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Over Journalists' Detention

By ROBERT A. ERLANDSON
[Rio de Janeiro Bureau of The Sun]

Rio de Janeiro, Feb. 10—The president of Chile's National Press Association protested today to the Brazilian government over the continued detention of the publisher and the chief editor of *Correio da Manhã*, one of Rio's largest and most influential dailies.

Previously, Agusti Edwards, president of the Inter-American Press Association and also a Chilean, had announced the possible cancellation of the association's scheduled 1970 convention here because of government suppression of the press.

Brotherhood Call

In a message to President Arthur da Costa e Silva, Lisandro Cenepa Pede, president of the Chilean association, appealed to Mr. Costa e Silva's "democratic spirit" and invoked "traditional Brazilian brotherhood" in requesting release of Mrs. Niomar Moniz Sodre Bittencourt, the publisher, and Osvaldo Peralva, the editor.

They were arrested January 7, the day official censorship was lifted following the government's assumption of dictatorial powers December 13.

Correio da Manhã that day printed a special edition carrying news about the government's action that had been suppressed for 24 days.

Now Under House Arrest

Mrs. Bittencourt first was confined in a military barracks, then was transferred to a military hospital and now is under house arrest at her home.

Mr. Peralva is being held in a military barracks.

Correio da Manhã has continued to publish, but like all Brazilian papers it has been completely subservient to government "guidance" on what it can present.

Although official censors no longer inhabit newsrooms and wire service offices, Brazilian papers are expected to operate under self-censorship, with the threat of seizure and other reprisals ever present.

One Purged Senator

Another journalist, Senator Mario Martins of Rio's *Jornal do Brasil*, was among 30 federal congressmen stripped of their seats when the government issued its third purge list.

ban was imposed, Brazil appointed its delegation to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and, today, the Organization of American States announced the annual conference of the Inter-American Bar Association to be held in Rio in June.

Included on the agenda is a session on "the draft Inter-American convention on human rights and the impact of technological progress on the freedom of thought and expression of ideas."

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