

1967

## The Play within the Play

B. M. Truitt  
*U.S. Navy*

Hernane Tavares de Sa

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review>

---

### Recommended Citation

Truitt, B. M. and Tavares de Sa, Hernane (1967) "The Play within the Play," *Naval War College Review*: Vol. 20 : No. 4 , Article 13.  
Available at: <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review/vol20/iss4/13>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at U.S. Naval War College Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Naval War College Review by an authorized editor of U.S. Naval War College Digital Commons. For more information, please contact [repository.inquiries@usnwc.edu](mailto:repository.inquiries@usnwc.edu).

legislative body which provides the limited resources that the decision maker must allocate among many competing requirements. The scope of the analysis and the extent of the time frame considered are large enough to offer adequate support to the conclusions. For anyone interested in future expansion of the planning, programming, and budgeting system into other than executive branches of the government, this work provides valuable and authentic background material.

R.A. YOUNG  
Commander, U.S. Navy

Tavares de Sa, Hernane. *The Play within the Play*.  
New York: Knopf, 1966. 309p.

"An institution which is at one and the same time intimately immersed in world events and yet primarily self-contained--truly a play within the play," is the way Hernane Tavares de Sa describes the United Nations, and he terms *The Play within the Play* "the inside story of the UN." A Brazilian journalist and editor, Mr. Tavares de Sa came to the UN in 1960 at the invitation of Dag Hammarskjold to head the UN Information Services and remained until 1965. The author has organized his material as if it actually were a play. In his *plot* he reviews the internal organization and examines key issues that were of past and are of continuing interest to the UN. His *cast* includes the "angels" who support the UN financially and who, as a result, wield considerable power inside the organization, and the *players* who include all others directly or indirectly associated with the organization, from the Secretary General to wives and UN visitors. His *stage* is the "Glass House on East River" and the other UN capital in Geneva. The *rehearsals* describe certain aspirations of the UN as well as specialized agencies functioning within the organization. In the *world premier*, Mr. Tavares de Sa critically analyzes, from the standpoint of the UN, the Hungarian revolt, the Congo and Cuban situations, and Vietnam.

Because of its highly critical nature, from the standpoint of individuals, groups, and procedures, the book may well have received a cool official reception in the UN. However, it probably still is being avidly discussed in the delegates' lounges and coffee bars. It does afford Americans the rare opportunity of

## **PROFESSIONAL READING**

viewing themselves through the eyes of a representative of another country. Throughout his orientation, he has focused attention on the influence of the United States in the UN, thus establishing an additional "play" within the play. In observing this more specific performance, the reader does not always feel pride in the decisions made or the positions taken; however, he should experience a strong desire to understand better the intricacies of this complicated organization.

B.M. TRUITT  
Commander, U.S. Navy