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Department of State

Amembassy BRASILIA Office

October 1, 1963

Conversation with Flavio Tavares, Ultima Hora Columnist

*Please return to Ryan*

**DISTR:**  
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Enclosed is a memorandum of conversation with Flavio Tavares, Brasilia columnist of Ultima Hora, a leftist daily published in Rio, Sao Paulo, Curitiba, Porto Alegre and Recife. Tavares said 1) the Partido Comunista do Brasil (CPB)--the "Chinese" party-- rather than the Frente Parlamentar Nacionalista was the chief instigating force behind the sergeants revolt; 2) no agrarian reform amendment will pass, chiefly because the PSD has become more and more opposed to it; 3) President Goulart has an exaggerated fear of Carlos Lacerda; 4) General Peri Bevilacqua will be eased out of his position in 1-2 months; 5) the key figures of the PTB in the Chamber are Almino Afonso, Bocaiuva Cunha and Temperani Pereira.

For the Chargé d'Affaires (a.i.):

*Robert W. Dean*  
 Robert W. Dean  
 Counselor of Embassy

Enclosure:  
Memorandum of  
Conversation

GROUP 1

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*[initials]* Robert W. Dean/JKeppel

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Enclosure 1  
Page 1  
Airgram A-26  
Brasilia Office

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

September 28, 1963

PARTICIPANTS: Flavio Tavares,  
Brasilia Political Columnist,  
Ultima Hora

Mr. Harry Weiner, Political Officer

PLACE: Mr. Weiner's Apartment

SUBJECT: Current Situation

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Tavares is about 30 years old and has had his present job for six months, having been promoted from the Porto Alegre regional edition. He is a former officer of UNE. He is a far leftist but probably not a Communist. His column is carried five times a week in all regional editions of Ultima Hora.

In the course of a dinner conversation, Tavares made the following observations:

The Sergeants' Revolt: His room at the Hotel Nacional is close to that of Frente Parlamentar Nacionalist Deputies Max da Costa Santos (PSB-Guanabara) and Artur Lima Cavalcante (PTB-Pernambuco). When the shooting started in the early morning of September 12, within view from their windows, it was obvious that these deputies were taken completely by surprise and did not know what was happening. One of them said the fight/<sup>was</sup> probably between the Air Force and the Navy over the embarked aviation controversy. Tavares saw Neiva Moreira (PSP-Maranh o) within a short time after the outbreak and he too had been taken by surprise but was intent on taking part "whatever the issues were".

Tavares said he later learned that the sergeants had been organized by members of the Partido Comunista do Brasil (CPB) -- the "Chinese" Communist Party.

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Enclosure 1  
Page 2  
Airgram A-26  
Brasilia Office

Agrarian Reform: He said that despite the optimistic tone he has been taking in his column, he doubts that any agrarian reform amendment can pass, including the so-called "ministerial amendment" now in preparation. The basic reason for this is that opposition to Goulart in the PSD is growing daily, and even PSD leaders like Martins Rodrigues do not really want agrarian reform since they are convinced that such a reform would destroy PSD political power in rural areas. The only chance for passage is for the PTB to capitulate and accept a watered-down PSD amendment. Such capitulation is doubtful.

President Goulart: He has known Goulart for some time, since they are both gauchos. He sees him a couple of times a week in Brasilia. Goulart has become more and more pre-occupied with the possibility of a golpe against him, particularly one instigated by Carlos Lacerda. Goulart has an exaggerated fear of Lacerda's ability to topple Goulart from the Presidency.

General Peri Bevilacqua: An officer on the War Minister's staff told him that Peri would be eased out in 1-2 months.

The PTB: The PTB in the Chamber of Deputies now has three leading figures of about equal stature: 1) Almino Afonso (Amazonas)-he is principally an orator, probably the best in the Chamber; 2) Bocaiuva Cunha (Rio de Janeiro)-once considered merely a follower of Almino, he has shown himself, as PTB floor leader, to be far more able than Almino in organizing the party and in dealing with other parties. He is a poor orator. Of the three, he is the least radical; 3) Temperani Pereira (Rio Grande do Sul)-the "brains" of the grupo compacto and the most radical of the three. He is not a member of the Communist Party only because he feels he is smarter than Luis Carlos Prestes (CP boss). He considers the sergeants revolt a stupid adventure which hurt the Left by making the Centrists fearful of what can happen in Brazil if the Left grows stronger.

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