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Department of State
INFO: Rio de Janeiro, Brasilia

Amconsul São Paulo

Inaccurate Newspaper Report Involving Consulate General.

São Paulo's 2750

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May 29, 1969

At Board of Directors Meeting of American Chamber of Commerce this morning, there was discussion of an article entitled "U. S. Business Finds Brazil Growing Chilly" written by Robert Dietsch, Scripps-Howard Staff/that appeared in the May 9 edition of the Pittsburgh Press. The passage that particularly aroused discussion, and not a little annoyance on the part of most Board Members, is as follows: " Even when the Military turned Brazil into a strict dictatorship in December, business still gave it support. In fact, the American Chamber of Commerce at São Paulo, Brazil's fast-growing industrial center, voted to send President Arthur da Costa e Silva a congratulatory telegram after the government suspended Congress and all constitutional liberties. The U. S. Consulate in São Paulo, however, dissuaded the Chamber. "

So far as the Press Officer and I know, no one at the Consulate General ever talked to Dietsch. We have no idea, therefore, what may have been the source of his allegations. The allegations are untrue.

Mr. Jack Wyant, Representative in Brazil of the Council for Latin America, attended this morning's Board meeting. He informed the Board that Mr. Dietsch had visited him in Rio on April 29 when Mr. Albert Close, Chairman of the São Paulo Chamber's Brazilian-American Relations Committee, happened to be there. Mr. Wyant, incidentally, is Chairman of the Rio Chamber's counterpart committee. Wyant said Dietsch had made a statement on that occasion to him and Close along the lines of his subsequently published assertion. Thereupon Wyant and Mr. Close had both categorically informed Mr. Dietsch that his information was incorrect.

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This report is transmitted for the record and with the recommendation that the Department give consideration to informing Scripps-Howard that its staff writer had reported inaccurately, and one can conclude mischievously or irresponsibly, even after he had been earnestly put straight by persons in a position to know.

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