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Brazilian Senior Military Officers Oppose Military Accord With U.S., Role In Anti-drug Activities

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According to the May 27 issue of the weekly Relatorio Reservado, senior officers in the army, air force and navy are opposed to a new military agreement with the US. Citing unidentified military sources, the Relatorio added that the officers' opposition makes finalizing such an agreement practically impossible when President Fernando Collor de Mello visits the US in June. During a hearing before the Chamber of Deputies defense committee, Navy Minister Adm. Mario Cezar Flores said, "There is no possibility of a military agreement similar to the one signed with the United States in 1952, nor are we interested in...redefining the role of the armed forces in the sense of fighting the drug traffic, and protecting the environment." An unidentified senior officer told the Relatorio that the US wants to carry out maneuvers in the Brazilian Amazon region, but Brazilian military officers are not agreeable. The 1952 bilateral accord was denounced in 1977 by then-president Gen. Ernesto Geisel, result of criticisms by the Carter administration against the military regime's human rights abuses.

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