

Brazil's Coffee Picture Confused By Ship Unloaders' Strike In U. S.

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RIO DE JANEIRO, October 22—The coffee picture is confused considerably at this time largely due to the fact that the coffee ports of the United States continue to remain closed, or at least no cargo can be landed due to a continuing longshoremen's strike. The Pacific Coast ports are now open again, at least temporarily, but the Atlantic and Gulf ports are not accepting cargoes.

Further, there is still no definite action on the part of the American Congress with respect to the implementation of the International Coffee Agreement, although we have many assurances that the U.S. Customs acts as though Congress had already given complete if temporary approval.

Meanwhile it is interesting to learn that Brazil's President Emilio

G. Medici has accepted an invitation to visit the United States some time before the end of this year. The invitation was extended officially by the U.S. President Richard Nixon.

It is understood that Mr. Medici has been satisfied that a solution is underway with respect to the U.S. continuing its participation in the International Coffee Agreement and that the matter of the fishermen from Florida fishing in Brazilian waters is being ironed out to the mutual satisfaction of the representatives of these two great nations.

Coffee Rust Again

Meanwhile, unfortunately, the matter of coffee-rust has again become a serious problem. In the State of Parana, Brazil's largest coffee district, there are now reported definite traces of the dreaded

plant disease. The possibility that this disease might spread is a matter of great concern to all in the coffee growing industry.

It is reported that a spokesman for the Brazilian Coffee Institute, speaking in Hamburg, stated that it is very likely that coffee prices will rise early next year. It is largely in anticipation of that hoped-for price increase that coffee is now being held off the market here and thereby steady prices are being maintained.

Coffee Sector Surveys

We have been informed that the Executive Director of the Diversification Fund of the International Coffee Organization has approved proposals for projects in several coffee producing countries. Among others, Mr. Alexandre Beltrao is now expected to grant a loan to Brazil for US\$1,980,000 for surveys of the coffee sector and the improvement of statistical techniques. We are also informed that this is one of the smallest loan projects currently being processed, so we can assume that much good will come of all of this, provided that people are not so immature as to expect immediate results from long-term projects.

The Fund was created by virtue of an article of the International Coffee Agreement to help bring the supply of coffee and the demand for it into reasonable balance in order to bring about advances in the economic development of the coffee producing countries. This Fund, it should be noted, is financed by contributions from the coffee producing countries, not the consuming countries, except on a voluntary basis.

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