

## ROCKEFELLER MISSION

BRAZIL, JUNE 16-19

### WOMEN'S AFFAIRS

#### Background Information for Women's Affairs Advisor Meetings

##### General Situation in Brazil:

The influence of women in Brazilian society has greatly increased in recent years, particularly in the larger Brazilian cities. They teach in the schools and work in offices and factories. Women are in the professions and in the diplomatic service. They are becoming increasingly important and respected in the natural and physical sciences, social sciences, the theatre, the dance, plastic arts, architecture, music and literature. As in the United States, women play a predominant role in the fields of social work, libraries, primary education and nursing. The teaching profession is a primary field of employment for middle-class women; over 90 percent of teachers on the elementary level are women. Comparing the situation of Brazilian women with American women there are several important factors to be noted. With a few exceptions in the upper and middle class, women continue to play a subservient role to men. The large number of women employed as domestics enables the married women to work even while rearing very young children.

Brazilian women may vote in all elections and are eligible for election on an equal basis with men. Women participate in politics and a considerable number have been elected to municipal councils and state legislatures. Nevertheless, no Brazilian woman has ever been elected to the Senate. At the present time there are six women in the Chamber of Deputies. On March 19, 1964, through a hastily organized public march, led largely by women's religious groups, a crowd of 500,000 jammed the streets of São Paulo to protest President Goulart's actions. Through this effort women contributed substantially to the overthrow of President Goulart in 1964. There is, however, no outstanding progress of women exerting continuing influence in political affairs, nor does it appear likely that this will come to pass in the near future.

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Brasilia - June 17

Background Information for Women's Affairs Advisor Meetings

Situation:

Brasilia is not yet a "settled" city and therefore welfare and social activities of women groups are only beginning to develop. The President's wife is in charge of the largest organization the "League of Social Assistance." There are several intelligent public spirited women in the city and we have arranged a meeting with them.

Meetings:

Embassy Escort Officer: Mrs. Fernanda Carvalho, English speaking librarian; wife of President, Medical Association; USIS employee

08:30-09:30      Tour of City

09:45-11:15      Coffee at home of Mrs. Vera Bulhões, wife of prominent builder and with Mrs. Castello Branco, wife of noted political columnist who is a judge of Federal District court.

---      Women's role in Brazilian society.

11:30-13:00      Meeting with four ladies in charge of voluntary social and welfare services of Federal District.

---      Women's role in the social and welfare activities of the developing capital in Brazil and the surrounding satellite cities.

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Rio de Janeiro - June 17 - 18

#### Background Information for Women's Affairs Advisor Meetings

##### Situation:

Women's organizations abound in Rio de Janeiro. Some of these such as the Brazilian Rehabilitation Association and the local chapter of the League of Social Assistance contribute importantly to the improvement of social conditions among the poor and handicapped. Each organization operates independently and there is no clearing house for voluntary workers.

Women interested in civic affairs are fragmented just as those in the social welfare field. The Brazilian Federation for the Advancement of Women is the oldest organization concerned with the status of women. It is headed by Dr. Bertha Lutz, professor emeritus of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, friend of Carrie Chapman Catt, and Brazilian delegate to the Inter-American Commission of Women. The National Council of Women is affiliated with the International Council. This organization is headed by Dr. Romy Medeiros da Fonseca, lawyer, author of the Brazilian Civil Code for women and the alternate delegate to the Inter-American Commission of Women

##### Meetings:

Escort Officer: Carmen Valente, Social Worker who attended Our Lady of the Lake College, San Antonio

##### June 16

15:05 Arrive Galeão Airport  
15:15-15:30 Airport ceremonies  
15:30-16:15 Drive to city

16:15-17:15 Meeting with outstanding Brazilian lady artists at the Atelier of the School of the Museum of Modern Art

Fayga Ostrower, engraver and professor at the Museum  
Edith Bhering, engraver and professor at the Museum  
Ana Letycia Quadros, engraver  
Ione Saldanha, painter  
Freida Bonda, artist in mosaics

--- This group is primarily interested in painting, print making and art education. Fayga Ostrower, Ana Letycia Quadros and Ione Saldanha have works in the current exhibition at the Museum and they will take you on a visit to this exhibit. The other artists may bring samples of their work or photos of them. They may be expected to discuss their hope for greater opportunities to exhibit their works abroad and interest in receiving visits from outstanding American artists and exhibitions of American paintings, prints and sculpture in Brazil.

17:15-18:15 Meeting at the School of the Museum of Modern Art with:

Dra. Bertha Lutz, President of the Brazilian Federation for the Advancement of Women and Brazilian Delegate to the Inter-American Commission of Women of the O. A. S.  
Dra. Romy Medeiros da Fonseca, Alternate Delegate to the Commission and President of the National Women's Council (affiliated to the International Council of Women)

--- These ladies are interested in women's rights and the status of women. They will probably talk about the difficulties they encounter in trying to mobilize women for political action and their desire for more contact with American women leaders.

18:15-20:30 Free time

20:30-22:30 Reception at Embassy Residence.

June 18

09:30-10:30 Visit the Brazilian Rehabilitation Association directed by Virginia Diniz Carneiro (Rua Jardim Botânico, 660)

11:00-12:15 Meeting with women social welfare leaders at Country Club (Prudente de Moraes, 1597, Ipanema):

Maria Augusta Albano, Executive Secretary of Brazilian Section and Secretary for Latin America to the International Conference of Social Workers.

Marilia Carneiro, Assistant Director, Social Welfare Division of the Brazilian League of Social Assistance.

Maria Amalia Arozo, President of the Brazilian Association of Schools of Social Work.

Alice Shaffer, resident-President of UNICEF

--- These women, all professional social workers with close ties to the U. S., will discuss the general situation of social work in Brazil and especially the problem of <sup>the</sup> pre-school child and the need for a Brazilian adaptation of the Headstart Program. They will undoubtedly express their disappointment at the departure last year of Miss Mary Catherine Jennings, Social Welfare Attaché, whose position <sup>has</sup> <sup>been</sup> abolished.

12:30-14:00 Lunch at the home of Mrs. Fritz Feigl, outstanding woman in construction business (Rua Francisco Bhering, 169, 4th floor, Copacabana) with ten women leaders.

Note: There is a possibility Mrs. Feigl may travel to Europe. In the event she does, the National Council of Women will arrange a luncheon with representatives of important women's organizations.

14:15-15:00 Governor Rockefeller's Press Conference (Museum of Modern Art)

15:00 Leave for Airport (Santos Dumont)

15:45 Wheels <sup>up</sup> for São Paulo

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WOMEN'S AFFAIRS

São Paulo - June 18-19

### Background Information for Women's Affairs Advisor Meetings

#### Situation :

As in Rio, women in São Paulo are now active in the professions, education, social work and the arts. Probably as a result of a large number of foreigners and children of foreign born, Paulista women are more diligent in attending meetings and work more closely together through the Social Welfare Foundation. Former Foundation president Susana Frank is now Secretary of Social Welfare for the city of São Paulo. The Committee of Correspondence was instrumental in starting the Foundation which was the direct result of a Committee sponsored Seminar in São Paulo.

#### Meetings:

Escort Officer: Anna Maria Lobo, former director of Girl Scouts for the state of São Paulo; vice-president of the Alumni Association of São Paulo (members are people who have studied in the U. S. ), president of Experiment in International Living for Brazil; USIS employee.

#### June 18

18:00-21:00 Dinner with presidents of the women's organization movement (MAF) and the Women's Civic Union (UCF), Mrs. Maria Mesquita da Motta e Silva, Mrs. Pupo Neto and Mrs. Ramos

Probable subjects: These ladies represent the more conservative sectors of Paulista women. They may be expected to discuss current agitation among students and workers and the continuing threat of Communist infiltration in student and labor groups.

June 19

- 10:00-10:30 Visit Cancer Hospital with Mrs. Carmen Prudente, writer and widow of the founder of the hospital
- 11:00-11:30 Visit Hospital for Crippled Children
- 13:00-14:30 Luncheon with Suzana Frank (City Secretary of Social Welfare); Racy Pelegrini; Lucia de Castilho Fleury (both with slum women's handicrafts projects) and Dorina Gouveia Nowill (President, Books for the Blind)

Probable subjects: These ladies are dynamic individuals who are concerned with improving the lot of the underprivileged. They may be expected to comment on their own specific problems in carrying ahead the programs of the organizations which they represent as well as their desire for additional opportunities to train their personnel in the United States.

- 15:30 Visit Mrs. Sodre (wife of Governor)