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BUREAU OF
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
APR 21 1967

RS/AN
ANALYSIS
APR 14 1967

FROM : Amembassy RIO DE JANEIRO

DATE: April 14, 1967

SUBJECT : JORNAL DO BRASIL Criticizes Constitution on Right to Strike

REF : CEPP D-17, FAM 247 and 412

Commenting on fact that new GOB constitution effected before inauguration of President Costa e Silva prohibits right to strike, JORNAL DO BRASIL April 12 criticized "arrogant and aristocratic manner" of nation toward workers, adding that policy "augurs nothing good for the future."

Paper refers to recent conference by PUC professor Evaristo de Moraes Filho in which he noted that Paragraph 7, Article 157 forbids work stoppages in "essential activities." Paper quotes Moraes Filho as saying such a law can effectively impede any type of strike, except perhaps in "boutiques and beauty salons."

Paper asks "What was the author of the Constitution trying to do?" Was it to put Brazil behind "all democratic nations of the world." Paper says careful re-examination of Paragraph 7, Article 157 by Congress is "indispensable", adding "way it is formulated denies to the workers the most vital of labor rights."

Stating that the "nation faces a grave choice" in the matter, JORNAL DO BRASIL cites "at least one reason for hope", referring to Labor Minister Jarbas Passarinho's "liberal and progressive" policies.

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Clearances: USIS: JWMowinckel - EXEC: FCCarlucchi

Action: ARA/BR-NAN-File

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Paper calls for choice that will "liberate the unions from the monstrous embrace of the Labor Ministry, transforming them into autonomous social forces working for the interests of the workers." "If this doesn't occur, paper foresees unions "eventually liberating themselves by their own hand" with "inevitable leftist motivations."

Concludes JORNAL DO BRASIL: "A society that spurns its workers and maintains them under an unjust tutelage is arming the workers against itself."

COMMENT: Re Para 4--Labor Minister Passarinho used the occasion of the April 9 closing ceremonies of the National Confederation of Industrial Workers Congress to reaffirm his previous public statements favouring free trade unions and his "opposition to left and right wing dictatorships."

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