

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

OF THE U.S.A.

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Dear Consul General,

30th May 1970

In our efforts to obtain information about the fate of Father Antonio Lopes d'Almeida, who was adopted by our Group as a Prisoner of Conscience in October 1969 we wrote numerous letters of enquiry to the proper authorities in Rio de Janeiro and also to the Brazilian representatives in this country. I regret to say that we received not a single answer to any of these letters. This is very unusual in our experience, since most governments in the world have always replied fairly promptly to enquiries from Amnesty International.

Our Group now has under adoption a further prisoner of conscience in Brazil, the well-known historian and writer, Dr. Caio Prado Junior. In view of our failure to obtain any reply to our numerous requests for information from the Brazilian authorities in the previous case and in view of the appalling situation of thousands of prisoners of conscience now incarcerated in Brazil, our Group has decided to organize a peaceful demonstration outside the offices at 634 Fifth Avenue on Saturday, 13th June. At this time we shall distribute leaflets calling the attention of the American public to the treatment of prisoners of conscience in Brazil and in particular to the widespread use of torture in Brazilian prisons. The New York Police Department has been notified about this proposed demonstration. I may add that we have conducted several successful demonstrations in the past in protest against the ill-treatment and detention of prisoners of conscience in the Soviet Union, Greece, South Africa, and other countries. I am very sorry that it now becomes necessary to add Brazil to this list.

The Chairman of Amnesty International of the U.S.A., Mr. Mark Benenson, will try to obtain an appointment so that we may meet you some time before the 13th to discuss the situation of Dr. Prado and other prisoners of conscience in your country.

Professor Ivan Morris, B.A., Ph.D., D.Lit.

Yours faithfully,

Ivan Morris

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