

AGR-
Univ.
Council

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

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Date of Meeting: October 27th, 1970

Place of Meeting: Ministry of Education
and Culture (MEC)
Brasília

Subject: ARDO University contracts

Participants: Cel. Mauro Rodrigues, Secretary General, MEC;
Dr. Newton Sucupira, Director for University matters,
MEC; William L. Rodgers, Chief, ARDO; Harold
Midkiff, HRO, Brasília.

Copies to: WAEllis, DOM; RJBallantyne, DDOM; WGelabert, ADFR;
WAdamsen, HRO; HMidkiff, HRO, Brasília; Stephen Low,
Brasília; REMiller, ARDO; KCKing, ARDO; LFMacary,
ARDO; DCohen, OPEV; BDaniel, Brasília.

Separate meetings were held in MEC with Cel. Mauro Rodrigues, Secretary General of MEC and Dr. Newton Sucupira, Director of University matters. The purpose of both meetings was to acquaint the Secretary General and Dr. Sucupira with the USAID programs with Brazilian rural universities. I was accompanied by Mr. Harold Midkiff of HRO, stationed in Brasília, who set up the meetings and made the introductions. The first meeting was with Dr. Sucupira. I presented Dr. Sucupira with a short written report which outlined the 4 university contracts working in Brazil. After he read the report we discussed in more detail each of the programs.

He is knowledgeable of the work being done in the universities of Ceará, Rio grande do Sul and Minas Gerais. He asked pertinent questions regarding the graduate level studies being conducted in Viçosa and Rio Grande do Sul.

I mentioned to Dr. Sucupira since the Brazilian Universities were now under MEC we would like to have MEC's active participation. I

showed him a draft Pro/Ag for the Purdue/Vigosa program which he studied and pointed out to him that we would like MEC to be a co-signer for this program. I explained that this would entail a commitment on MEC's part to support the budget for Vigosa. Dr. Sucupira agreed and stated that he would be glad to cooperate with us on these programs. He also stated that he would personally be in charge of working with us on these contracts and that we could send all documentation to him. He also mentioned that plans were being made to form a special office within MEC to handle international contracts. However, upon my further questioning he stated that until this has been accomplished his office would be in charge of international contracts on the university level. Dr. Sucupira seemed very pleased that we approached him in regard to our rural university project and promised his cooperation.

Col. Mauro Rodrigues

In my talk with the Secretary General I told him that we had a meeting with Dr. Sucupira regarding our rural universities. I also have handed him the same brochure that I gave to Dr. Sucupira outlining our project. Col. Mauro Rodrigues also was pleased and stated that he would give us cooperation in this regard. He then went on to talk about Vocational Agricultural schools and outlined a plan for the development of such schools which would be set up on a state level according to skills needed in the area. A pilot project was to be set up in the state of Rio Grande do Sul. It would consist of schools located in the various crop areas. The skills to be taught would be based on the crops of that area such as rice, wheat, hogs, etc. He mentioned that the financing for this would come from BNDE.

Comments

Both meetings were very cordial and each of the men was interested in cooperating with us. I think this initial step in acquainting MEC with our program should insure valuable cooperation for the future.

Drafted by: *WR*
ARDO: WLRodgers/1bl.
Nov. 4, 1970