

Consulade Americana  
Rua Padre João Manoel, 20  
São Paulo, SP, BRASIL  
September 7, 1965

Professor José Ferrater Mora  
Department of Philosophy  
Bryn Mawr College  
Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, USA

Dear Dr. Ferrater Mora,

João Cruz Costa, Professor of Philosophy at the University of São Paulo, is known in philosophical and historical circles throughout the Americas as the outstanding contemporary historian of ideas in Brazil. I am certain that you count him as an acquaintance if not a personal friend.

You will be disturbed to learn, then, that an order has been issued for his imprisonment as a "protective measure" for the security of the present national regime. On Friday night, September 4th, the Department of Political and Social Order (DOPS), Brazil's Internal Security Police, was instructed by the Permanent Council of Justice of the Second "Auditório" of the Second Military Region to arrest and imprison Cruz Costa along with one student and three other professors, including the world-renowned physicist, Marie Schenberg. This is the latest in a series of imprisonments, exiles and harassments by which the present "revolutionary" government, under the pre text of anti-communism and anti-subversion, is attempting to suppress opposition by creating an atmosphere of fear and intimidation in intellectual circles.

None of the five had been located by police as of this writing. Meanwhile an appeal signed by 113 artists, architects, art critics and other intellectuals calling for revocation of the order was presented to President Castello Branco in São Paulo Saturday noon on the occasion of the official inauguration of the VIII<sup>o</sup> Bienal de Modern Art. Schenberg, in addition to being an outstanding physicist, is known also as an art critic and was a member of the jury which made the selection for Biennial exhibition.

Castello Branco promised to study the appeal. During his 18 months in office he has developed a reputation for fairness and moderation, frequently having vetoed decisions taken by the "linha dura" (hard-line) of the military brass.

The four professors involved, Cruz Costa, Schemberg, Florestan Fernandes and Fernandes Henrique Cardozo, had been accused of subversive tendencies several months ago but no hearing has been held either for formal presentation of charges or to provide opportunity for defense. No evidence has been presented to support the accusations. The faculty of the School of Philosophy, University of São Paulo, on April 13 memorialized the University's President and Board of Trustees that such threats to professors and students be removed in order that research and study might continue within the atmosphere of freedom so essential to the proper functioning of a university.

To consider Cruz Costa a danger to the present regime is, of course, patently absurd. There is clearly no justification whatever to imprison him. If pressure of world opinion in the name of academic freedom can be brought against such irresponsible and morale-damaging acts of Brasil's military government, then favorable action probably may be expected from Castello Branco. Can we count on your support in this matter? Address a letter or cablegram of protest to

Presidente Castello Branco  
Brasília, Distrito Federal  
Brasil

and please send a copy to me for publication in the Brazilian press. If further information is desired I shall do my best to provide it.

Cordially,



Fred Gillette Sturm  
(Professor of Philosophy,  
Western College;  
Fulbright Professor,  
Brasil, 1965)