on the trip to Communist China and other way stations immediately prior to Quadros' resignation in 1961, and had come to know Goulart well only during that trip. He had reluctantly accepted the appointment as Attorney General last year, but did so partly because it was directly in line with his professional interest as a criminal lawyer. He was now having to learn about a wide variety of economic and other issues, on which he did not have any specialized background, and his present position also involves substantial personal financial sacrifice.

The only issue I raised which he avoided discussing -- possibly as a result of misunderstanding -- was the problem of agrarian reform in the sugar estates of the Northeast. Apart from this, he discussed the many topics with intelligence and at least apparent candor. If he was putting on an act, he was doing it very well.


Lincoln Gordon

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