

Brazil progressing—Duarte

by Robin Pilus

Sergio de Queiroz Duarte, first secretary of the Brazilian Embassy in Washington D.C., said "the best way to describe Brazil is an emerging country. We need an international awareness of our ever-growing potentiality."

Duarte spoke to a group of about 20 students Wednesday as a concluding speaker to the Latin American Spring Festival.

Duarte said Brazil has undergone many advances in the past decade. He said the country had controlled inflation, overcome social unrest, started a movement toward modernization and begun an effort to distribute the country's wealth among the citizens.

One major economic advance for Brazil has been export expansion, Duarte said.

"We have broken down the chronic dependence on coffee as our only export," he said. "Twenty years ago it comprized 90 per cent of all exports and now it comprises only 30 per cent."

Duarte said he considered relations between the United States and Brazil to be friendly, very close, and co-operative.

"Historically, there is no cause for Brazil to resent the United States," he said. "Any anti-American feelings are a result of ideological principles rather than historic causes."

Duarte says he believes many countries in the United Nations have concerned themselves mainly with environmental problems, and have somewhat ignored the arms race.

"The whole idea of peace could turn out to

be a tolerable state of tension," he said.

Duarte said Brazil supports a policy of complete international disarmament, although he said he foresees no logical way of it happening.

"Disarmament seems to be an old fashioned idea, she said. "Now all that many consider feasible is arms control."

The Brazilian government appropriates more money toward education than any one other single project, Duarte said.

"There have been great efforts to improve the literacy rate of the country," he said.

Primary education is compulsory but only one-half of the possible school population is attending due to a lack of classroom facilities, he said.

There is little higher education in the country, as "people usually are absorbed in the labor market," Duarte said.

Brazil is striving to create conditions in which it can achieve independence both economically and politically.

Duarte said that as an emerging nation, Brazil is concerned with that emergence.

"We hope that by increasing interest in international life, our own growth will benefit," he said.

Duarte said he believes that economic advances are also crucial to an emerging nation.

"Without economic advantages," he said, "nothing can be achieved but a type of sovereign poverty."

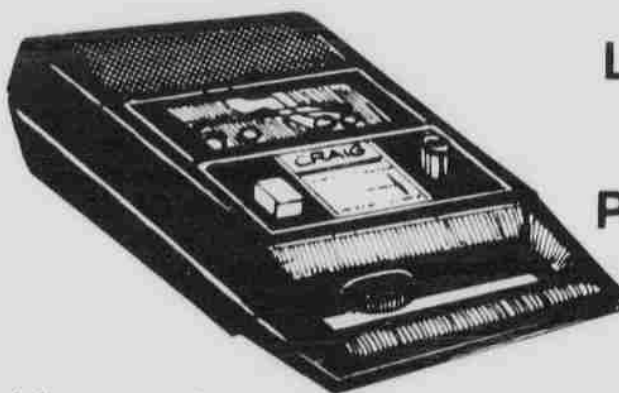


Duarte...Brazil has overcome inflation and social unrest and is trying to distribute wealth.

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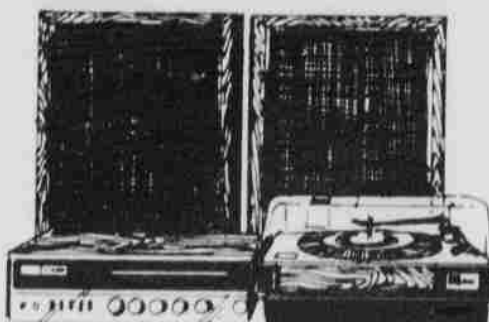
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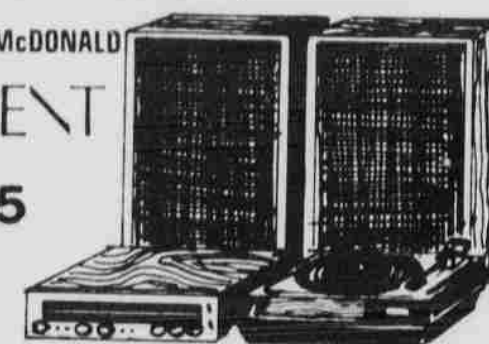
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