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June 1, 1970

General Garrastazu Medici
President, Republic of Brazil
Brasilia

Dear President Medici:

The case of Dr. Caio Prado Junior has come to our attention, and we write respectfully to request information about the precise charges against him and whether an appeal was lodged in his case. We understand that Dr. Prado is being held at Presidio Tiradentes, Sao Paulo, on charges of inciting subversion of the political and social order during an interview of August 1967, on his book, "The Brazilian Revolution."

Inasmuch as the study of Marxism is not against Brazilian law, and since Dr. Prado's book on "the Brazilian Revolution" in fact argued strongly against prevailing "ultra left" tactics, we believe that Dr. Prado is a prisoner of conscience. We define the latter as someone who is imprisoned for his political or religious beliefs without having committed or advocated acts of violence.

In view of the delicate relations between Brazil and the United States, we question the wisdom of the handling of Dr. Prado's case. On humanitarian grounds we appeal for just treatment of Dr. Prado, whose historical works are well known and much admired in this country. The harsh treatment of prisoners, with numerous instances of torture, has already begun to receive considerable attention in the United States press, and undoubtedly will receive far more if not soon rectified.

As your Excellency is perhaps aware, Amnesty International is a non-political organization working for justice for prisoners of conscience in all countries, on both sides of the iron curtain.

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AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
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RIVERSIDE GROUP
New York, N.Y. 10014
We have consultative status with the United Nations and Council of Europe, and have had occasion to bring cases of injustice before the Commission on Human Rights, as well as to the attention of the press.

We await your early reply.

Sincerely

James P. Harrison
James P. Harrison

Ivan Morris
Ivan Morris

Riverside Group
Amnesty International

cc:

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