

Department of State

*A. J. W.*

Ambassy, BRASILIA Office

October 21, 1964

Civil Household Chief on UDN Convention, Agrarian Reform and Other Current Issues

DIST  
POL (5)  
AMB  
DCM  
POL/R  
Belem  
Belo H.  
Curitiba  
P. Alegre  
Salvador  
Recife  
São Paulo  
Brasilia(5)  
CF (2)  
ECON (2)  
MINECON

At a luncheon held at the Ambassador's apartment at Brasilia yesterday, Minister Luis Viana Filho, Chief of the President's Civil Household, spoke out on several current political issues. On the UDN party convention to be held in Brasilia early next month he stated his belief that Carlos Lacerda would have great difficulty in getting the convention to name him the UDN candidate for the presidency. On agrarian reform he said the government's proposed constitutional amendment would be sent to Congress this week and the land statute bill next week. He foresaw no great difficulty in their passage. Concerning the recent charges of corruption or malpractice against Chamber President Mazzilli and Senate President Moura Andrade, Minister Viana tended to downgrade the importance of the charges against these two men, attributing them largely to ill-advised press statements by military men in charge of such investigations in Sao Paulo. The Minister said that the recent imprisonment of certain state deputies in Ceara on similar charges had been blown out of proportion by the press treatment received. He expected the government's bill reforming student organizations in Brazil to pass through Congress without any particular difficulty.

*pol - Mazzilli*

For the Charge d'Affairs ad interim:

Robert W. Dean  
Counselor of Embassy

Enclosure

Memo of Conversation GROUP-3  
Downgraded at 3-year intervals,  
not automatically declassified.  
CONFIDENTIAL

*LB*  
POL/Dean:LBowden:sm

*JK*  
John Keppel

CONFIDENTIAL

Airgram A-76  
Page 1  
Enclosure 1  
Brasilia Office

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

Participants: Minister Luis Viana Filho, Chief of Civil Household  
Secretary José Wamberto, Press Secretary to President  
Castello Branco  
Robert W. Dean, Counselor of Embassy  
Henry B. Ryan, USIS Brasilia  
Lewis W. Bowden, Second Secretary

Place: Ambassador's Apartment, American Embassy, Brasilia

Date: October 20, 1964

Subject: Civil Household Chief on UDN Convention, Agrarian Reform and  
Other Current Issues

-----

At lunch today, Minister Luis Viana made these observations of interest on the following topics:

(1) UDN Convention: Governor Carlos Lacerda will have great difficulty in getting the convention (now scheduled for November 7 and 8) to name him the UDN candidate for the presidency. Moreover, the new Electoral Law being drafted by the executive branch of the government might well invalidate any such nomination. It seems rather silly for a presidential candidate to want to be nominated two years ahead of the elections, since it makes him a target for critics to shoot at over a long period of time. It is difficult to say whether or not Carlos Lacerda would become an outspoken opponent of the government were he actually to capture the nomination at the upcoming convention. The Minister was purposefully vague in dealing with this point.

(2) Agrarian Reform. The proposed constitutional amendment related to the Land Statute (which provides for issuance of public bonds to compensate owners of expropriated property) is being sent to Congress today. It was released to the press on October 20 but sent to Congress on October 21. The draft Land Statute itself will be sent to Congress next week and action will be requested under Article 4 of the Ato Institucional, or within 30 days. Passage of the measure is expected without any major difficulties. The UDN has now been largely brought about to favor it through the acceptance of changes in the previous draft. It is not anticipated that the PTB will be able to reverse its former position and obstruct the modified bill (as it has publicly threatened to do) because such a tactic now would hold the party up to public ridicule, given its known position favoring land reform.

*JWC*  
CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND 53155

CONFIDENTIAL

Airgram A-76  
Page 2  
Enclosure 1  
Brasilia Office

(3) Mazzilli Case. The case against Chamber President Manieri Mazzilli who has been implicated in a Military Police Inquiry now underway in São Paulo, has been exaggerated and prematurely exposed to the public eye largely through the fault of Marshal Taurino Rezende, former head of such investigations. Although the Marshal was released by the President when Taurino's own son came under investigation for subversion, he appointed people to the IPM's in São Paulo while in office who still reflect his incompetence and his precipitate manner of doing business. It was a normal thing for Mazzilli, a politician, to make appointments where possible and later to accept contributions to his campaign. The implication of Senate President, Auro Moura Andrade, in the same kind of affair came about as a result of his son's involvement in certain activities in São Paulo. Viana gave the clear impression of defending Mazzilli, and Auro as well, though he never pronounced one way or the other on the charges made against the two. He implied that the Presidency had not been consulted by the military officers carrying out the investigations in São Paulo before the latter made their declarations to the press containing charges against the two congressional figures.7

(4) Ceará Happenings. The recent arrest of five state congressmen in Fortaleza by the Army and the subsequent cancellation of their mandates by the State Assembly were blown up out of all proportion by the press. In particular the news media distorted the relationship between the local commander, General Fernandes and the federal government. The general is not the kind of man to disobey an order from up the line and he did not do so in this case.

(5) Higher School Student Organs. The government bill designed to reform Brazilian student organizations with a view to making and keeping them representative and democratic has now been reported out of the joint congressional committee without significant change. It is expected that the bill will be voted through in plenary without substantial alteration and without any particular difficulty. It is true that a few congressional and student tempers have become heated over the bill, but these do not constitute a real obstacle to its passage. There have been a few student protests over the wording of the bill but these were largely from elements who were formerly tools of the communists in the student movement. Last point was contributed by Secretary Umberto.7

*gal*  
*107*  
RMB:lan:LDowden:sm

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND 53155