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Brisk black market in book that lampoons Portugal's President

From Jill Jolliffe
in Lisbon

A new black market item is competing with Portugal's beloved bacalhau (cod-fish) in Lisbon shops — a lampoon of President Antonio Ramalho Eanes which has been banned by the Government.

When bacalhau is scarce Lisbonese often sidle up to the corner grocer and ask for it under the counter. Now they are asking instead for right-wing cartoonist Augusto Cid's Eanito the Unmoveable, a satire depicting the President as an intrepid torreador doing battle with Portugal's political parties.

Released here last week, most of the 10,000 copies of the book were sold the same day, so that police were only able to confiscate a few hundred, and some canny shopkeepers retrieved copies for illicit sale.

An earlier Cid satire of President Eanes, Superman, was seized in July. The price for black market copies was recently reported to have risen from the original £2 to £15.

After the seizure of Superman the author was notified to appear in court charged with "abusing liberty of the press" and "insulting and irrepara-

ably damaging" the reputation of the President, but no date has yet been set.

Augusto Cid says he is puzzled by the ban, which he regarded as a rigid constitutionalist who never acts without consulting the radical 1976 constitution. In the cartoon he appears to be consulting it for sexual guidance. "This sort of joke is hard to take in the machismo military world in

which Eanes moves," Cid comments.

The new book presents a passing parade of Portuguese politicians. As a young boy, Eanito yearns to be a bull-fighter. He finds a teacher in Miro (defeatist office holder Melo Antunes), who instructs him in the art of left passes. He is counselled, too, by "Conhal" (Communist Party Secretary Alvaro Cunhal) who promises a long and glorious career if he takes his advice.

He later recruits "Marito" (Socialist leader Mario Soares) to his team, but they fall out and Eanito is forced to sack him. He then elevates Pintasilgo (Prime Minister Maria de Lourdes Pintassilgo) to assist in the bullring, but disaster befalls after she reveals her "pacote" — a double entendre which refers, on the one hand, to wages and prices packets presented by governments, but also means backside. The Prime Minister is shown baring her backside to a horrified crowd, as Socialist Prime Minister Mario Soares had earlier displayed his "pacote." The team disintegrates soon afterwards, and the torreador Eanito is dunked in the Tagus river by an irate citizenry.

● Cover of Cid's satire seized by police



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