

# EX-U.S. AIDE JOINS PROTEST TO BRAZIL

## Gordon and Other Experts Assail Faculty Purges

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WASHINGTON, May 31—A former high State Department official once closely identified with United States support for the military-dominated Government in Brazil has joined American professors in a written protest against recent faculty purges in Brazilian universities. The document was cabled to Arthur da Costa e Silva, President of Brazil, today.

The former United States official is Lincoln Gordon, now president of Johns Hopkins University, who served from 1961 to 1966 as Ambassador to Brazil and until early 1967 as Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs. He is one of 78 American specialists in the field of Latin-American studies who signed the cablegram. It was one of two such protests circulated at more than 20 colleges and universities in the United States and sent to Brazil this weekend with a total of more than 300 signatures.

"My objection to the removal of the professors is part of my general feeling of grave concern over the arbitrary use of power in Brazil since December," Dr. Gordon said in a telephone interview.

Last Dec. 13, President Costa e Silva, a retired army marshal, dismissed the Brazilian Congress and assumed the right to rule by decree.

Since December, there have been reports from Brazil of widespread arrests and press censorship designed to silence opposition to the Government. A month ago, by presidential decree, 68 professors were involuntarily retired without explanation from the country's two largest universities.

Dr. Gordon's first public protest over the course of events in Brazil is viewed here as a personal echo of a slow change in United States policy toward Brazil that has been going on since the former Harvard economist left the embassy in Rio de Janeiro.

### **Personified U.S. Support**

United States officials say the policy of drawing back from close identification with Brazilian Governments since 1964 began under John W. Tuthill, Dr. Gordon's successor, and has accelerated since last December.

For many Brazilian politicians and political observers, Dr. Gordon personified thorough United States support for the austere reformist government of Humberto Castello Branco, another army marshal, who assumed the presidency after a military-civil revolt toppled President João Goulart in 1964.

Dr. Castello Branco died in 1967. Dr. Gordon's present open opposition to President Castello Branco's successor, Mr. Costa e Silva, would be likely to arouse wide interest in Brazil, but the organizers of the cabled protest said they did not believe the informally censored press would be encouraged to report their cablegrams.

According to reports from Brazil, there has been no press comment on the forced retirement of such internationally known professors as Florestan Fernandes, a sociologist; Isaias Raw, a biochemist; and José Leite Lopes, a physicist.

The same reports said that the 68 professors as a group had no common political denominator, but that all had been interested in the reform of university structures transplanted to Brazil from Europe.

These reforms, according to the reports, are opposed by other professors with personal access to members of the Costa e Silva Government.

The telegram signed by Dr. Gordon was drafted by a committee of the Latin American Studies Association, an academic association with more than 700 members, and signed by Prof. John J. Johnson, chairman of the committee on Latin-American studies at Stanford University, and Prof. Charles Wagley of Columbia University.

It urged President Costa e Silva "immediately to remove the restrictions that your Government has imposed upon scholars and permit them to return to their institutions and to work in a free and open intellectual environment."

The second cablegram was drafted by a committee including Prof. Alex Inkeles of Harvard University and Myron J. Weiner of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. It was signed by 283 scholars at 23 American colleges and universities.