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SUBJECT

MEMORANDUM

November 29, 1967

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AMERICAN EMBASSY
BRASILIA, BRAZIL

To: Myron B. Kratzer, Assistant General Manager
for International Activities

From: *Robert H. Wilcox*
Robert H. Wilcox, AEC Scientific Representative
Rio de Janeiro

Subject: Activities Report No. 4 for Period November 4 to
November 17, 1967

1. Opening of "Atoms in Action" Exhibit in Quito, Ecuador. The AEC Scientific Representative attended the opening ceremonies for this exhibit on November 6 as well as the press briefing on November 5. The opening was quite successful, and local press, radio and television coverage of the opening were very good. The speech delivered by Assistant General Manager John Vinciguerra in Spanish was well received as was the message from President Johnson, delivered by Chargé d'Affaires John Crowley. Ecuadorian President Otto Arosemena Gómez made a speech in which he applauded the peaceful uses of atomic energy. Dr. Ernesto Grossman represented the Ecuadorian AEC at the ceremonies, which were well attended by officials of all branches of the government and universities.

2. Visit of Mr. John Vinciguerra. Mr. Vinciguerra subsequently visited Rio de Janeiro. A courtesy call was paid to Professor Uriel da Costa Ribeiro at CNEN headquarters. Mr. Vinciguerra also visited the Instituto Brasileiro de Bibliografia e Documentação, an AEC depository library, where it was agreed that there was a space problem. The library is interested in replacing many of its reports with microfiche copies, and this will be the subject of a separate communication. Mr. Vinciguerra also made a brief visit to the Instituto de Engenharia Nuclear.

3. "Atoms in Action" Exhibit for São Paulo in October 1969. Mr. Charles W. Pelzer, Assistant Director for Exhibits of the Division of Technical Information, visited São Paulo and discussed plans for the exhibit with representatives of USIS, the São Paulo Bienal organization, and the Instituto de Energia Atômica. Exhibit plans were also then discussed by Mr. Pelzer with CNEN officials in Rio. The exhibit plans were well received in all quarters, and are expected to move ahead without any unusual problems.

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4. Visit of Commissioner Wilfrid E. Johnson. Commissioner Johnson, accompanied by Gerard F. Helfrich, Technical Assistant to the Commissioner, and Allan T. Dalton, Chief of the DIA Asian-African-Latin American Branch, visited Rio on November 15 and 16. In a luncheon meeting with Minister of Mines and Energy Costa Cavalcanti, CNEN President Uriel da Costa Ribeiro, and CNEN Member Hervásio Guimarães de Carvalho, Brazil's intentions to move into nuclear power were affirmed and its plans to send a team to the U.S. to study Plowshare (in response to our invitation) were clearly stated. The latter is the subject of separate correspondence. Commissioner Johnson's party visited the Instituto de Engenharia Nuclear where Director Mário Donato Amoroso Anastácio expressed interest in an exchange program with Argonne National Laboratory. (Details of this will also be the subject of separate correspondence.) Commissioner Johnson and his group then also visited the Centro Brasileiro de Pesquisas Físicas and the Institute of Physics at the Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro.

5. Raw Materials. Mr. John King completed his trip to the Northeast of Brazil and has sent a report on this to the Division of Raw Materials. Mr. King felt that improvements could be made in the approaches used, and the French supervised efforts did not appear very productive. He also suggested the need for the Brazilian man in charge of helicopter survey work to visit the U.S.

The Minerals Attaché in Rio has learned that the Companhia Brasileira de Metalurgia e Mineração has purchased 20 tons of yellow cake in Spain without safeguards at \$8/lb. This is to be transferred to the CNEN as required by Brazilian law because of the small percentages of thorium in the ore the company is exporting.

6. Revised CNEN Organization Chart. The Brazilian CNEN has issued a new organization chart, and copies will be sent to Mr. Dalton and Mr. Pelzer. Changes to the organization on this new chart are:

a. Prof. Hervásio Guimarães de Carvalho, new Member of the Commission.

b. Dr. Bernhard Gross, Director of a new Department of Scientific and Technological Research.

c. Dr. Milton Campos, Director of the Institute of Radioactive Research (University of Minas Gerais - Belo Horizonte).

d. Dr. Luiz de Oliveira Castro, Vice-Director of the same Institute.

The inclusion of positions c and d on the CNEN chart appears to indicate that the Institute of Radioactive Research is now to be considered as a CNEN laboratory which reports and receives funds from CNEN in the same manner as the Rio and São Paulo institutes. It previously had closer ties to the University and did not appear on previous CNEN organization charts.

7. Newspaper Items - General.

a. Press Conference of President Costa e Silva. The president affirmed Brazil's desire to cooperate with friendly nations in the nuclear field. He indicated that the National Security Council had nearly concluded its work in preparing a recommended nuclear policy for his final decision. He noted that nuclear policy transcends national ambitions and causes debates between interested nations, where Brazil's opinion was being heard. The President stated flatly that the government reserved the exclusive right to the exploration of its reserves of nuclear minerals. (Official transcript of October 27 press conference in Belo Horizonte.)

b. Nuclear Power. Minister of Mines and Energy Costa Cavalcanti confirmed that the first nuclear power plant in Brazil would be of 500 MW size located in the Central-South region and would be operational in 1975. He hoped that studies of the project and preliminary legislation for its implementation would be finished this year. Preliminary studies would be done next year; negotiations and foreign financing in 1969, specifications for the fuel and reactors in 1970, and the station to be operating in 1975. (O Globo, Oct. 28.) At least one member of the Brazilian congress has criticized this schedule as being too slow. (Diário de Notícias, Nov. 14.)

c. Araxá Niobium. Minister Cavalcanti stated that this was not an atomic mineral, but was used as an alloy of steel. He stated its thorium content as 0.15% and uranium as 0.01%. With the difficulty of separation, the company (see 5 above) that finds the niobium acquires uranium in proportional quantity according to the law. (O Globo, Oct. 28.)

d. Congressional "Commission of Inquiry". The Chamber of Deputies has formed an eleven-man committee to investigate the causes of Brazilian backwardness in the nuclear energy field. This action followed the obtaining of 140 parliamentary signatures on a petition. The committee (CPI) will travel to all parts of Brazil where there are radioactive minerals, examine documents, visit research institutions, and listen to testimony by authorities and scientists. Eleven objectives for this Committee were stated in the petition. (Jornal do Brasil, Nov. 11. See also Brasília telegram 1442 of 11-13-67.)

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e. "Atomobrás". The government was reported studying the creation of Atomobrás, a state company like Petrobrás, to handle the problems of nuclear energy. Brazil's rich atomic mineral resources were cited as a reason that Brazil should not fall behind in this field. (O Globo, Oct. 27.) The Justice Commission of the Chamber of Deputies subsequently approved creation of Atomobrás by a 25 to 2 vote. Atomobrás would be charged with achieving the national policy of atomic minerals. (Jornal do Brasil, Nov. 17.)

f. Senator Arnon de Melo. This Brazilian senator stated in London that he thought France, Great Britain, and the U.S. could play an important part in Brazilian atomic development. He also stated that two eminent Brazilian scientists now in France expressed a desire to return to help in Brazil's nuclear program when the conditions were favorable. The conditions pertained not so much to salary as to facilities in which to work. (Jornal do Brasil, Oct. 14.)

g. International Treaties. Brazil reportedly has treaties with Italy, France, the U.S., Israel, Portugal, Paraguay, and Bolivia in peaceful uses of nuclear energy, as well as with the IAEA and Euratom. Awaiting ratification were treaties with Switzerland and Peru. In the coming weeks, additional treaties are expected with the U.K., Spain, Canada, and Ecuador. Conversations toward this end are also going on with Argentina and Chile. (Última Hora, Oct. 26.)

h. CNEN Official Visits U.K. Col. Horácio Antunes Ferreira Junior, Advisor for Planning and Development of the CNEN, reportedly visited Dungeness, Risley, and Winfrith Heath on his way back from the IAEA conference at Vienna. (Brazil Herald.)

i. "Ore Discovery". The discovery of ore containing 3% uranium in Goiás was reportedly of great interest to the CNEN president and the National Security Council. (Jornal do Brasil, Oct. 14.) (Comment: It is doubtful that this "find" is of any significance.)

j. IEN-IPqM Agreement. The Diário Oficial of Nov. 17 includes the text of an agreement between the Instituto de Engenharia Nuclear and the Instituto de Pesquisas da Marinha for cooperation in research activities.

k. BMI Group Visit. A 16-man delegation from Battelle met in Rio to discuss technical, scientific, and economic problems of Latin American nations, particularly of Brazil. (Brazil Herald, Nov. 12.)

l. Reactor Physics Course at IPR Taught by Frenchman. Engr. Antoine Meyer Heine of the Saclay Mathematical Physics Group, is teaching a reactor physics course at the Institute in Belo Horizonte.

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Part of the course is devoted to application to the thorium cycle.
(Agência Nacional, Nov. 6.)

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