

The Complaint of Costa Gomes¹ by Guy Debord²

Mr. de Carvalho gave me a letter
Perhaps I will read it
If he allows me the time

He wants me to conclude the proletarian question
History and its mysteries
Before Wednesday evening

General Carvalho, I cannot do it
I am a soldier
Not very intelligent

No one is a better revolutionary than me
If the task is slight
I would like to see you do it

I have already seen chased away, so many owners
Generals, mayors
And governments

I have seen entire factories escape from us
The navy
And so many regiments

Without Vasco, without Cunhal, we would no longer have on Earth
Either protectors, or fathers
In the depths of our torments

Almost everywhere class society is changing
The austere bureaucrat
Remains its lone defender

Who could better slow down the workers' offensive
With three ministries
And lying newspapers?

¹ A former military officer and, from 30 September 1974 to 14 July 1976, the President of Portugal.

² "La Complainte de Costa Gomes," written 19 August 1975. To be sung to the tune of "The Deserter" by Boris Vian. Published in *Guy Debord Correspondance*, Vol 5: Janvier 1973-Décembre 1978 (Librairie Arthème Fayard, 2005). Translated by Bill Brown and uploaded to the NOT BORED! website (notbored.org) in 2007.

If you don't like it, ask Neves
What soldiers are left for him
And how many priests?

And say frankly that even if we move quickly
It will be close
And we will have to shoot!