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### Brazilian Dissident

To the Editor:

Since the overthrow of the legally elected Government of Brazil in 1964, scholars abroad dedicated to the study of Brazil have watched with indignation successive encroachment upon the civil liberties of the Brazilian people. In the past months we have been shocked to learn of systematic efforts to muzzle the press, to silence public criticism at all levels, and to jail or exile those who protest against torture, imprisonment without cause, and suppression of civil rights.

It has now been announced that Caio Prado Jr., historian, philosopher and political figure of international stature, will be brought to trial before a Brazilian military tribunal for political opinions published years ago in a university publication.

In the cause of decency and the defense of the natural right of all men to voice their opinion without fear of imprisonment, we, members of the international community of scholars, protest this act on the part of a military tribunal while simultaneously deploring the inhuman treatment of political dissidents.

We doubt that ever in the history of Brazil has there occurred more systematic, more widespread, and more inhuman treatment of political dissidents.

RICHARD MORSE  
THOMAS SKIDMORE  
STANLEY STEIN  
CHARLES WAGLEY

New York, Feb. 23, 1970

The signers are from Yale, Wisconsin, Princeton and Columbia, respectively, and are specialists on Brazil.