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1. São Paulo quiet but worried.

News of the September 12 sergeants' revolt in Brasília shocked and surprised Paulistas, many of whom spent the day

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close to their radios. There were reports of agitation among locally stationed Air Force noncoms and members of the State militarized police. Sergeant GARCIA Filho, a leftist Federal Deputy, came to town and saw some sergeants. One Army sergeant and two Communist union leaders were arrested for distributing subversive pamphlets in favor of the Brasília revolt, but most of the sergeant's colleagues were reportedly quiet. Business went on as usual, though with some "scare buying" of gasoline and food. On the surface, the general public was scarcely affected.

With the exception of known Communists or extreme leftists, politicians and press strongly disapproved of the uprising. The Communists were universally accused of being involved, and President GOULART got a share of the blame. Several politicians and one newspaper implied that he had actually instigated the revolt; others said only that he had created a "climate of disorder" favorable to lawlessness. Leftist, Goulart-leaning daily Ultima Hora put it another way, deprecating "the explosive atmosphere in which the nation has lived since the resignation of Jânio QUADROS...." Even after the situation seemed well under control, disquieting rumors continued in rapid circulation. Businessmen were concerned with the economic impact of the disturbance. Finance Minister CARVALHO PINTO, talking to them, ~~admitted that his plans had suffered another blow.~~ Governor Adhemar de BARROS made frequent statements expressing grave concern with the degeneration of the national political scene. He criticized President Goulart strongly, continuing the line of unconcealed opposition that began with the previous week's general strike in Santos (Weekly Summary of September 13).
(UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: The atmosphere in São Paulo is the most disturbed it has been since ex-Governor Carvalho Pinto accepted the Finance Ministry (Weekly Summary of June 29). In private, however, many observers think that the sergeants' rebellion may have useful results, making the dangers of leftist subversion clear to the general public and pushing the evasive President closer to a responsible definition. Local observers believe that a military investigation of the revolt will make the extreme left squirm, whether or not it establishes that a Communist finger was on the trigger. As the Consulate General reported (Weekly Summary of February 8), the Communists had become openly identified with the sergeants' cause, which they were unusually successful in exploiting. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

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2. Adhemar's candidacy in the open.

Speaking to a crowd in a small São Paulo town, Governor Adhemar de Barros said that "It is up to the people to decide whether or not I should be a candidate for the presidency" (quotation from his own newspaper mouthpiece). There are few doubts that he will find the people's verdict favorable.

Obviously encouraged by the reaction to his measures against the Santos strikers and refusal to receive President Tito (last Weekly Summary), Adhemar has adopted a more militantly conservative campaign line. It currently resembles in substance, if not in style, that of Guanabara Governor LACERDA. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

Comment: Adhemar is undoubtedly concerned by the formal candidacy of Juscelino KUBITSCHKE (item 3) as well as by the growth of Lacerda's strength. Governor Barros' apparent new tactic is, first, to get his own candidacy in the spotlight by admitting his ambitions; second, to adopt a strong "campaign" line rather than the conciliatory "administrative" approach used until recently. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

3. Juscelino Kubitschek on campaign.

On the latest of his almost weekly campaign visits to São Paulo, Juscelino Kubitschek's approach had changed just a little bit. He inaugurated a local headquarters for his campaign, now formally in process. He had a new way around the prickly question of agrarian reform. It was calculated to sound "progressive" without alienating the grass roots of the São Paulo PSD, which tend to be violently opposed to land expropriation. Juscelino said that he favored a whole "agrarian reformulation" rather than just "agrarian reform." He promised to spell out the "reformulation" later. For the time being, he implied that it would have many measures of interest to the whole rural community. Retreating from earlier statements, he refused to take a stand in favor of the constitutional amendment for land expropriation.

His line on the United States, long critical, also had a new twist. He praised President Kennedy, reportedly calling him a "great statesman," but found nothing good to say about the rest of the U.S. Kennedy, said Kubitschek, was only a "voice in the desert."

Many São Paulo newspapers opined that Juscelino was rushing things a bit by campaigning so openly two years before the elections. (UNCLASSIFIED)

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Comment: The line is new in ornamentation, not substance, but the changes seem to make it distinctly stronger. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

4. "Democratic action" group becomes "semipublic."

On September 11, a large advertisement on the front page of conservative Estado de S. Paulo announced the program of a "democratic action" group called "O Quarteirão" (meaning "The city Block," though it is to function also in the rural zones). It claimed to be a "defensive," "semipublic," "civic entity" for "mutual assistance." The motto is "Resist! React! Rise Again!" against the "common enemy: the Communists." For these purposes, the country is to be divided successively into smaller and smaller defensive districts, most of them with Roman-sounding names and chiefs. The names of the members are evidently not to be made public. The leaders sign themselves "Pater Bento Antão," "Frã Bento Pedro," etc.

The announcement asked all other "non-Communist" papers to reproduce it free of charge. To date, however, not one other paper has done so. More surprisingly, there has been no editorial reaction whatever, even from the left. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: The Consulate General has long known of the existence of a secret, rightist "democratic action" group organized along cell lines (Airgram A-404 of June 29). One of its leaders is retired Army General Menna BARRETO. Many important figures are probably in touch with it, including active members of the military and Governor Adhemar de Barros. Many Paulistas known to officers of the Consulate General have joined, often without a clear idea of what they were getting into. Some of them say that this group is the same as the new, "semipublic" Quarteirão; others that it is not. The Consulate General guesses that there is a definite connection.

The new announcement was not impressive. In addition to being conspiratorial and faintly ridiculous in itself, it did not arouse the considerable open interest that might have been expected. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

5. Russian ship takes South Americans to Cuba.

According to press reports, the Russian liner "Nadezhda Krupskaya" has docked at the port of Santos to pick up South American passengers for a trip to Cuba. Many are said to be

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Brazilian, Argentine, and Chilean architects bound for a professional meeting in Havana. The ship is reported to be the first Russian passenger vessel to stop in Brazil. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: The unfortunate Paulista participation in the Havana architects' congress has been treated separately (Airgram 55 of August 23). The precedent-setting Russian passenger service seems equally undesirable. The press has played it for much less than its news value.

Details have been reported through other channels. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

6. Bishops undercut Brasil Urgente.

The following notice was published in the press: "The Central Commission of the National Conference of the Roman Catholic Bishops of Brazil declares that the newspaper Brasil Urgente is not a part of the Catholic press, nor is everything published by that paper approved." The notice was signed by Archbishop CAMARA of Rio de Janeiro in the name of the Central Commission, of which São Paulo Archbishop MOTTA is also a member. The São Paulo Archbishop has made no personal statement, though Brasil Urgente has frequently published declarations of his support. The newspaper has been the mouthpiece of the left-wing Catholic Church movement centered in São Paulo. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: This will hopefully be a real blow to Brasil Urgente, which has probably been much more useful to the Communist cause than official Communist paper Novos Rumos itself. There has lately been a strong movement against the left-wing Church movement, with some reports that the reaction has the direct approval of the Vatican. There are indications that the radical wing of the Christian Democratic Party is also feeling the pinch. Archbishop Motta is in an uncomfortable position. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

7. Goulart distributes land to small farmers in Mato Grosso.

According to press reports, President Goulart gave land titles to 2,500 small farmers in Dourados, Mato Grosso, on September 16. In his speech, he praised the Dourados experience in glowing terms, using it as an example to prove that agrarian reform does work.

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On the following day, the newspaper Estado de S. Paulo contradicted Goulart emphatically (São Paulo Airgram 81 of September 18). The newspaper claimed that the Dourados experiment had been a total flop. Goulart's gesture was characterized as a demagogic attempt to misrepresent the fiasco for his own ends. (UNCLASSIFIED)

8. Local PTB still friendly with Adhemar.

The PTB bench in the State Legislative Assembly politely refused to join Adhemar de Barros' Government last week, declining the proffered Labor post in the State Cabinet (Weekly Summary of August 30). In this, the Deputies were undoubtedly acting under direct orders from President Goulart. But many of them could not face an open break with the Governor and the consequent loss of political patronage. While turning down the Cabinet job, therefore, they assured Adhemar of their continued interest in "collaborating" with him. Result: neither Adhemar nor Goulart can be very happy, but neither has an excuse for punishment. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

Comment: A maneuver to arouse the envy even of the PSD, the PTB's empirical sister party. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

9. Brizola grumbles about Jango's Government.

Leonel BRIZOLA, who has not been seen much in São Paulo of late, was particularly evasive during a September 11-13 visit. According to reports in a number of papers, however, he did express displeasure with the way brother-in-law Goulart was running the country. If it were up to him, said Brizola, the administration would be more "aggressive" in the "field of reforms." He thought that the Government had no "serious plan or program." In other respects as well, his criticisms occasionally sounded curiously like those of the conservative opposition to the national Government. Brizola repeated his usual criticisms of "international exploitation." He paid a visit on ex-President Jânio Quadros. (UNCLASSIFIED)

10. New paper on the stands.

A Nação ("The Nation"), a newspaper in tabloid form, appeared on São Paulo newsstands September 11. It has two daily editions, one of them reportedly with national distribution. Its owner is said to be Mário SIMONSEN of the Simonsen industrial group. The paper has reasonably good printing, format, and reporting. (UNCLASSIFIED)

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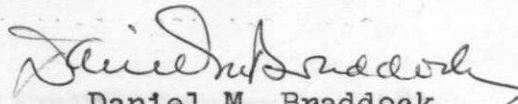
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Comment: This was earlier supposed to be a Janista paper, to replace the extinct A Hora. When it appeared, however, its orientation was not noticeably pro-Quadros. Even prior to its appearance, there had been rumors of a Quadros/Simonsen disagreement. Simonsen, a first-class opportunist, may very well eventually support the politician making the best offer. It does not seem likely that the new paper will be anything but a money-losing proposition on the surface. For the time being, its orientation is only pro-Simonsen and perhaps a bit left of center. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

11. Labor-business-political group hopes to draw Goulart away from Communists.

São Paulo labor leaders from the rival anti-Communist Democratic Union Movement (MSD) and the non-Communist Workers Union Movement (UST) met on September 13 at the UST's initiative to discuss a joint action program (see Weekly Summary of September 13). The principal item in this program and the subject of continuing talk between the two groups is an alliance of São Paulo democratic labor, industrialists, and politicians for the purpose of inducing President Goulart to define himself politically and reject collaboration with the Communists. Political coordinator of the proposed alliance is reportedly Otávio MARIA, PR Federal Deputy Suplente close to Goulart. Current plans call for a visit to Goulart on September 22 by a delegation of businessmen, politicians, and MSD and UST leaders. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

Comment: Recent significant curtailment of financial support for the MSD and UST by IPES and the Federal Government respectively has contributed to the two mutually antagonistic groups drawing a bit closer together, if only to cry on each other's shoulder. However, a MSD-UST merger or close alliance does not appear imminent. MSD leaders are privately pessimistic over chances that Goulart will in fact break long-standing working arrangements with the Communists. The key role given Otávio Maria, regarded by most local observers as a very shady politician and arch-opportunist among opportunists, would not seem to augur well for the proposed alliance. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)


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