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1. In early October two meetings of Brazilian Communist Party (PCB) members were held in the State of Minas Gerais to discuss Communist activities in the Clube Militar and in the armed forces(1). The first of these meetings was held in Juiz de Fora in the office of Party leader Tomaz Bernardino(2). Among those present was a Communist named Olavo(3), who had just returned from Rio and who reported on his conversations with important Communists and with several active and reserve Army officials.
2. Olavo had discussed the question of the Revista do Clube Militar(1) with the latter group and stated that all believed that the pro-Communist officers who elected War Minister Newton Estillac Leal president of the club would be victorious in the Revista controversy. This group of Army officials is working hard, with the apparent sympathy of General Leal, for the passage of the Amnesty Law(4), which would provide amnesty and all seniority rights for military personnel who were dismissed from the Army for their political beliefs (i.e., Communism) after the 1935 Communist revolution. Olavo was quoted as having added that the Revista controversy had been exploited by the enemies of Communism, but that General Leal's group, whom he called the patriots of Prestes, was well entrenched and realized that a victory in the Amnesty Law issue would force the passage of other laws favorable to the Communists.
3. Olavo stated that in order to create confusion, the Communist press was going to publish a series of attacks on General Leal, but that Party members themselves should not take this seriously since the General was favorably considered by the PCB.
4. At the other Communist meeting, which was also held in Juiz de Fora at the home of State Party leader Milton Fernandes(5), a speech was made by Jacy Pacheco, who reported that the Minister of War was consulting the other ministers and various Army officers concerning the Amnesty Law, and that it was hoped that complete and unrestricted amnesty would be granted. After another Communist in attendance, Reginaldo Guimaraes, had called attention to a recent attack on General Leal published by a Party newspaper in Sao Paulo, Pacheco explained that this was merely a means of creating confusion and that the PCB National Committee had ordered that the War Minister be attacked by some Communist news organs and defended by others.

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5. Towards the end of the meeting Communist Walter Moreira (6) severely criticized the commander of the Second Military Region for having closed the Associação dos Sargentos (Sergeants' Association) and urged all those present at the meeting to make every effort to infiltrate the lower ranks of the Army in order to further the Party's struggle against the government and the military leaders.

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Comments:

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(1) [redacted] after conversations with various military leaders, reported in September that the atmosphere of unrest prevailing in the armed forces, particularly in the Army, was attributable to the two following principal factors: a) the controversial political orientation of the publication Revista do Clube Militar and b) the Amnesty Law, both of which were under debate in Congress. Attempts to settle the discord, which was inducing many Clube Militar leaders to side with the Revista and was splitting the Army into two apparently opposing camps, were reportedly directed by Generals Canrobert Pereira da Costa, Alcides Etchegoen, Cordeiro Farias, Eduardo Gomes, and Salvador Cesar Obino. Opposition to the Amnesty Law became so bitter in military circles that Army Chief of Staff General Pedro Aurelio de Góes Monteiro stated that, if the law were passed, he would have the Congress dissolved. The following were the predominant criticisms made of the law by Army officials:

- a. It would be unfair to those with years of active Army service who were about to be promoted.
- b. How could the armed forces pay homage annually to the Communists who died in the Communist revolution of 1935 as Party members do now.
- c. How could there be any justification for the passage of Law #1257 of 9 December 1950, which would promote all officers and men of the First (States of Rio de Janeiro, Espírito Santo, and the Federal District) and Seventh (State of Pernambuco) Military Regions who fought in the Communist revolution.

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- (3) Possibly identical with Clavo Jardim Campos, Communist student agitator. [redacted]
- (4) Passage of this law would mean that Luiz Carlos Prestes and other Communists would become generals in the Army.

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