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<b>AIRGRAM</b> A-116 LIMITED OFFICIAL USE			FOR RM USE ONLY			
RM/R	REC	AP	TO : Department of State INFO: BRASILIA, RIO DE JANEIRO FROM : Amconsul SAO PAULO SUBJECT : Situation at the University of São Paulo REF :			
1			RECEIVED DEPARTMENT OF STATE JUN 11 8 29 AM 1969 ANALYSIS BRANCH			
ARA	EUR	FE	DATE: May 29, 1969 DEPARTMENT OF STATE BUREAU OF INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS JUN 13 1969			
NEA	CU	INN	A number of sources have verified that the recent forced retirement of professors at the University of Sao Paulo was motivated to a considerable extent by conservative opposition to planned University reforms. Other motivations were intramural bickering and jealousy, and the antipathy of the "hardliners" to professors of liberal or leftist reputation. Informants assert that extreme right-wing persons such as Minister of Justice Gama e Silva and others who share his views are not anxious to push University reforms; conversely, the professors who were forcibly retired were those most interested in pressing changes. Professor Miguel Reale, right-wing leader at the Law School of the University of São Paulo stated to a ConGen officer: "We could not let them make the changes (i. e. reforms) contemplated." The Acting Rector, Helio Lourenço de Oliveira, and two others on the USP Council were among those retired; informants report all three were reform-minded leaders.			
E	P	IO	Persons who know the character of both past and present acting rectors are also skeptical about the implementation of reforms. Helio Lourenço de Oliveira is generally believed to be "the best rector the University has had in the past twenty years." He was a moderate who was dedicated and interested in reforms, who believed strongly in a dialogue with the students, and who moved rapidly in the field of administration. Informants testify that Oliveira approved papers in a matter of days which previously required weeks or months; he not only was a good administrator himself but infused this spirit in the organization. On the other hand, Acting Rector Alfredo Buzaid is a member of the right-wing "hardliners," a close friend of			
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Minister of Justice Gama e Silva, and one who believes in force to repress the students. Some informants claim he is a member of the Commando of Communist Hunters (CCC). In any event, the ConGen knows that he has personally organized strong-arm squads of right-wing students to combat the leftists, and that he has little rapport with students in general. In addition, he is said to be a notoriously poor administrator.

An American Fulbright professor at the USP recently deplored to the writer the change in rectors and the forced retirement of professors. He fears the University will be seriously disrupted by the GOB's recent actions; further, he believes that the military would like to suppress the School of Sociology and Politics. He claimed the GOB and "the military" had to be careful about cassating professors in engineering and medicine, but that they had no use for studies such as sociology which they consider "subversive." He noted that only one of the professors retired at USP had been a Communist; most of those removed and many others would now go to the United States. Brazilian education could not afford the loss of some of its best professors, nor the damage to the morale of both teachers and students. Another professor in the School of Sociology told a ConGen officer that eight or ten Brazilian military officers were attending classes at his School. While this should be beneficial to the officers concerned, because of their exposure to the professors and other students, it was dangerous for the University, since the officers were making reports to the government. This inhibited the professors greatly--they were fearful of making frank statements, of criticizing the government, or even of having their statements on economic or political subjects misinterpreted.

Observers believe that the removal of the professors will disrupt the University of São Paulo for the next several months, if not years. A number of schools had been hard hit, and professors are not available to teach classes in which many students were enrolled, particularly in philosophy and sociology. While the University reforms will undoubtedly be approved on paper, implementation of changes will depend on motivation and active pressure. Most knowledgeable informants are extremely doubtful that the new Acting Rector and other influential right-wing professors will push the reforms with the necessary vigor. Happily, some areas of the University have been little affected, such as the Instituto de Pesquisas Economicas, the Post Graduate School of Economics, which is being assisted by Vanderbilt University under an AID contract.

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Comment: In the ConGen's opinion, the change of rector and retirement of professors at USP are bound to cause a temporary disruption and to set back efforts for reform. In the present situation it would seem that our assistance efforts should be channeled more and more into the inter-change of professors and into advanced training for professors. As a general rule, the program of sending Brazilian professors to the United States has been highly successful, whereas American professors in Brazil have been less effective for well-known reasons (i. e., lack of language capability, difficulty in acclimating to local conditions, etc.).

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