

TELEGRAM

Foreign Service of the
United States of America

OUTGOING

UNCLASSIFIED

Charge:

Classification

Control:

ACTION: AMERICAN EMBASSY, RIO DE JANEIRO
 FROM : AMCONSUL, CURITIBA
 INFO : Amcongen, SAO PAULO
 REF : Embassy Telegram 1331

Date: AUGUST 16, 1966

RECEIVED
 5 27 PM '66
 AMERICAN CONSULATE
 CURITIBA, PARANA

BELOW IS A BREAKDOWN OF SOME CONSULAR ACTIVITIES IN THIS DISTRICT

	SANTA CATARINA	PARANA
NON-IMMIGRANT VISAS		
JANUARY-JULY 1966	82	401
IMMIGRANT VISAS		
JANUARY-JULY 1966	2	61
AMERICAN RESIDENTS (APPROXIMATELY)	50	600

BRANIFF, PAN AMERICAN AND VARIQ, THE THREE INTERNATIONAL CARRIERS SERVICING SANTA CATARINA, PREFER SAO PAULO. THEY SAY THAT PORTO ALEGRE WOULD BE MOST UNSATISFACTORY FOR OBTAINING NIV'S SINCE THEY ALMOST NEVER GO THERE BUT DO FREQUENTLY VISIT SAO PAULO. THE POPULACE AND MOBILE AREA OF THE ITAJAI VALLEY AND JOINVILLE IN SANTA CATARINA HAVE MUCH CLOSER CONNECTION WITH SAO PAULO THAN PORTO ALEGRE. FROM THE REST OF THE STATE COMMUNICATIONS TO PORTO ALEGRE ARE BETTER. HOWEVER SAO PAULO IS PROBABLY VISITED AS FREQUENTLY AS PORTO ALEGRE BY RESIDENTS OF THESE OTHER REGIONS. THE TWO AMERICAN FIRMS LOCATED IN SANTA CATARINA, OLINCRAFT AND REGINA HAVE HEAD OFFICES IN SAO PAULO.

Yes or No → IF SANTA CATARINA SHOULD BE ASSIGNED TO SAO PAULO, I BELIEVE PORTO ALEGRE ALSO SHOULD BE AUTHORIZED TO ISSUE NIV TO SANTA CATARINA RESIDENTS SINCE A FEW AREAS SUCH AS CRICIUMA AND LAGUNA ARE MUCH CLOSER TO PORTO ALEGRE.

Yes - much closer
 HCL

HOOVER

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Classification

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ORG 8

São Paulo, Brazil

OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

The Honorable
Philip Raine
Deputy Chief of Mission
American Embassy
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

ACT	INFO		INIT	DATE
	✓	PO	<i>[Signature]</i>	8/5 August 5, 1966
		C	<i>[Signature]</i>	
		POL	<i>[Signature]</i>	
		ECO		
	✓	ADM	<i>[Signature]</i>	8/11
		ATT		
		FIN		
		FILE		
ACTION TAKEN				

Dear Phil:

With reference to the proposed termination of statutory consular functions in Curitiba and transfer of such functions to this office, I am enclosing copies of two memoranda from Reid Bird which point up some of the problems which this move would entail, both for us and for Curitiba. It is not clear to me whether the final decision has already been taken, but if it has not I believe it should be given a close second look. If it has been taken in principle, then I urge that the effective date be postponed at least until November 1, and that we be given the additional personnel necessary to handle the extra load. So far as I am aware, this office has never been consulted on the move, and consequently has not had a proper opportunity to make its views known.

Whatever the present status of the move may be, Reid tells me that we have already begun to receive immigration visas referred to us from the Curitiba district, at a time when we are inadequately staffed to handle the workload of our own district.

Anything which you may be able to do to help out in this situation will be very much appreciated.

With warmest personal regards,

Sincerely,

3 Enclosures
cc: Dept. of State, ARA/BR
AmConsul Curitiba
AmConsul Porto Alegre ✓

Niles W. Bond
Minister Consul General

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AUG - 9 1966

PORTO ALEGRE, BRAZIL

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THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Curitiba, Brazil

OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

July 29, 1966

Mr. Reid H. Bird
American Consul
American Consulate General
São Paulo

Dear Reid:

As I mentioned to you when we talked on the phone yesterday our visa clerk, Lucy Meyer, is interested in working for you. As you know your workload will increase as soon as we cease issuing visas here. Just the process of issuing visas will add about 70 hours work a month to your regular workload. I base my estimate of seventy hours on the following: During May, June, and July Miss Meyer worked about two hours a day issuing nonimmigrant visas; with immigrant visas, before the new law, Miss Meyer worked about 25 hours a month. It appears that with the recent revision and expansion of Schedule A the immigrant visa workload could return to normal. In addition to the work involved with issuing the visas, as you are well aware, there will be added correspondence and more callers to attend.

Miss Meyer can also greatly assist in reregistering immigrant visa applicants. This is almost completely accomplished at this post and Miss Meyer was responsible for the reregistration.

On the consular side you will have increased passport correspondence and additional notarial work Miss Meyer is also experienced in these fields.

I believe you should be able to obtain the Embassy's permission to hire Miss Meyer without difficulty. When the Embassy inspectors discussed eliminating some activities of this post, they realized your workload would increase and, as I remember, mentioned the possibility that Miss Meyer might go to work for you.

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Encl. 2

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Curitiba

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I recommend Miss Meyer without reservation. She has proved very capable in her short time here (eight months). She learned quickly the varied aspects of her job which require that she issues passports, visas, answers the telephone, acts as receptionist, does all passport and visa reports and carries out the immigrant reregistration required by the new law.

I do not know how long it will take you to obtain a position for her but I hope you can acquire at least a temporary appointment for her as of September 31.

To integrate our visa files into yours Miss Meyer and I will probably be at your post for a few days in September. I would appreciate it if you could let me know before then (as soon as possible in fact) when you have permission to employ Miss Meyer.

Best regards,

George R. Hoover
Vice Consul

Memorandum

UNCLASSIFIED

TO : Mr. Reese Lewis
Mr. Wight
Minister Bond
H. Reid Bird

DATE: August 2, 1966

SUBJECT: Transfer of Consular Functions from Curitiba to São Paulo

Acting Principal Officer George Hoover telephoned me last week to discuss the terminal date for discontinuing the performance of consular functions at Curitiba. He said the decision had been left to him, and he was thinking in terms of August 31. Hoover also said one of their local employees, Miss Lucy Meyer, would like to work for the Consulate General in São Paulo. Attached is his letter of July 29 on this subject.

I strongly recommend that the closing date for Curitiba be postponed until October 31. As you know, the workload of our Consular Section has sharply increased in recent months and with the absence of Vice Consul Kenney on home leave we are hard pressed to keep the work of our own district flowing evenly. He is due to return in the latter part of October, at which time we would be in much better shape to initiate services for Curitiba.

If for some reason the date cannot be postponed, provision should be made by the Embassy, or Department, to send us an officer to substitute for Kenney. (We asked the Embassy for a replacement in March--see attached letter--but with no success.) In some respects it would be preferable to assign an officer on TDY because we greatly need a complement of three officers on the job during this busy season.

In any event, I should plan to visit Curitiba for a couple of days before the transfer to survey the volume of records to be sent here, to discuss the visa by mail procedure with travel agents, and to reassure the American community that passport and welfare services will be handled as expeditiously as possible. Hoover said consular services at Curitiba have constantly increased, and it seems unwise to discontinue them without laying some careful groundwork. As the Department is rightly concerned about providing efficient service to the American and foreign public, this point is all the more essential.

Encl. 1-

The Consular Section cannot absorb the additional work from Curitiba with its present complement of local employees. I therefore recommend that we seek the Embassy's approval to transfer Miss Lucy Meyer from Curitiba to São Paulo.

Attachments:

Letter from Vice Consul Hoover, July 29, 1966

Letter to Minister Raine, March 7, 1966

Memorandum

UNCLASSIFIED

TO : Minister Bond

DATE: August 4, 1966

FROM : H. Reid Bird

CC: Mr. Wight
Mr. Lewis
Mr. Hoover

SUBJECT: Consular Services at Curitiba

When drafting my memorandum of August 2 on this subject, I had understood that an irrevocable decision had already been made to incorporate Curitiba's consular activities into our own. I now learn, however, that this may not be true, although preparatory steps are being taken at Curitiba.

It is difficult to understand how a matter of this importance could gain such headway without the benefit of a thorough evaluation of the problems involved. The Consular Section at Sao Paulo was not consulted, and we have no statistics whatsoever to indicate the increase to our work load. It seems reasonable to suggest that we proceed somewhat more deliberately in order to avoid possible pitfalls.

I personally find it perplexing to try to reconcile a move to terminate consular functions at Curitiba with the Department's current stress on improving services to the American and foreign public. According to Vice Consul Hoover, it is a question of "now or never". He said their consular activities have steadily increased over the years, and it would be much more difficult to close down at any time in the future. The phenomenal industrial growth of Curitiba in the last decade is a matter of common knowledge. The city now ranks about sixth in Brazil's population and is of vital importance to the economy of Parana and Santa Catarina. To close an operation which by all indications will have to be reopened later seems unwise. There have been many complaints from the Santos community regarding the inconvenience created by the closing of the Consulate there a few years ago and, if I am not mistaken, there is some consideration being given in the Department to the desirability of again having Consular representation in that busy port city.

I very much doubt whether the small savings which would be realized by closing Curitiba is worth the cost in loss of prestige to the United States. Of even greater consideration,

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However, is the problem of providing efficient service for a dynamic and growing center such as Curitiba from such a distance. There is no doubt that there will be repercussions if Curitiba is closed, and we should be prepared to answer them.

HRB:rd

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São Paulo, Brazil

August 4, 1966

August 5, 1966

CONFIDENTIAL-INFORMAL

George Hoover, Esquire
American Consulate
Curitiba, Parana, Brazil

Dear George:

As you will see from the enclosed, I am a bit riled about what appears to be a hasty and unwarranted decision to terminate consular functions at Curitiba. Minister Bond is appealing the matter to the Embassy and we shall see what develops. My "palpitate" is that your operation will nevertheless be closed down but probably not until October 31.

Meanwhile please send us copies of your Consular Operations Reports for the last three years to give us some idea of your volume and likely future trends. I assume that no public announcements have yet been made about the closing and suggest that you hold off until receiving a definite go-ahead.

Pam joins me in sending regards to you and Nancy.

Sincerely,

H. Reid Bird
American Consul

Enclosures: Memorandum of August 2 and August 4, 1966, closing of the Consulate there a few years ago and, if I am not mistaken, there is some consideration being given in the Department to the desirability of again having Consular representation in that busy port city.

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Minister Bond

August 4, 1966

cc: Mr. Wight
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Mr. Hoover

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COPY OF MEMORANDUM
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If for some reason the date cannot be postponed, provision should be made by the Embassy, or Department, to send us an officer to substitute for Kenney. (We asked the Embassy for a replacement in March--see attached letter--but with no success.) In some respects it would be preferable to assign an officer on TTT because we greatly need a complement of three officers on the job during this busy season.

In any event, I should plan to visit Curitiba for a couple of days before the transfer to survey the volume of records to be sent here, to discuss the visa by mail procedure with travel agents, and to reassure the American community that passport and welfare services will be handled as expeditiously as possible. Hoover said consular services at Curitiba have constantly increased, and it seems unwise to discontinue them without laying some careful groundwork. As the Department is rightly concerned about providing efficient service to the American and foreign public, this point is all the more essential.

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THRU: Mr. Wight
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FROM: H. Reid Bird

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