

## PRESS FREEDOM PLEA IS ISSUED

T.P. 6-7-69

### Edwards Cites Suppression in Cuba, Haiti

The president of the Inter American Press Association has made a plea for its 1,000 members to condemn all governments which attempt to suppress freedom of the press.

Agustin E. Edwards issued the statement in connection with "Freedom of the Press Day" which is being observed Saturday in the Americas.

Edwards said the IAPA board of directors authorized him to issue a "vigorous declaration" in defense of freedom of the press because the Americas are going through one of the most restrictive periods in their history.

Specifically, Edwards called on newspapers and magazines to condemn the governments of Cuba and Haiti for their suppression of freedom of the press.

"We condemn the actions of these governments in the full knowledge that the men in power are often representatives of the armed forces who seized control in the sincere belief that they could serve their countries only in this way," said Edwards.

"They believe also with equal sincerity that they have a right and a duty to select and censor any information made available to their fellow citizens.

"It is our duty equally to combat with all our strength this misguided claim to the possession of truth, which all history has shown will lead to greater outrage and upheaval than any which these governments were formed to prevent."